



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

# News Release

Release No. 11-08

Public Affairs Office: Alan Dooley, 314-331-8002 (work)

For Release: **IMMEDIATE** – March 27, 2008

1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833 / [www.mvs.usace.army.mil](http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil)

## **Corps of Engineers announces Lock 25 closing moved forward**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District announced late last night that Lock 25 at Winfield, Mo., was closed last night after operators discovered further degradation to the anchorage system of the lower miter gate there. The Lock had previously been announced for closure at 8 a.m. Friday morning for priority repairs to the same gate.

The official announcement was made at 10:42 p.m., Wednesday night in a special notice to navigation interests. The new problem was discovered earlier in the day and traffic on the river had been halted while engineers and repair experts inspected the latest problem and determined the prognosis.

Thus far, issues appear to be confined to anchorage-hinge areas and no damage has been detected in the gate leaf itself.

The additional problems, which include what is known as the gudgeon pin starting to loosen and slipping, were assessed to be serious enough to require repairs which had been scheduled for Friday, to be started immediately under emergency conditions. This step suspends navigation north and south at Lock 25.

Work is already underway to prepare to carry out previously announced repairs and at this time, St. Louis experts are assessing what other work may be required. No new time frame for completing repairs has been announced. It is expected that information will be available later today.

Lock and Dam 25 went into operation May 18, 1939. In 2007, more than 30.4 million tons of commodities transited the lock. The lock has a single 600-foot-long, 110-foot-wide lock chamber and it is located at river mile 241.4 on the Mississippi River.

- end -

Note to editors: The term “gate leaf” refers to one of the two large metal “doors” that swing open and closed to allow access into and out of the lock chamber. Two gate leaves (correct terminology and spelling), associated anchorage and hinging, as well as machinery are parts of a “miter gate.” Miter gates are so termed because when they are closed, or “mitered,” they are like an arch lying on its side, transferring pressures and forces into the concrete walls of the lock. The gate leaf in this instance is at the downstream, or south end of the lock chamber, on the side furthest from the Missouri bank. Aerial photos of lock 25 are available on the St. Louis District web site at:  
<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/album/MVS-L-Ds/index.htm>