



American Commercial Barge Line
 1701 E. Market Street
 Jeffersonville, IN 47130

March 10, 2025

2025 Illinois River Re-Opening of Lockport Lock

Dear Valued Customers,

We are pleased to announce that the US Army Corps of Engineers will reopen Lockport Lock & Dam on April 4th at 18:00 CST, but with some restrictions such as tow size. This opening will be temporary, as the lock will need to close again for another 4-6 weeks to complete permanent repairs at a later date. We will provide updates as more information becomes available. 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 remain suspended until the new reopening date, and all ports in the “Chicagoland” area, including Chicago, Lemont, Romeoville, Willow Springs, Alsip, Blue Island, Lake Calumet, Whiting, Gary, Argo, etc., will be affected.

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	4-Mar
Houston	2-Mar
Salt Mines	5-Mar
New Orleans	10-Mar
Pittsburgh	9-Mar
Southpoint, WV	14-Mar
Decatur	17-Mar
Memphis	17-Mar
Evansville, IN	19-Mar
Cairo	23-Mar
St. Louis	26-Mar

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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