



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

# Media Advisory

Release No. 22-07    Contact: Public Affairs, 314-331-8002/8068/8095

Date: October 9, 2007

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

## **Scour Hole Repair Progresses at Mel Price; Media Invited to Visit October 11**

Saint Louis – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers St. Louis District commenced scour hole repair at the Melvin Price Locks and Dam in Alton, Ill., Tuesday, October 2. The contractor Luhr Brothers Inc., of Columbia, Ill., has already successfully filled two holes and placed 4,100 tons of stone of varying sizes.

The Army Corps of Engineers will host a media availability at Melvin Price on Thursday, October 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Various subject matter experts will be available to talk with the media about the project, including the project manager, the area engineer and the Melvin Price lockmaster. The media will be able to visit the top of the dam and the lock wall in order to get footage.

The \$1.6 million repair involves placing about 16,000 tons, or about 16 barge loads, of rock into eight scour holes at varying locations along the concrete dam. Repairs will be finished by mid-November.

The scour holes, discovered in April, do not pose a threat to the Melvin Price Dam or the public but the Corps has moved quickly to repair them to prevent the possibility of them enlarging and deepening, thus leading to more costly repairs in the future.

Media interested in visiting the site are asked, but not required, to pre-coordinate with the St. Louis District Public Affairs Office by calling Alan Dooley (314-331-8002), Nicole Dalrymple (314-331-8068) or George Stringham (314-331-8095).

The Melvin Price Locks and Dam is a low water structure. The dam maintains a safe, dependable 9 foot deep, 300 foot wide navigation channel upstream, and the locks provide river traffic access between the pools. The lock site is the second busiest on the Mississippi River and the newest, put into operation October 10, 1989. It normally conducts about 6,500 lockages each year, moving more than 70 million tons of commodities up and down the Mississippi River.

### **Summary:**

Who: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

What: Scour Hole Repair

Where: Melvin Price Locks and Dam, #1 Lock and Dam Way south of Alton, Ill. off of Illinois Hwy 143

When: Thursday, October 11, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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