US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District

St. Louis District
Navigation Channel Condition Status Report - May 20, 2026

Lock and Dam 22
TW Current = 8.8 ft.
TW 1 Wk Forecast = 8.7 ft.
TW 2 Wk Forecast = 6.5 ft.

Lock and Dam 24
TW Current = 19.1 ft.
TW 1 Wk Forecast = 19.3 ft.
TW 2 Wk Forecast = 17.3 ft.

RM 273.4 - L/D 24 CONSTRUCTION
Until further notice, construction activities are being conducted on the Dam at L/D 24, at RM 273.4. Tainter gate 1 will not be operational and Tainter gate 2 may be potentially closed as well. There is potential for stronger than normal outdraft conditions at the lower end of the lock. Mariners may contact the Lockmaster via VHF-FM Channel 12, or at (573) 242-3524, for further information.

Lock and Dam 25
TW Current = 20.3 ft.
TW 1 Wk Forecast = 20.8 ft.
TW 2 Wk Forecast = 19.0 ft.

RM 241.4 - TRANSIT ADVISORY
~ Effectively immediately and until further notice, vessels will be required to use an assist vessel as to not land on the damaged DS L&D protection cell northbound or create excess wheel wash when exiting the lock southbound.
~ USACE contractor Massman Const. will be constructing a new 50-foot diameter guide cell downstream of L&D 25, approx. 340 ft DS of the existing guide wall, until 10/2026. Mariners should be on the lookout for construction activities working in the area.
~ All navigation interest should be alert for, and abide by, any special instructions that may be issued by the Lockmaster. Mariners may contact the Lockmaster via VHF-FM Ch 14 or at 636-566-8120 for further information.
~Lock 25 will be closed from 0700 to 1900 on May 21 to work to rebuild the protection cell.

Mel Price Locks and Dam
TW Current = 12.8 ft.
TW 1 Wk Forecast = 10.7 ft.

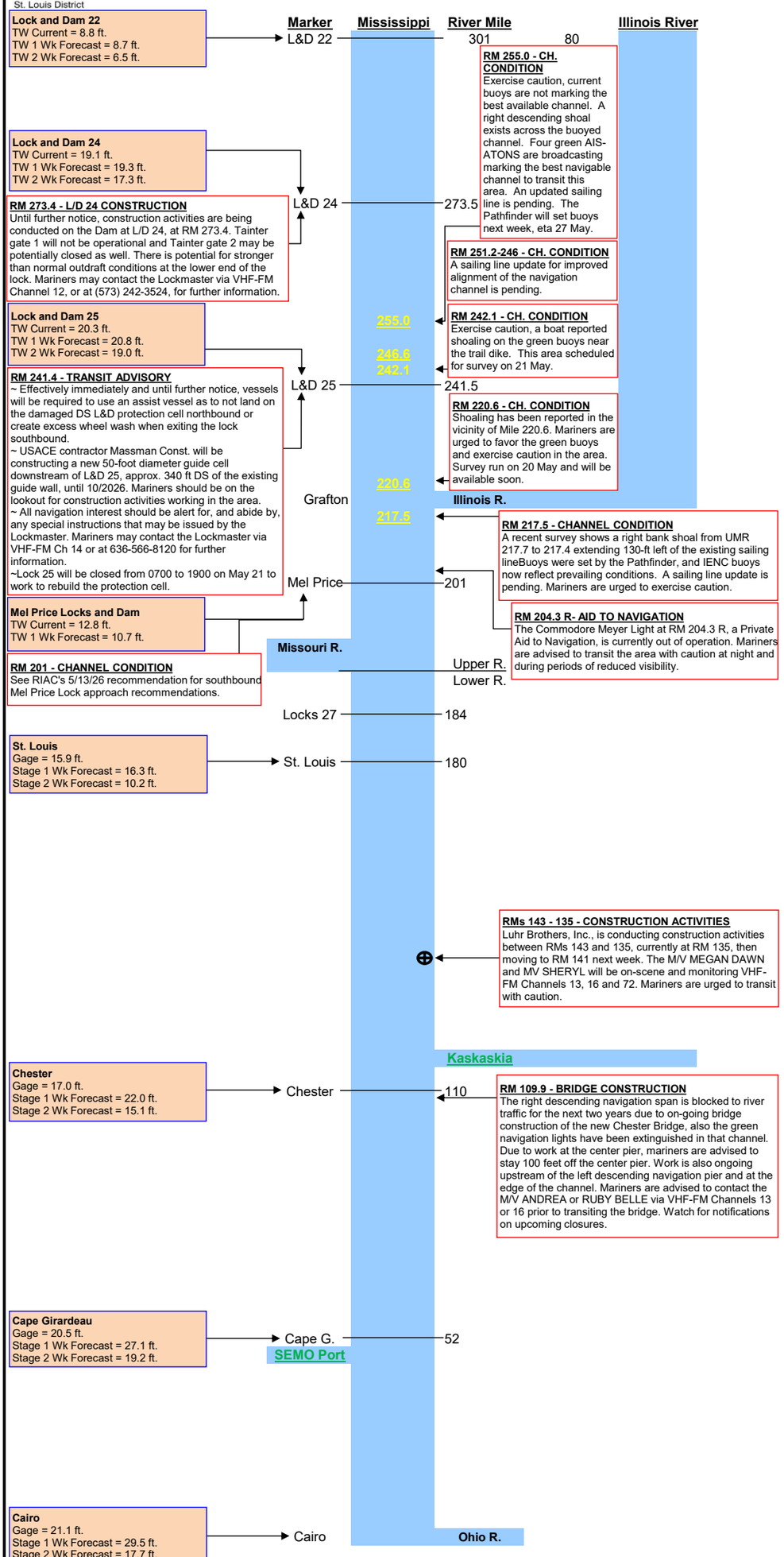
RM 201 - CHANNEL CONDITION
See RIAC's 5/13/26 recommendation for southbound Mel Price Lock approach recommendations.

