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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers opens comment period on Supplemental Environmental Assessment of switch boats in Mississippi River

St. Louis, MO – March 26, 2009 - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District has prepared a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) to address environmental impacts associated with the implementing switch boats at Locks 20 thru 25. The purpose of the proposed switch boats is to improve navigation efficiency on the Upper Mississippi River.

The SEA supplements the parent document entitled: *Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the UMR-IWW System Navigation Feasibility Study* and evaluates the probable impacts of this action and the other alternatives that were considered.

The SEA is being circulated for public review until April 24, 2009. The SEA may be viewed on the Corps' Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) website, at <http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/UMRS/NESP/> under the Reports sub-heading. Copies of the SEA will also be available through April 24, 2009 at the public libraries in Barry, Bowling Green, Quincy, Hannibal, Louisiana, Pittsfield, Griggsville and at the Ralls County Library in Center, Missouri and the Powell Memorial Library in Troy, Missouri.

Questions concerning these documents may be addressed to Mr. Francis Walton of the St. Louis District's Environmental Branch, telephone 314-331-8487.