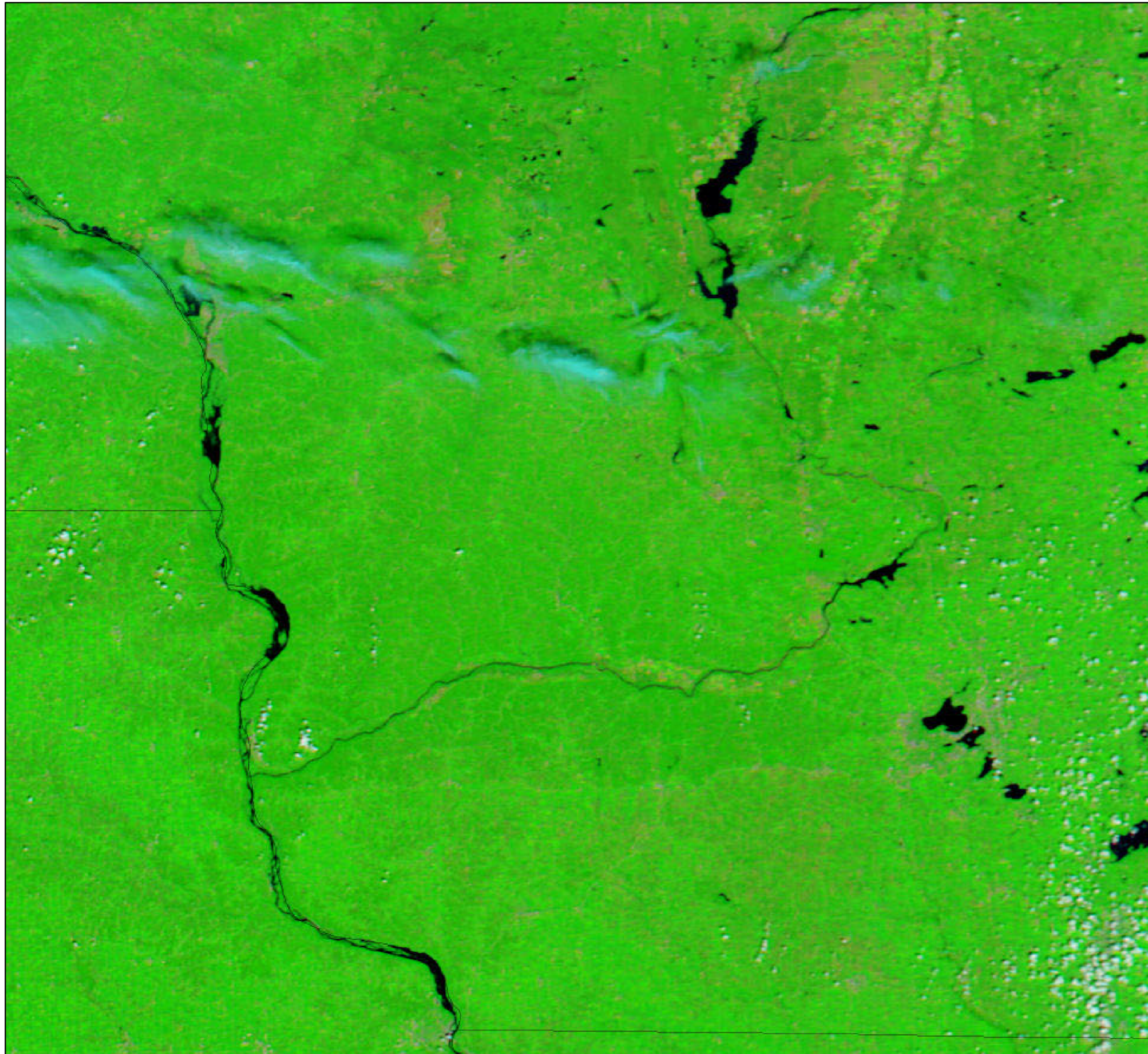
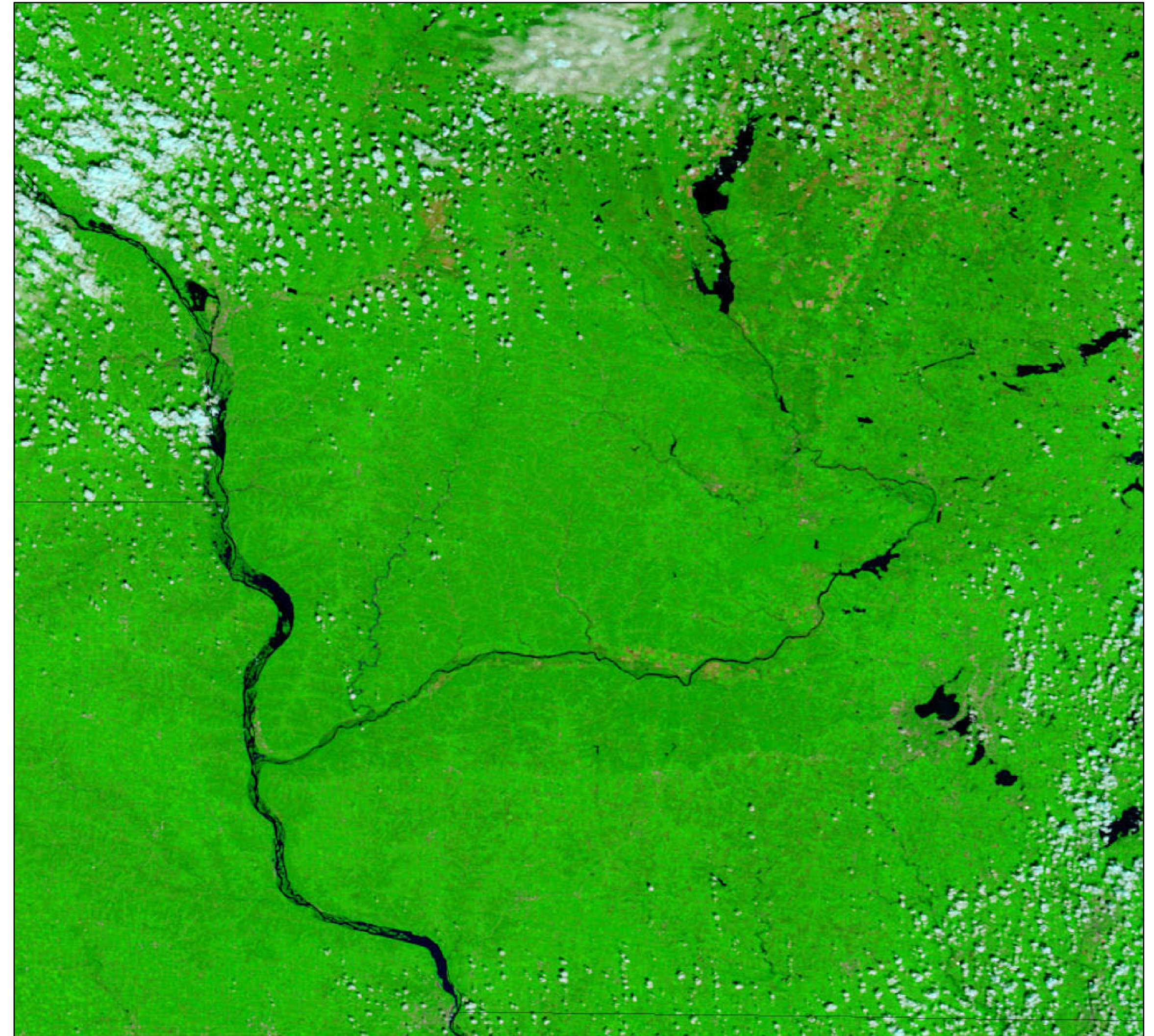


