



**US Army Corps
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St. Louis District

News Release

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Public Affairs Officer, Alan Dooley: 314-331-8002 (O)
618-939-5985 (H)
618-719-9039 (C)

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1222 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833 / www.mvs.usace.army.mil

FINAL UPDATE - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reopens Locks 27 main chamber

St. Louis, MO – March 26, 2009 - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District reopened the main 1200-foot-long lock chamber at the Chain of Rocks Locks 27 near Granite City, Ill., at about 11 a.m. today. The lock was closed for an emergency repair Sunday night at 9:45 p.m. The closure was made necessary when deterioration was noted in the foundation of the anchorage for one of the hydraulic cylinders that operate the miter gate at the downstream or southern end of the lock chamber.

Corps technicians, assisted by a representative of the firm that makes a special epoxy foundation material, completed the work. Following tests to confirm the repair, the main chamber was reopened to traffic up to and including 15-barge tows, the normal largest capacity that operates on the Upper Mississippi River, in single-operation lockages.

The Corps of Engineers took advantage of the closure at the Chain of Rocks Locks 27 to briefly close the Melvin Price locks near Alton, Ill., to replace a damaged electrical control panel there. That closure was unrelated to the work at the Chain of Rocks Locks 27, but was timed to take advantage of the closure that was already slowing traffic at the locks just down stream on the Mississippi River.