

FY17 Columbia-Snake River Navigation Lock Extended Outage

Progress Update to Navigation Stakeholders

Information presented during conference call with stakeholders on March 9, 2017

Thank you for your continued support and interest in the 2016-2017 Columbia-Snake River System extended navigation lock outage. For those who may be new to this topic, here's a bit of background:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting an extended navigation lock maintenance outage, scheduled for December 12, 2016, through March 20, 2017. The closure affects all Corps navigation locks on the Columbia and Snake rivers, during which time critical, non-routine repairs and maintenance, plus routine maintenance and scheduled improvements will occur.

The project information below was originally provided during a navigation-stakeholder teleconference on March 9, 2017. For those who were unable to attend that teleconference, here are the latest status updates:

All locks – All locks were taken out of service on December 12, and numerous in-lock work activities are being accomplished during this time. Progress continues on-schedule for most locks in the system, although the unusually extreme winter conditions this year and/or unexpected repairs are having some effect at individual locations. As reported in past updates, the Corps has been concerned about complications with the contract maintenance work at Little Goose's lock. Because of recent complications with that work and a combination of other factors, the Corps will not be able to meet their previously announced schedule for completing all contracted work at Little Goose Navigation Lock. Recent estimates indicate at least an additional week will be necessary to return Little Goose's lock to service. More details on the situation at Little Goose are within that project's update, below.

Bonneville Lock and Dam –Bonneville completed their navigation lock controls upgrade and reopened the navigation lock to river users on February 9, 2017, as scheduled.

The Dalles Lock and Dam – The lock has several major work projects happening during the outage -- replacement of the upstream gate; and for the downstream gate, replacement of the gudgeon, performing adjustments, installing cathodic protection, and upgrading the lock controls and power distribution system. All major portions of work are now completed. In-the-dry commissioning has been ongoing all week, and has revealed some issues that the contractor is correcting. The largest issue revealed from this commissioning exercise was with the bottom seal on the upstream gate. The team worked this issue yesterday and have come up with a short term solution that can be implemented in the time remaining during this lock outage, while a long term solution will be implemented during the March 2018 lock routine two week outage. Early next week, the lock will be watered up and in-the-wet commissioning will take place, which consists of running the lock through its paces and operator training. As issues have been discovered and quickly resolved, the risk of impacts to the March 20 lock reopening at The Dalles continues to be reduced. However, as stated last week, the schedule remains very tight, and a major issue during commissioning could impact our reopening date.

John Day Lock and Dam – John Day's routine maintenance activities include inspecting, cleaning and repairing equipment. An inspection on Tuesday has revealed an issue with a bearing shoe on the downstream gate. District engineers are currently deciding on the best possible solution to ensure repairs are safely performed while returning the gate to service by March 20. We will continue to update you as this solution is developed and implemented.

McNary Lock and Dam –Work on McNary’s downstream miter gate included: repairs to the gudgeons (top hinge of each gate leaf), replacement of the bottom seal assemblies, and replacement of deteriorated timber fenders on each gate leaf, and bumpers on the navigation lock walls adjacent to the downstream gate. All contract work was completed on Thursday March 2, one day ahead of schedule. Water-up and post-construction operational tests are scheduled for next week. McNary’s in-house maintenance crew is wrapping up scheduled maintenance activities and repair work on tainter valves #1 and #3. Overall, work at McNary is on schedule.

Ice Harbor Lock and Dam – Critical components of the NavLock machinery and control systems require replacement during the extended closure. The contractor has completed pre-operational commissioning and static testing of the drive systems. The contractor is scheduled to complete operational commissioning and dynamic testing of the new hoist equipment and controls March 9. This includes the final hoist cable tensioning, load balancing of counter weights, and gear alignment. The Government Operational Test Phase commissioning activities are on schedule to be completed March 10-17. The contractor has been working seven days per week, 12 hours per day. A night shift continues to allow sub-contractors to complete painting requirements in both towers. In-house crews are focusing on tainter valve preventive maintenance and painting. Overall, work is still on schedule to be completed during the lock outage.

Lower Monumental Lock and Dam – Work at Lower Monumental involves the second phase of the downstream gate replacement project, which includes replacing the machinery and control systems that operate the gate. The contractor is currently working seven days per week to remain on schedule. Operational testing and commissioning of the new hoist equipment and controls were completed March 2. Operational testing for full lockage cycles, involving filling and draining the Nav-Lock with the tainter valves, and operation of the upstream and downstream gates, was completed Friday, March 3. Painting in the tower machinery rooms is in progress and scheduled to be completed on March 18. Installation of the new roof access platforms is scheduled to start on March 12 and be completed on March 18. Operation and Maintenance training for the Lower Monumental staff is scheduled for March 16 through 18. In-house staff is continuing work on the upstream gate and a tainter valve. Overall, work is on schedule.

