



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District®

Press Release

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1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833

Media Advisory

Update

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Delay Lifting First Damaged Lock Gate At Melvin Price Locks and Dam

Alton, Ill – The attempt to remove the first of two damaged gates at the Melvin Price Locks and Dam – originally scheduled today, Wednesday, October 13, 2004 – has been delayed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

A combination of a steady misty rain and awaiting arrival of some of the rigging needed to secure the gates to the gate barge has caused the delay.

Lockmaster Tom Miller informs that the next possible date to lift the gate is tomorrow, Thursday, October 14, although that is pending a review of weather conditions which are calling for higher winds tomorrow. The gates are each 57 ½ feet high and 62 feet wide. This “sail area” can cause problems handling the 220-ton steel structures in high winds.

For additional information on this matter, contact St. Louis District Public Affairs Chief Alan Dooley at the following numbers:

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A new advisory will be issued as soon as an updated schedule is determined. We regret any inconvenience this is causing, but safety and ensuring everything is ready are paramount considerations in this operation.