St. Louis
Gage = 15.9 ft.
Stage 1 Wk Forecast = 16.3 ft.
Stage 2 Wk Forecast = 10.2 ft.

Chester
Gage = 17.0 ft.
Stage 1 Wk Forecast = 22.0 ft.
Stage 2 Wk Forecast = 15.1 ft.

Cape Girardeau
Gage = 20.5 ft.
Stage 1 Wk Forecast = 27.1 ft.
Stage 2 Wk Forecast = 19.2 ft.

Cairo
Gage = 21.1 ft.
Stage 1 Wk Forecast = 29.5 ft.
Stage 2 Wk Forecast = 17.7 ft.



RM 255.0 - CH. CONDITION
Exercise caution, current buoys are not marking the best available channel. A right descending shoal exists across the buoyed channel. Four green AIS-ATONS are broadcasting marking the best navigable channel to transit this area. An updated sailing line is pending. The Pathfinder will set buoys next week, eta 27 May.

RM 251.2-246 - CH. CONDITION
A sailing line update for improved alignment of the navigation channel is pending.

RM 242.1 - CH. CONDITION
Exercise caution, a boat reported shoaling on the green buoys near the trail dike. This area scheduled for survey on 21 May.

RM 220.6 - CH. CONDITION
Shoaling has been reported in the vicinity of Mile 220.6. Mariners are urged to favor the green buoys and exercise caution in the area. Survey run on 20 May and will be available soon.

RM 217.5 - CHANNEL CONDITION
A recent survey shows a right bank shoal from UMR 217.7 to 217.4 extending 130-ft left of the existing sailing lineBuoys were set by the Pathfinder, and IENC buoys now reflect prevailing conditions. A sailing line update is pending. Mariners are urged to exercise caution.

RM 204.3 R- AID TO NAVIGATION
The Commodore Meyer Light at RM 204.3 R, a Private Aid to Navigation, is currently out of operation. Mariners are advised to transit the area with caution at night and during periods of reduced visibility.

RMs 143 - 135 - CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES
Luhr Brothers, Inc., is conducting construction activities between RMs 143 and 135, currently at RM 135, then moving to RM 141 next week. The M/V MEGAN DAWN and MV SHERYL will be on-scene and monitoring VHF-FM Channels 13, 16 and 72. Mariners are urged to transit with caution.

RM 109.9 - BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION
The right descending navigation span is blocked to river traffic for the next two years due to on-going bridge construction of the new Chester Bridge, also the green navigation lights have been extinguished in that channel. Due to work at the center pier, mariners are advised to stay 100 feet off the center pier. Work is also ongoing upstream of the left descending navigation pier and at the edge of the channel. Mariners are advised to contact the M/V ANDREA or RUBY BELLE via VHF-FM Channels 13 or 16 prior to transiting the bridge. Watch for notifications on upcoming closures.

Dredge Status:

Dredge Potter: Is demobilized and is performing maintenance activities.

Dredge Goetz: Out of District.

Mechanical Dredge - Pathfinder: Demobilized.

Channel Marker Status:

Be aware that there may be other buoys off station/missing than the ones mentioned in this report. Mariners should use caution. For ATON or Buoy issues please contact or 319-520-8556 SUMRWaterways@uscg.mil.

Pathfinder: Currently dockside, will be conducting an Upper Mississippi River to L&D 25 then an Illinois River buoy patrol next week.

Additional Risks / Concerns

Navigation Notices

Local Notice to Mariners

Weather

Highs from the upper 80s to the mid 60s, lows from the upper 60s to the upper 40s. Chance of rain throughout the week.

Hannibal, MO

St. Louis, MO

Cape Girardeau, MO

Cairo, IL

Web Information

For additional River Training Structure information, see the links below:

Current Construction

Recently Completed Construction

For open Regulatory Public Notices, See the link below:

Regulatory Public Notices

For the most recent channel patrol and pre or post dredge surveys, see the links below:

Channel Patrol Surveys

Dredge Surveys

Electronic Navigation charts for the Upper Mississippi River are available online for download or to order at the below link:

Electronic Charts

More Status Reports

Click for older status reports

Key:

- Current Construction Location
- Anticipated Dredging Locations
- Groundings
- Mechanical
- Dredge Potter
- Dredge Goetz
- Dredge Bill Holman
- Dredge Hurley
- Very Likely to be Problematic at Low Water
- Could be Problematic at Low Water
- Problem Resolved/Not Problematic

Probable Dredge Areas (9 ft DEPTH)

River Mile	Problematic On:	Dredge ETA	Dredge Complete	Dredge

Please email comments or suggestions to dawn.lamm@usace.army.mil