



**US Army Corps  
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St. Louis District

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# News Release

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For Release: **IMMEDIATE**

Date: April 14, 2009

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## **Melvin Price Locks Main Chamber closed for maintenance**

**St. Louis, MO – April 14, 2009** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers today announced a scheduled five-day closure of the main 1200-foot-long lock chamber at the Melvin Price Locks and Dam near Alton, IL. The closure, which was coordinated with the navigation industry to minimize delays for navigation, will be from April 14 to April 19.

A helper boat will be on scene to smooth movement of barge tows through the adjacent 600-foot-long auxiliary chamber. At locations where there are only 600-foot chambers, there are electric cable winches to move sections of tows that are being locked separately. But since the Melvin Price facility includes a 1200-foot-long lock chamber that is normally used to lock the large 15-barge tows, there is no electric cable system available.

Corps of Engineers Maintenance experts indicate they are replacing seals on the lift gate at the upstream end of the lock chamber. This work can be accomplished “in the wet” and will not require the lock gate or chamber to be dewatered.

During 2008, a total of 56,296,000 tons of bulk commodities were locked up and downstream at the Melvin Price Locks and Dams in a combined 6,799 lockages. The Melvin Price Locks and Dam, which replaced the aging Locks 26 at Alton, Ill., went into operation nearly 20 years ago on October 10, 1989.