

McAlpine Lock Replacement Project Update

as of Summer, 2007



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Louisville District



The lock replacement project will provide more efficient transportation of commodities on the Ohio River. At left is a 2007 aerial photograph of the concrete construction work.

Below is a rendering of the finished lock.



Project Data

Location

Ohio River between mile 604.5 and 606.8. The McAlpine Locks are located in the historic Portland neighborhood off Northwestern Parkway at 27th Street, Louisville, Ky.

History of structure

110 x 1,200 ft. lock completed in 1961; 110 x 600 ft. auxiliary lock constructed in 1921; inactive 56 x 360 ft. lock dating back to 1860s. The two oldest locks have been demolished.

Annual tonnage

In fiscal year 2005, 57 million tons of freight passed through McAlpine, the top commodity being coal-37%. Crude materials (aggregates, scrap steel)-23%; chemicals-12%; manufactured goods-10% ; petroleum-10%; farm products-5% and others-3%.

Project background

Increased barge traffic and deterioration of the auxiliary lock created the need for a new lock. A 110 x 1,200 ft. lock is under construction. The cost is approximately \$430 million. Construction began in 1996 with a resident office, and then wharf extension with gate storage piers in 1998.

Benefits of water transportation-

One 15-barge tow carries the equivalent of 870 semi-trucks or a train with 225 jumbo hopper cars.

Project phases

Phase 1:

Old lock demolition complete.

Phase 2: New lock & fixed bridge contract awarded Sept. 2002.

Phase 3: Foundation rock complete 2004; fixed span bridge complete 2005; lock walls complete 2006.

Current Phase:

Rewater cofferdam in fall 2007, remove cofferdam and continue to construct approach walls.

Project complete: spring 2009.

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