



1701 East Market Street, Jeffersonville IN 47130-4717

February 12, 2025

2025 Illinois River Re-Opening of Lockport Lock

Dear Valued Customers,

We are pleased to inform you that the Illinois River is scheduled to re-open on March 28 following the completion of the Lockport Lock closure at mile 291. This notice is particularly relevant for customers with freight moving to/from the Illinois River, especially those with barge destinations/origins in the Lemont through Chicago area and Ports of Lake Michigan. Marine operations on the Illinois River will resume, and all ports in the "Chicagoland" area, including Chicago, Lemont, Romeoville, Willow Springs, Alsip, Blue Island, Lake Calumet, Whiting, Gary, Argo, etc., will be fully operational.

Shippers: We have provided updated information and loading schedules to help you plan your barge loadings and avoid any demurrage and/or storage charges. Please coordinate with your barge loading and unloading facilities to ensure a smooth transition as operations resume. For additional details and possible options to mitigate logistical issues, please contact your ACBL Customer Experience Specialist. These dates may change based on the progress of lock repairs and prevailing operating conditions:

**ACBL will begin accepting barge releases to destinations above Lockport Lock, Illinois River mile 291, for the following release dates (initial departures to be planned on/near these dates)\*:**

ORIGIN PORT	For barges destined above Lockport Lock (IR 291) first release date from origin:
Mobile/Tenn Tom	25-Feb
Houston	23-Feb
Salt Mines	26-Feb
New Orleans	3-Mar
Pittsburgh	2-Mar
Cincinnati	5-Mar
Decatur	10-Mar
Memphis	10-Mar
Evansville, IN	12-Mar
Cairo	16-Mar
St. Louis	19-Mar

***\*Please consider Lock 27 (UM 185) and Mel Price Lock (UM 200) when planning your voyage. Delays at these locations are not accounted for in the release dates and may impact transit time.***

**Lock 27:** Main Chamber closure January 1<sup>st</sup> through April 1<sup>st</sup>

**Mel Price:** Main Chamber closure January 1<sup>st</sup> through April 1st

***Is there a penalty if I choose to ship/release barges prior to the release dates in the above schedule?***

Yes. Barges loaded prior to the above scheduled release dates will be subject to demurrage while barges await departure dates from origin, and/or ACBL chosen interchange points.

***What can I expect for transit on my initial shipment to Lemont/Chicago?***

Transit times on the initial voyages may be longer than normal due to the backlog of industry barges needing to transit through the area.

Please contact me if you need additional information, or if you have questions regarding release dates for specific origins and destinations not listed above.

Thank You,

Vince Willis  
ACBL Logistics Director of Customer Experience  
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