

Melvin Price Locks and Dam UMR Mile 201
Auxiliary Miter Gate Failure
Weekly Status Report

9 October 2004

General Description: On 4 Oct 04 for reasons still under investigation the downstream miter gates on the auxiliary lock at Melvin Price L&D traveled past the mitered position causing sever damage to the gates. The full extent of this damage cannot be determined until the gates are removed and inspected, and the chamber is un-watered. A plan taking us through removal and gate inspection has been developed. Once full inspection is complete a determination of repair and replacement scheme will be developed.

Tows Waiting: This incident has not impacted the queue at this time. Traffic is being passed through the main chamber and no abnormal backlogs are occurring.

Communication Plan: The district has prepared a communication plan for advising all concerned about this incident and the repair scenario.

Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan: Understanding the significant national importance of this location and the importance of the Main Lock Chamber to continual passage of commerce the District has prepared a risk assessment and mitigation plan. The purpose of this action is to ensure continual operation of the Main Lock Chamber during the period of closure to the Auxiliary Lock Chamber. Many of the activities of this plan have been implemented.

Other Actions to date:

- Damaged gate leafs are temporarily secure with grating and walkways removed in anticipation of heavy gate lifter.
- The heavy gate lifter "The Hercules" from Rock Island District is in route to the site as well as other equipment and personnel.
- Inspections of the main lock chamber began.
- Additional operator help is being requested from other districts as part of the risk assessment and mitigation plan for the main chamber.
- A helper boat is being procured as part of the risk assessment and mitigation plan for the main chamber.
- Investigation of the cause is ongoing.
- Preparations for placement of bulkheads on the auxiliary chamber have begun.
- A schedule of future actions has been drafted.