Notice to
Navigation Interests

Notice No. 2020-019  Date:  June 12, 2020

In Reply Refer to:  CELRL-OPL   PO Box 59, Louisville, KY 40201   Telephone: 502-315-6636

LOUISVILLE DISTRICT

LOCKS AND DAM 52

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS FOR DEMOLITION BLASTING

OHIO RIVER

REFERENCE:  Navigation Notice #2020-018, dated June 12, 2020

The Corps of Engineers’ contractor, CJ Mahan, will be working on the demolition of Locks and Dam 52 (Ohio River Mile 938.9) for the entire low water season of 2020. Explosives will be used for the demolition. Blasting is expected to begin soon after the river stage falls below approximately 20 feet on the Paducah gage, and a blast will be done once every day (Monday - Saturday), conditions permitting. It will be necessary to close the river to traffic around L&D 52 while the contractor is in the process of loading the explosives and detonating the blast. These closures are expected to be 4 hours or less and will typically occur between 1000 and 1400 Central Time. The plan is to conduct the blast at approximately 1200 noon Central Time, after all vessels and personnel have cleared the blast area. A US Coast Guard safety zone will be enforced during loading and blasting activities. The exact details for each day that blasting will occur will be broadcast by the US Coast Guard in a Broadcast Notice to Mariners.

CJ Mahan will be operating 2 patrol boats during these closure time periods and will be stopping northbound vessels at the I-24 bridge (Ohio River Mile 940.8) and southbound vessels at the Brookport bridge (Irvin Cobb Highway, US 45; Ohio River Mile 937.3) so that there will be no vessels between those two bridges when the blast is scheduled to occur. See attached drawing for the blasting safety zone. Once the blast has been completed and the all clear issued, the traffic will be released.

In the event that a misfire occurs and the closure will extend beyond 4 hours, an immediate email notification will be sent out to industry representatives notifying them. A second email notification will be sent as soon as the misfire is cleared and traffic is released.
The navigation lane at L&D 52 (Ohio River Mile 938.9) will be approximately 850 feet in the center of the Navigation Pass to facilitate demolition activities. During this time, vessels will be required to coordinate passage of L&D 52 with one another since there is no longer Corps of Engineers traffic control at this site. Up-bound vessels are required to yield to down-bound vessels each time the closure is lifted.

All mariners must exercise caution when transiting. The contractor’s vessel M/V Christine Elaine will be working in the area and can be reached on Marine Radio Channel 13.

/s/
Ryan Lawrence, P.E.
Assistant Operations Manager
Locks and Dams Project Office