



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

News Release

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Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis to close Lock 25 at Winfield

The Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, announced today that it will close Lock 25 at Winfield, Mo., for emergency repairs. The closure is scheduled to begin Friday, March 28 at 8 a.m. This has been coordinated with river navigation companies.

The lock has a single 600 foot lock chamber and it is located at river mile 241.4 on the Mississippi River.

A recent inspection identified a pin in one of the lower or downstream miter gates that has loosened. The pin secures the gate to the concrete lock wall on the river, or Illinois side of the chamber. Corps engineers have continued to monitor the situation since the problem was identified, while coordinating a scheduled closure with the navigation industry to make repairs.

“Unfortunately, the condition has degraded,” said Andy Schimpf, chief of the District’s Rivers Project Office, which operates and maintains the District’s four lock and dam sites on the Mississippi River. “We had hoped to make repairs during a scheduled closure but at the recommendation of our engineering experts, we are closing the lock as soon as possible to make the necessary repair.”

Corps maintenance experts from the St. Louis and Rock Island Districts will carry out the repairs. Similar work was necessary several weeks ago at Lock 24, northward at Clarksville, and Rock Island personnel took part in that successful effort too. The two situations do not appear to be related.

Work will involve lifting the gate with a large floating crane. This will enable maintenance experts to remove and replace concrete, conduct precision onsite metal boring and to replace the loosened pin before resetting the gate and putting it back into operation. Work will proceed at the best pace possible.

Making the repairs soon is necessary to ensure against damage to the gate. That could possibly result in the need for longer, more expensive repairs. While plans are going forward, onsite personnel are monitoring the situation closely and will only close the lock prior to Friday if that becomes necessary. They will continue to lock tows through as long as it is safe to do so. The final closing is being closely coordinated with the navigation industry.

Currently there is minimal traffic on the Upper Mississippi River, but as ice recedes further north, growing traffic volume is anticipated.

Lock and Dam 25 went into operation May 18, 1939. In 2007, more than 30.4 million tons of commodities transited the lock.

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