



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

Media Advisory

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Melvin Price Lock Gates Being Reinstalled

Alton, IL – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will start work tomorrow, June 7, to reinstall the downstream miter gate at the Melvin Price Locks and Dam auxiliary chamber near Alton, IL.

The Great Lakes and Rivers Division – Louisville District floating crane, *Henry M. Shreve*, will carry out the heavy, but delicate task. This is the same giant crane that laid the gates down for repair in early January.

The two gates were damaged in an incident last October 4, when they failed to close properly before water was allowed to flow into the chamber and were pushed past their secure closed position by water pressures. This occurred on a Sunday morning while the lock chamber was being prepared to allow several pleasure boats to descend southbound. No vessels were in the chamber at the time of the incident.

After determining that the gate leaves could be repaired, they were laid down in early January by *Shreve* and moved to the St. Louis District Service Base where both of the 220-ton steel gate leaves had to be straightened and torn metal replaced.

The schedule for performing this work will depend on the weather. The gate leaves are each 57.5 feet by 62 feet. Higher than acceptable winds may delay the work.

At this time, it appears that the first gate, which will be placed into the lock chamber on the Illinois side, will be lifted about 10 a.m. However, work cannot be held strictly to a schedule and it may proceed early if preparations go faster than planned. The second – or Missouri gate – may be reinstalled tomorrow afternoon or the next day, depending on progress.

District Public Affairs Alan Dooley will be on scene and may be reached on his cell phone at (618) 719-9038 for updates. Media may view and photograph this work from the river bank or be escorted out onto the lock walls for other vantage points. There will be no unescorted access to the work scene.

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What: Reinstalling Lock Gates at Melvin Price Locks
When: 10 a.m., June 7, 2005 (time depends on progress and Weather)
Where: Melvin Price Locks and Dam, south of Alton IL
POC: Alan Dooley (618) 719-9039