2007 Midwest Floods Change Map using the MODIS sensor

August 10th 2007



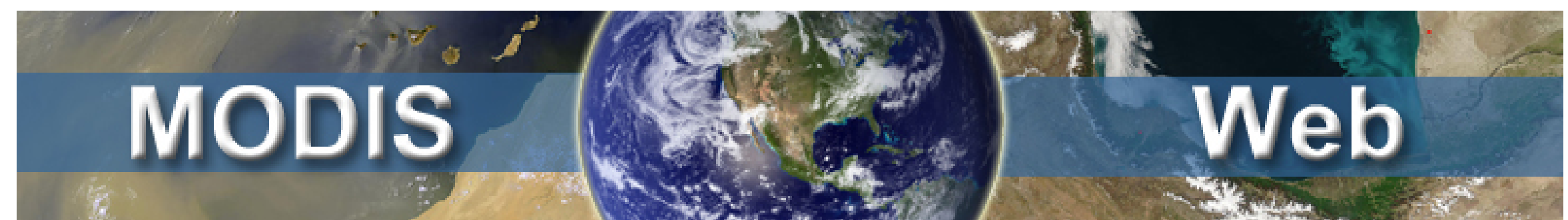
August 25th 2007



After a week of clouds and rain, the skies cleared over the midwestern United States on August 25, 2007, giving the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) flying on NASA's Terra satellite this view of the region's swollen rivers. A string of severe thunderstorms pounded the U.S. Midwest during the third week of August, leaving devastating floods in their wake. Though the floods had started to recede by the time MODIS captured the top image, the Mississippi and Wisconsin Rivers and their tributaries were still running high.

The left image shows the river system in southeastern Minnesota, northeastern Iowa, and western Wisconsin on August 10, before the storms came through. Both images were made with a combination of infrared and visible light, which makes water appear black, while the surrounding plant-covered land is bright green. A comparison between the two images reveals that the Mississippi River was overflowing; dark pools of water surround its banks in the top image. The Wisconsin River looks only slightly swollen, but its tributaries, too small to be visible in early August, have widened enough to show up clearly. At least 18 deaths have been blamed on the storms and floods, reported the Associated Press on August 26.

These images are displayed at MODIS' maximum resolution of 250 meters per pixel. Daily images of the United States are available from the MODIS Rapid Response System in a variety of resolutions.



MODIS (or Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer) is a key instrument aboard the Terra (EOS AM) and Aqua (EOS PM) satellites. Terra's orbit around the Earth is timed so that it passes from north to south across the equator in the morning, while Aqua passes south to north over the equator in the afternoon. Terra MODIS and Aqua MODIS are viewing the entire Earth's surface every 1 to 2 days, acquiring data in 36 spectral bands, or groups of wavelengths (see MODIS Technical Specifications). These data will improve our understanding of global dynamics and processes occurring on the land, in the oceans, and in the lower atmosphere. MODIS is playing a vital role in the development of validated, global, interactive Earth system models able to predict global change accurately enough to assist policy makers in making sound decisions concerning the protection of our environment.

