



# News Release

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

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Contact: Public Affairs Office

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Phone: (509) 527-7020

## **Corps officials anticipate Lower Granite NavLock will be back to full-service by Monday**

### **12-hour closure in effect for Friday, Dec 21<sup>st</sup>**

**POMEROY, Wash.** – A 12-hour closure will be in effect from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday at Lower Granite Lock and Dam and the navigational lock should be back to full service on Monday, Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> according to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials.

Friday's 12-hour closure is necessary so workers can perform gate welding measures.

The lock's operations were impacted last Monday when the gate-hoisting cables on the north side of the upstream lock gate broke while the gate was being lowered into an open position.

The lock, located at Snake River mile 107.5, remains open to commercial vessels. However, commercial vessels are experiencing about an extra hour delay for scheduled lockages since these operations are being performed using floating bulkheads, said U.S. Army Corps of Engineers navigation officials at the Walla Walla District. The navigation lock will remain closed to recreational traffic while replacement cables are being installed.

Five plastic-sheathed Kevlar cables on each side of the lock's upstream submersible tainter gate are used to open and close the 80-ton steel gate for lockages. "Our maintenance teams have been working diligently to replace the cables," said Marty Mendiola, operations manager at Lower Granite Lock and Dam, "and although we'll have a 12-hour closure on Friday, it looks like we'll be fully open for business by Christmas Eve."

Crossings at the dam have not been impacted by the navigation lock gate repair.

Lower Granite's navigation lock on the lower Snake River is part of the federal inland channel system that provides navigation from the mouth of the Columbia River near Astoria, Ore., to port facilities on the rivers in Lewiston-Clarkston. Between 800-900 lockages are performed at Lower Granite each year, according to District navigation officials.

Public Notices and other navigation lock information are available on the Walla Walla District Web site at [www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/op/t/navdata/default.html](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/op/t/navdata/default.html).

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Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824

Website: [www.nww.usace.army.mil](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil)

E-mail: [cenww-pa@usace.army.mil](mailto:cenww-pa@usace.army.mil)