



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

# News Release

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## **Corps cautions boaters using McNary Dam NavLock** *Spill conditions can create unusually strong, turbulent flows near lock*

**UMATILLA, Ore.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers advises boaters to exercise caution when using the navigation lock at McNary Lock and Dam, located at Columbia River mile 292, near Umatilla, Ore., because of stronger-than-usual currents caused by spillway and powerhouse operations.

Traveling upstream, boaters may encounter these flow conditions when approaching the navigation lock in the area at the end of the downstream navigation lock guide wall, said Ann Glassley, navigation specialist for the Corps' Walla Walla District.

The spill pattern being used at this time includes testing of spill from the Temporary Spillway Weirs (TSWs). The TSW spill testing will end July 31. Beginning August 1, water will be released from the spillway in a pattern that should eliminate the strong currents at the end of the guide wall.

Being aware of flow conditions is always important to safe boating fun. This is especially true when operating a vessel near any dam, particularly when the boat is small or easily tipped over, like a canoe. Waters below dams are subject to dangerous currents, turbulences and whirlpools caused by the operations of spillways, power producing generators and navigation locks. Corps navigation specialists encourage boaters of all vessel sizes to know the capability of their vessel and think “safety” whenever their water fun takes them near a dam.

For more information on navigation in the Walla Walla District, go to our 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). For information about Corps parks with boat ramps, go to [www.nww.usace.army.mil/corpsoutdoors/boating.htm](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/corpsoutdoors/boating.htm).

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