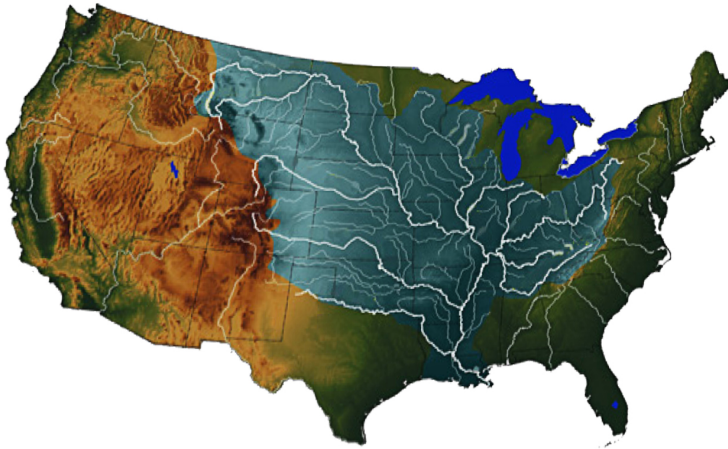


# BIG RIVER COALITION



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January 11, 2021

## HOPPER DREDGE DISPOSAL AREA DREDGING OPERATIONS and SCHEDULED SHIP CHANNEL CLOSURES

Members,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) awarded a contract to Great Lakes Dredge and Dock (GLDD) to dredge material contained in the Hopper Dredge Disposal Area (HDDA) at the Head of Passes. The cutterhead dredge ILLINOIS will be utilized on this HDDA dredging project to remove 10 to 14 million cubic yards (mcy) of material. GLDD will dispose of the removed dredged material in the West Bay Receiving Area by pumping it through a submerged dredge pipeline installed across the Mississippi River Ship Channel from east to west. The submerged dredge pipeline will be installed across the Ship Channel between Mile 1.4 Above Head of Passes (AHP) and Mile 1.2 AHP during the channel closures detailed below.

### **SCHEDULED CHANNEL CLOSURES:**

**1) FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2021:**

**0600 hours to 1200 hours:** all vessels are restricted from transiting between Mile 2.0 Above Head of Passes and Mile 0 (Head of Passes), during this closure the dredge will dig a trench across the west side of the channel.

**1200 hours to 1800 hours:** all vessels are limited to one-way traffic along the west side of the Ship Channel between Mile 2.0 AHP and Mile 0 (Head of Passes), during this closure the dredge will dig a trench on the east side of the channel.

**2) SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021:**

**0600 hours to 1800 hours:** all vessels are restricted from transiting between Mile 2.0 AHP and Mile 0 (Head of Passes), the submerged pipeline will be inserted across the Ship Channel and into the excavated trench.

**Vessels intending to arrive or depart the Mississippi River on the day of a scheduled channel closure must arrive at Pilottown (outbound) no later than 0400 hours or Southwest Pass Entrance Light (inbound) no later than 0330 hours on the morning of the scheduled closure.**

# BIG RIVER COALITION

The Ship Channel will be open to normal vessels traffic on Saturday, January 16, 2021, with no transit restrictions expected. Please refer to the attached Marine Safety Information Bulletin as issued today by the U.S. Coast Guard for complete details on the transit restrictions. The ILLINOIS is expected to begin dredging at the HDDA location in mid-January (2021) after the successful installation of the submerged dredge pipeline.

The HDDA must be dredged so that the hopper dredges working to maintain the Mississippi River Ship Channel in the area of Southwest Pass can dispose of the sediment removed from the navigation channel in an authorized disposal area. A third closure (12-hours) will be required to remove the pipeline after the project has been completed, the project will take approximately one year to complete.

The following description with more specific details on the operations to be performed during the channel closures and period of one-way transits was provided by GLDD:

## Closure 1 (January 15, 2021):

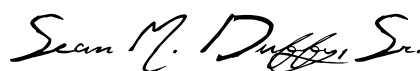
- Starting at 0600 hours, the Dredge Illinois will be positioned on the West toe and excavate a 200' long trench.
- After completing the West toe, the Dredge Illinois will move to the East half of the channel.
- At this time the Pilot onboard the Dredge Illinois will coordinate the opening of Western half of the channel for vessel traffic.
- The dredge will excavate the Eastern half of the channel (2 cuts 250' wide by 200' long).
- By 1800 hours all equipment will move out of the channel and the Pilot onboard will open the full channel for vessel traffic.

## Closure 2 (January 17, 2021):

- Starting at 0600, Great Lakes and their support tugs will begin to place 3 pieces of submerged line on the river bottom.
- Great Lakes will utilize 4 tugs and 2-3 pieces of additional support equipment to safely position and install the submerged line on the river bottom.
- Immediately following the submerged line being positioned on the river bottom, survey data will be collected to ensure all submerged pipeline is below 52.5' MLLW with no obstruction to the channel.
- Following the survey confirmation, the Pilot onboard the Layla Renee will communicate to all respective parties that the channel is open for vessel traffic.

The Big River Coalition will issue any updates but the closure dates are now scheduled as detailed above and within the attached MSIB.

Sincerely,



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.  
Executive Director

Attachments