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ON THE COVER

The meandering channels of the Mississippi River, carved and silted up over centuries, are shown in a 1944 map. The map highlights the site of the present-day Old River Control Structure, where engineers fight the river's natural urge



to jump in an avulsion into the Atchafalaya River—once the Mississippi's main route. Researchers say that levees and control structures will only hasten the next avulsion. See page 676. *Credit: US Army Corps of Engineers*

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