



**US Army Corps
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Walla Walla District

News Release

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NavLock outage at Little Goose Dam extended for additional gate repairs

STARBUCK, Wash. – The upstream gate at the Little Goose Dam navigation lock located at Snake River mile 70.3 near Starbuck, Wash., was damaged March 21, causing an unscheduled lock closure, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials at Walla Walla District announced today.

The gate sustained damage during a refilling operation as preparations were underway to return the lock to service. No one was injured and the Corps is conducting an investigation into the cause of the incident.

Repair work will cause the lock at Little Goose Dam to remain out of service for several days past the March 24 scheduled return to service date following the annual lock maintenance outage. The annual outage began March 10 to allow for routine maintenance activities at Corps locks on the Columbia and Snake rivers. All other Walla Walla District locks have returned to service.

During the next six days, work will be done to stabilize the gate and place it in a down position. When this is completed, the floating bulkhead will be used to provide interim lockage ability until permanent repairs can be made. Corps navigation officials have coordinated with inland shippers, cruise lines and ports concerning the extended lock outage at Little Goose Dam.

Floating bulkhead lockage is planned to begin March 29. At that time, lockages will be available for commercial vessels only during night-time hours. This schedule for lockage will continue until all repairs to the gate are completed. Hours of lockage are to be determined – inland shippers, cruise lines and ports will be notified of that schedule as soon as possible.

All recreational craft lockage is cancelled until the lock returns to full service.

There will be at least two other lock closures (no bulkhead lockage) in April during the repair process, with times and dates to be determined. Little Goose lock is expected to return to full service on or about May 1. Updates will be provided as repair work progresses.

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.

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