



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Walla Walla District

Operations Division

Walla Walla District
Corps of Engineers
201 North Third Avenue
Walla Walla, Washington 99362-1876

July 20, 2012

Special Pool Operation to Aid Safe Navigation Past Shoaling at the Ice Harbor Navigation Coffers Cells

A special pool operation to aid safe navigation during low flow river conditions is currently in place for commercial vessels at Ice Harbor Lock & Dam, located at Snake River mile 9.7. When possible, the Ice Harbor Operator will coordinate a temporary increase in the Ice Harbor tailwater elevation to improve conditions for tow/barges, subject to the following conditions:

- Situations that warrant additional flow for safe navigation include
 - Commercial tows with hazardous or flammable cargo
 - Double wide tows without means to split into single wide
 - Emergency conditions directly attributable to shoaling, where human health and safety, and watercraft are in imminent danger
- It is strongly recommended that the special pool operation be used only when absolutely necessary; example would be fully loaded tows of 3 to 4 barges. Water storage to assist with navigation safety is limited by several constraints and it may take many hours (as much as 24 hours) to provide the water needed for several special operations during a 24-hour period; possibly causing long delays.
- If the water elevation request cannot be met, the Ice Harbor Lock Operator will notify the Tow Captain as soon as possible with an estimated time of providing the desired 341.0' elevation.
- **Traveling Downstream:** The Tow Captain is to request an Ice Harbor a special navigation operation via the Lower Monumental Operator when leaving Lower Monumental, to allow a minimum of 2+ hours lead time.
- **Traveling Upstream:** If aid is necessary for upstream navigation the Tow Captain is to call Ice Harbor control room directly when entering the Snake River and not less than 30 minutes out, or notify McNary control room of intend to travel through Ice Harbor navigation lock.

- Ice Harbor will attempt to provide the best possible conditions for navigation subject to all operating constraints and limitations.

The most current 2011 survey of the area in question is located on the Walla Walla District Navigation website. Please reference sheet 10 of 10 of the most recent hydrographic surveys located here:

http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/Portals/28/docs/navigation/WEBFY11_HLD_CUT.pdf

Your cooperation in this matter is much appreciated. For additional information, please call Operations Division, at (509) 527-7115 or (509) 527-7120.