



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

# News Release

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## **Lock 24 closure – UPDATE**

Clarksville, Mo., Wednesday, October 14 – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintenance personnel at lock 24 are reporting progress this morning on restoring operations at the lock that was closed after a machinery malfunction there early Tuesday morning.

Yesterday afternoon, once parts of the damaged machinery that were preventing the gate from being moved manually were removed, personnel at Lock 24 succeeded in closing the miter gate with the assistance of a work flat, or boat. When they were satisfied that the downstream gate was properly secured, they filled the 600-foot lock chamber and raised the waiting Alter Barge Line towboat, Jeffrey G and her six barges to the upstream pool level.

This enabled the Jeffrey G and her tow of 15 barges to complete their lockage and proceed north.

Maintenance personnel also reassessed the need to bring the large Corps of Engineers floating crane Sewell to the scene and decided to use the crane on a barge attached to the Corps tow boat, Motor Vessel Pathfinder instead. That crane is normally used to move and set buoys and was deemed powerful enough to remove and replace the damaged machinery. Corps experts estimate that decision saved eight hours in getting required maintenance assets to Lock 24.

On-scene personnel from the lock and the Corps service base in St. Louis are continuing their work to effect full repairs. Weather in the area of lock 24 has been cool with intermittent rain. While those conditions will not prevent work from continuing, any thunder storms and lightning could slow progress. A tentative reopening is still planned Thursday.