



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

Press Release

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Melvin Price Locks and Dam Scour Hole Repairs Completed Early

St. Louis – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis today announced that work to repair scour holes upstream of the massive concrete Melvin Price Locks and Dam structure south of Alton, Ill., was completed Thursday, Nov. 1.

According to the area engineer Mike Feldmann, this was accomplished in spite of 10 days being lost due to high water stopping work at the site.

The work was carried out by Columbia, Ill., contractor Luhr Brothers Inc., under a contract calling for about 16,000 tons of rock to be placed in eight scour holes in the river bottom. The holes were discovered in April during a periodic sonar survey conducted by the St. Louis District survey vessel, MV Boyer.

The contract, anticipated two more weeks possibly being required to complete work by Nov. 15.

The contract was let for \$1.6 million and work began October 2. According to Feldmann, despite the weather delays, it appears that the work was completed slightly under budget as well as ahead of schedule.

The scour holes did not pose a threat to the structure or to public safety but the Corps expedited repairs to ensure the holes did not enlarge or deepen, requiring potentially more expensive repairs in the future.

As a low water structure, the Melvin Price Locks and Dam ensures that a Congressionally-mandated 9 foot deep, 300 foot wide navigation channel is maintained upstream of the structure. The lock plays a significant role in the nation's economy, annually locking through more than 70 million tons of commodities. The lock is the second busiest on the Upper Mississippi River and it is the newest, put into operation October 10, 1989.

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Editor's Note: The District's newsletter Esprit highlighted the scour holes repair on its cover. It's accessible online at: <http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/pa/esprit/2007/Oct07Esprit.pdf>