Lock & Dam 24

Completed in 1940, this lock spans the river near Clarksville, Missouri, and consists of only one 600-ft lock for an average lift of 15 feet. This lock was the first one constructed under the 5-8 channel project without roller gates — a huge leap in lock and dam engineering at the time. It has 5 transition gates that control the flow of the mighty Mississippi River.

Lock & Dam 25

This lock and dam went into operation in 1939 near Winfield, Missouri, and consists of one 600-ft lock for an average lift of 15 feet. It was equipped with 3 submerible roller gates and 14 submerible transition gates. At the time of construction, submerible gates represented a marked improvement in that they allowed for the direct unobstructed flow of floodwaters, ice and debris.

Lock & Dam 27

Completed in 1955 near Granite City, Illinois, the twin locks at Lock 27 are strung at the southern end of an 84-mile long, main-run canal. This lock downstream lock moves more cargo than any other navigation structure on the Mississippi River. After 1940, only a single obstacle prevented the safe and reliable operation of a 9-feet navigation channel — a 17-mile series of rock lodges just North of St. Louis known as the Chain of Rocks Reach. The Corps of Engineers constructed the canal to bypass the treacherous Chain of Rocks Reach and thus built a low-water dam across the main river channel to ensure adequate pool depths.