

August 5, 2024

2025 Illinois River 55-Day Closure of Lockport Lock (1/14/25-3/11/25, mile 291)

Dear Valued Customers,

**This notice will be of special interest to customers that have freight moving to/from the Illinois River, especially for customers with barge destinations/origins in the Lemont through Chicago, and Ports of Lake Michigan area.** Per Navigation Notice #206022 from the USACE, the complete and total closure of the Lockport Lock at mile 291 will begin January 14 and remain closed until March 11. Marine operations on the Illinois River will be severely impacted by this closure. This closure directly affects all ports in the “Chicagoland” area: Chicago, Lemont, Romeoville, Willow Springs, Alsip, Blue Island, Lake Calumet, Whiting, Gary, Argo, etc.

Shippers: We have provided information and loading schedules for your use so that you can plan your final barge loadings (prior to the lock closure) accordingly to avoid demurrage and/or storage charges associated with this closure. Also, please refine your plans, and plan with your barge off-loading facilities, so that all barges are off-loaded no later than Friday, December 20, doing so provides necessary time for barges to be prepared and reloaded for southbound trips. Barges that are not off-loaded on time may be subject to additional demurrage and/or storage charges. Please contact your ACBL Salesperson for additional details and possible options to mitigate logistical issues. As operating conditions dictate, these dates may be modified:

Schedule ‘A’: Instructions for Northbound Shipping (final loading schedules) from ports of origin to destinations within the Lemont through Chicago, and Ports of Lake Michigan closure area:

Origins	0700 Final Release Dates
Mobile/Tenn Tom	October 31
Houston	October 31
Salt Mines	November 7
New Orleans	November 14
Pittsburgh	November 14
Southpoint, WV	November 18
Decatur	November 18
Memphis	November 21
Evansville, IN	November 23
Cairo	December 1
St. Louis	December 1

Schedule ‘B’: Instructions for Southbound Shipping (final loading schedules) from ports of origin, for barges loading within the Lemont through Chicago, and Ports of Lake Michigan closure area to destinations off the Illinois River. Please be advised, these dates are also our planned final departure dates from the closure area:

Origins	0700 Final Release/Departure Dates
Ports on Lake Michigan	January 2*
Chicago/Lake Calumet	January 5*
Lemont	January 7*

\*Dates reflect potential ice delay

We will confirm a “post closure, resumption of northbound shipping schedule” in Q4. For planning and estimated release dates use this tool: [ACBL Connect - Average Transit Times](#). For example, the transit time from New Orleans to Chicago is 29 days. Going backward on the calendar 29 days (from 3/11 estimated reopening date) gives you an estimated resumption of shipping date (first releases, post closure) from New Orleans (to Chicago) as February 10. You can use the tool for multiple origin/destination pairs. Again, this is for planning purposes only; operating conditions may change.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. See our American Currents website for a copy of this letter and for updates on the most recent river conditions: <https://www.bargeacbl.com/american-currents/>

Thank You,



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