



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

# Press Release

Release No. 06-05

Contact: Alan Dooley (314) 331-8002

For Release: **IMMEDIATE** — April 22, 2005

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

---

## Melvin Price Locks Main Chamber Will Be Closed During Two Days For Equipment Upgrade

St. Louis, Mo. – The St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced it will close the main 1200-foot chamber at the Melvin Price Locks and Dam near Alton, Ill., for part of April 25 and 26, 2005 to carry out necessary scheduled upgrades on miter gate machinery. A Special Notice to Navigators has been issued to inform them the closure will run from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday and from 6 a.m. until work is completed, but not later than 6 p.m. on Tuesday.

If repairs cannot be completed on the lock gate during that two-day period, the 12-hour closure schedule will be continued each day until repairs are finished.

The lock will reopen on any day it is closed for repairs, at 6 p.m. and vessels will be locked through from that time until work resumes the following morning at 6 a.m.

While the main chamber is closed, no traffic will be able to pass either up or downstream due to the current closure of the Mel Price 600-foot auxiliary chamber which has been closed since the downstream miter gates sustained major damage in an incident in October 2004. The smaller auxiliary chamber is currently scheduled to be returned to service in June.

The work is being accomplished to upgrade the strut arms, which move the 200-plus-ton lock gate leafs as they are opened and closed.

This closure has been coordinated with navigation interests and they have been told to be ready to follow any special instructions that may be issued by the Lockmaster during the work.