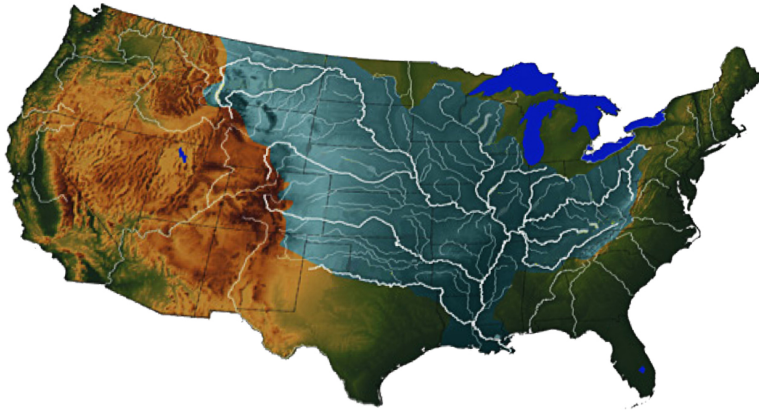


# BIG RIVER COALITION



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February 3, 2023

## RE: USACE 2022/2023 REVETMENT SCHEDULE AND TRANSIT RESTRICTIONS 2323

Members,

The present schedule for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mississippi River bank stabilization program schedule (revetment operations), with applicable navigation restrictions, is detailed below. The revised schedule of work as provided by the USACE on February 2, 2023, is attached. The USACE has two remaining revetment locations between Baton Rouge and New Orleans that are now scheduled to be completed by late February. **The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) continues revetment operations at the White Castle #3 location (Mile 192.7 AHP). The revetment operations at the White Castle locations are being conducted with no ship transits allowed through the area during working hours (daylight - 0600 hours to 1900 hours).**

The USACE continues to discuss the revetment operations with representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), applicable Pilot Associations and navigation representatives, to detail the scope of bank stabilization efforts and develop potential transit restrictions. During times of actual revetment work, the Mat Sinking Unit (MSU) extends from approximately 300 to 900 feet channelward from the bank. When the MSU is not folded in, it extends about 480 feet from the bank channelward. When it is folded in, the MSU extends 250 feet from the bank. The scheduled working times for the MSU are from 0600 hours to 1900 hours. In different locations the operations may be completed slightly before or after 1900 hours. The Corps agreed to Industry's request to fold in the Mat Sinking Unit (MSU) at night on revetment locations that warranted concern. **The Pilots and Coast Guard's Lower Mississippi River Vessel Traffic Service will utilize the Contact Pilot on the MSU to coordinate vessel movements in the vicinity of these operations.**

### 2022/2023 USACE Revetment Schedule and Restrictions Locations Below Baton Rouge

Locations	Mile AHP (Right or Left)	2023 Scheduled Dates	Transit Restrictions
White Castle #2	193.4 RDB	February 7 to February 10 February 13 to February 18	No deep-draft transits during working hours. MSU will fold in at night.
White Castle #3	192.7 RDB	<b>ONGOING</b> <b>January 30 to February 7</b>	No deep-draft transits during working hours. MSU will fold in at night.

**The weekend of Saturday, February 11 and Sunday, February 12 is a scheduled no work weekend for revetment operations, mat sinking operations are expected to complete about midday on Friday, February 10. The USCG is expected to open the river with no transit restrictions through the White Castle location once the mat sinking unit is folded on Friday (February 10) with the no transit restriction set to resume as scheduled at 0600 hours on Monday, February 13 (2023).**

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The New Orleans Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association (NOBRA) enforce a daylight only transit restriction for vessels with a draft of 41 feet or greater when transiting above Mile 220 AHP. The NOBRA Pilots are reviewing potential measures to allow restricted vessels (drafts 41 or greater) to transit through the White Castle revetment locations at approximately Mile 193 AHP, guidance expected.

The USACE has already completed revetment operations at the five locations listed below that were not included in the list for the active or remaining sites in the previous table:

- 1) White Castle #1 Mile 193.6 AHP (RDB)
- 2) Kenner Bend Mile 111.3 AHP (LDB)
- 3) Linwood Mile 70.7 AHP (RDB)
- 4) Reserve Mile 138.7 AHP (RDB)
- 5) Greenville Bend Mile 99.8 AHP (RDB)

Multiple deep-draft vessels delayed by the impact of both the daylight channel closures and repeated periods of reduced visibility (fog delays) were moved through on the evening of Wednesday, February 1, 2023. This was accomplished with a coordinated movement to have the vessels underway before sunset to arrive the White Castle location after the mat sinking unit was folded in before sunset. This successful coordinated movement was conducted with the support of the USACE, NOBRA Pilots, U.S Coast Guard and navigation industry representatives. **Vessel Agents of delayed vessels are encouraged to reach out to their trade association representatives in advance, note the work at White Castle will continue for two more weeks.**

The BRC will notify our members of any changes; however, please keep in mind that changes may occur with short notice to industry. The scheduled dates may change again, but those listed above are based on the updated schedule from the USACE. Updates will be provided in an attempt to provide accurate information as time permits. The Corps, Coast Guard, Pilots and BRC will work closely with industry to ensure that changes are noted and broadcast when warranted. The Marine Safety Information Bulletins as previously issued by the USCG is attached, please note the work dates have not been updated but the listed transit restrictions remain accurate.

Sincerely,



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.  
Executive Director