Innovative Technique To Hold Back Flood Waters

This scene, at Covington Golf Course, in South Sioux City, Neb., shows the construction of a flood wall June 15, against Missouri River water, using 4-foot-high Styrofoam forms for the concrete, devised by LiteForm Technologies. Here, the concrete fill-process is taking place amidst the flood waters; after 16 hours of pumping, the protected side was dry, and the new levee defended against the flood on the other side. The wall structures have pick holes, so that when water recedes, the levee can be dismantled by machinery lifting out the sections, as easily as removing highway bollards.

Pat Boeshart, CEO of LiteForm, based in Sioux City, innovated the technology and founded the firm in 1986; he has constructed building foundations all over the nation, but now is working flat-out on local flood walls. The forms are built offsite. The levee can be erected in a day.

Earlier in June, the town of South Sioux City had two temporary levees built, one by the Army Corps of Engineers, and the secondary one, which is a 2,500-ft.-dike, by the LiteForm Styrofoam/concrete method. It was done in seven hours, for a total cost of $24,000.

Boeshart, LiteForm Technologies