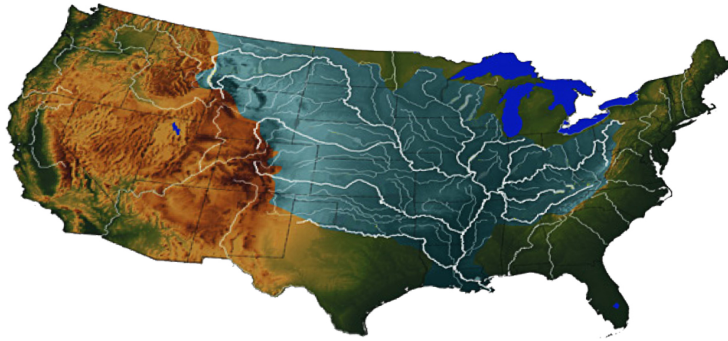


BIG RIVER COALITION



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February 12, 2024

RE: USACE 2023/2024 REVETMENT SCHEDULE AND TRANSIT RESTRICTIONS 21224

Members,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mississippi Valley New Orleans (MVN) 2023/2024 Mississippi Riverbank stabilization program's updated schedule of work for the revetment operations is listed below and in the first attachment. The applicable navigation restrictions and **updated** scheduled of work are detailed in the table below. There are three remaining revetment locations between Baton Rouge and New Orleans and two locations below New Orleans.

The Corps' Bank Stabilization Division, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), applicable Pilot Associations and navigation representatives, have reviewed the scope of bank stabilization efforts and developed the listed transit restrictions. During times of actual revetment work, the MSU extends from approximately 300 to 900 feet channelward from the bank. If not folded in the MSU extends 480 feet from the bank/dock channelward. When it is folded in, the MSU extends 250 feet from the bank/dock. 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 transiting through the revetment locations.**

2023/2024 Corps' Revetment Schedule and Restrictions Locations Below Baton Rouge

Locations	Mile (Right or Left)	2024 Scheduled Work Dates	Transit Restrictions
Manchac	Mile 214.2 LDB	COMPLETED	COMPLETED
St. Gabriel	Mile 199 LDB	February 3 - February 9 February 12 - February 15	*No deep-draft vessel transits during working hours. MSU will fold in at night.
Avondale	Mile 108 RDB	February 16- February 23 February 26 - March 3	REVISED: No southbound deep-draft traffic during working hours. Northbound transits are limited to one-way traffic with a slow bell during working hours. The MSU will fold in at night and will extend 250 feet from the bank/dock channelward during non-working hours.
Poydras	Mile 84.3 LDB	March 14 - March 21	Transits with slow bell during working hours. MSU not required to fold in at night.
Neptune Pass	Mile 23.1 LDB	March 4 - March 8 March 11- March 13	Deep-draft transits on a slow bell during working hours. The MSU is not required to fold in.
Vacherie	Mile 149.4 RDB Mile 148.7 RDB	March 22 March 25 - April 1	One-way transit restriction during working hours. The MSU will fold in at night.

***Please see the attachment for the New Orleans Baton Rouge Steamship Pilots Association adjustment to move deep-draft traffic through at night around the revetment operations at St. Gabriel to accommodate the required nighttime transits.**

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The scheduled working times for the MSU are from 0600 hours to 1900 hours daily, although working hours may be adjusted slightly with work to be completed slightly before or after 1900 hours. Transits on scheduled no work weekends may offer the USCG an opportunity to open the channel earlier than 1900 hours but vessel movements must be coordinated with the pilots and contact pilots or the Vessel Traffic Service first. This communication will ensure the MSU has completed revetment operations and is safely folded-in prior to vessels being cleared to transit through the area.

The USCG is utilizing the Vessel Traffic Service Lower Mississippi River 5-Day Outlook broadcasts to address the adjustments for the actual dates of work.

The BRC will notify our members of any changes; however, please keep in mind that changes may occur with short notice to industry. Due to bank stability concerns the USACE will work Neptune Pass prior to the Poydras and Vacherie locations otherwise the order of work is from upriver to downriver. During the bank stabilization operations changes based upon river stages and experience with vessel transits should be expected. The Corps, Coast Guard, Pilots and BRC will work closely with industry to ensure that changes are noted and broadcast when warranted.

The schedule of work for Avondale will most likely be extended 2-3 additional days due to the adjusted requirement for the MSU to fold in at night due to elevated river stages. Because of the high river stages the pilots have requested that the MSU fold in at night, the Carrollton Gage is expected to crest at 11.3 feet this week and remain over 10.0 feet until February 20, 2024. The calendar adjustments will be noted when the work begins at Avondale later this week and work at each location is expected to fall back a few days. The revetment operations at Avondale and Neptune Pass are the top priorities for bank stabilization according to the USACE. The USCG, pilots and industry have providing feedback to adjust the noted transit restrictions to promote navigational safety during revetment operations.

Sincerely,



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Executive Director

Attachments