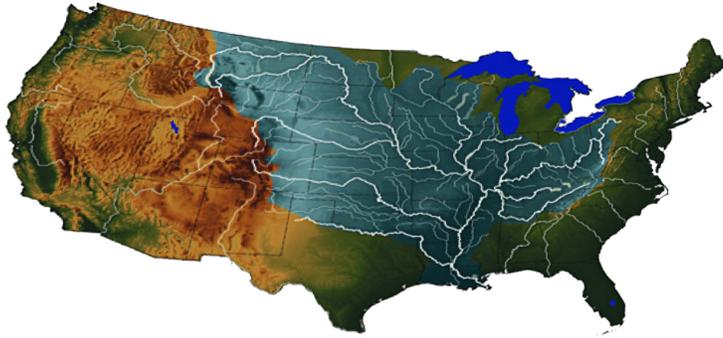


BIG RIVER COALITION



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Executive Director
5600 Janice Avenue
Kenner, LA 70065

Cellular (504) 338-3165
sean.duffy@bigrivercoalition.org

March 14, 2024

RE: USACE 2023/2024 REVETMENT SCHEDULE AND TRANSIT RESTRICTIONS 31424

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. The applicable navigation restrictions and **updated** scheduled of work are detailed in the table below. **The revetment operations at the Neptune location (Mile 23.1 Above Head of Passes [AHP]) were completed this afternoon. The Mat Sinking Unit is moving upriver in preparation to start work at the Poydras location (Mile 84.3 AHP) tomorrow morning at 0600 hours.**

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	COMPLETED	COMPLETED
Avondale	Mile 108 RDB	COMPLETED	COMPLETED
Neptune	Mile 23.1 LDB	COMPLETED	COMPLETED
Poydras	Mile 84.3 LDB	March 15–March 22	*The Lower Nine Mile Anchorage will be off limits for usage. One-way coordinated transits for deep draft and line tow traffic under a slow bell until revetment operations are completed. The MSU is not required to fold in at night.
Vacherie	Mile 149.4 RDB Mile 148.7 RDB	March 25– April 2	One-way transit restriction during working hours. The MSU will fold in at night.

***The pilots have requested that the Lower 9 Mile Anchorage (Mile 85.0 AHP to Mile 82.6 AHP) not be utilized by vessels while the revetment operations are ongoing at the Poydras location. The Crescent River Port Pilots Association plans to move vessels anchored above Mile 84 AHP overnight and to not place any more vessels in this anchorage until the revetment operations are completed (March 22).**

BIG RIVER COALITION

The scheduled working times for the MSU are from 0600 hours to 1900 hours daily. The weekend beginning on March 22 is the last of the scheduled no work weekends, on that Friday (March 22) the revetment operations will most likely complete prior to 1900 hours. The USCG/USACE may be able to open the channel before 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 equipment is ready for vessel traffic to transit through the area.

The USCG is utilizing the U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port New Orleans Navigation Outlook daily broadcasts to address the transit restrictions related to revetment and other operations impacting navigation. Today's Daily Outlook is attached to this email.

The USCG, pilots and industry continue to provide feedback that can be used to adjust the noted transit restrictions to promote navigational safety during revetment operations. The remaining locations have less restrictive working conditions especially with the river stages expected to stay about 6.0 feet for the foreseeable future. There is a lot of precipitation forecast for the Lower Mississippi River Basin over the next 72-hours that could lead to increased stages over the next few weeks. Reminder current forecasts only include precipitation expected to fall over the next 48-hours.

The BRC will notify our members of any changes; however, please keep in mind that changes may occur with short notice to industry. 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.

Sincerely,



Sean M. Duffy, Sr.
Executive Director

Attachment