Little Goose Lock and Dam –Lock work includes jacking, sliding, and shoring of the gates to allow for replacement of the pintle heel and ball assemblies, replacement of the north gudgeon arm and linkage, structural repairs include replacement of the quoin and miter blocks from the tailrace elevation down, replacement of timber fenders, and installation of a safety hand rail system on the top of each gate leaf. On the north gate at this time, welding repairs continue on the structural steel repairs to the skin plate. The north gate is scheduled to have welding repairs complete March 9, and will proceed with installation of the pintle heel assembly and be ready for moving back in place. On the south gate, a laminar tear was discovered on the web of the vertical member and at this time has been repaired. All of the stiffener plates are in place, and preparations are being made to install the skin plate. However, an additional crack was discovered along a horizontal girder on Tuesday, March 7, and ultrasonic testing results are currently being analyzed to determine the extent of the crack and corrective action to be taken. Following these remaining repairs on the south gate, the pintle heel assembly will be installed and the gate returned to its operating position. After the gate leaves have been set back in place, the contractor will adjust the quoin and miter blocks, and start the commissioning process which entails checking the alignment, diagonal tensioning, and operational testing of the gates.

Based on previous delays due to weather, onsite efficiency, and unforeseen crack repair requirements on the south gate, at this time it is apparent the gate cannot be returned to service by March 20. Recent estimates indicate at least an additional week will be necessary to return the lock to service. The District is currently exercising all alternative actions to accelerate the remaining repairs and minimize this delay.

We sincerely apologize to the river users that we were unable to avoid delays in returning the Little Goose lock to service on time, and will continue to work around the clock to have the lock back in operation as quickly as possible. We realize commercial navigation lock users need as early a decision as possible on changes to the outage schedule to adjust their own plans.

We intend to provide more fidelity on a specific return-to-service date at Little Goose on Tuesday, 14 March, during a special teleconference call at 3 p.m. using this same phone number and dial-in codes. Information from that interim update will also be emailed and posted to the outage webpage under Stakeholder Updates. We will continue to provide updates as the contractor work progresses. In support of our commitment to open communication, we will continue these weekly teleconferences until the entire lock system is back in service. We understand the vital importance of the Columbia and Snake Rivers to the economy of the Pacific Northwest, and will return all locks to service as safely and as quickly as possible.

Lower Granite Lock and Dam – Crews are wrapping up work on replacement of damaged timber bumpers on the downstream miter gate and installation of new fill/drain valve hydraulic cylinders. Work is on schedule.

This extended lock outage is a coordinated effort between the Corps' Portland and Walla Walla districts and commercial river users.

Again, we anticipate having a better-defined schedule for work at Little Goose to share with you during an interim teleconference call on Tuesday, March 14, at 3 p.m. using this same phone number and dial-in codes. Information from that special interim update on Little Goose will also be emailed and posted to the outage webpage under Stakeholder Updates.

Regular weekly teleconferences covering work at all locks in the system will also continue -- the next system regular update call is scheduled for Thursday, March 16, at 1 p.m. These regular system update teleconferences will occur weekly throughout the duration of the extended lock outage -- we hope you can join us for those calls.

Please, reference the attached **FY17LockOutage Stakeholder Teleconference Schedule** for call-in instructions.

For those who cannot attend the teleconference meetings, a written stakeholder update will also be sent the following day via email and posted to the FY17 Extended NavLock Outage webpage <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation/FY17LockOutage.aspx>.

For more information about the extended outage or to sign up for future email updates, visit our website or email FY17LockOutage@usace.army.mil. You are also welcome to call or email our Public Affairs Offices at the numbers and addresses below.

Portland District Public Affairs Office
(503) 808-4510
cenwp-pa@usace.army.mil

Walla Walla District Public Affairs Office
(509) 527-7020
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Sincerely,

Sheryl Carrubba
Senior Navigation Program Manager
Northwestern Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

FY17LockOutage

Stakeholder Teleconference Schedule

All dates are Thursdays at 1 p.m. (Pacific)

Monthly – Sept. 8, Oct. 6, Nov. 3

Weekly – Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26

Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23

Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23

Teleconference Call-in Instructions

Dial: **877-848-7030** Toll-Free

When prompted, enter:

Access Code **4909700#**

Security Code **7020#**

+ Mar. 14 at 3 p.m. -- Interim update on Little Goose lock status

Information presented during teleconference will be distributed via eMail and Web-posted the following day



FY17LockOutage@usace.army.mil



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