



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Louisville District

News Release

Public Affairs Office
P.O. Box 59
Louisville, KY 40201

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 18, 2004

Contact: Jon Fleshman
(502) 315-6770
jon.j.fleshman@LRL02.usace.army.mil

McAlpine lock to open ahead of schedule

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The McAlpine lock is scheduled to open here to commercial river traffic 7 a.m. Friday Aug. 20, two days ahead of schedule.

The lock was closed Aug. 9 for two weeks for emergency repairs after diver inspections discovered cracks in the lock gates.

Louisville District commander and senior engineer, Col. Robert Rowlette, attributed the early reopening to three factors: cool, dry weather, the high quality of the skilled labor, and the planning and preparation.

The cracks were caused by metal fatigue and the repairs involved steel plating and welding. The Corps used about twice as many workers as it normally does for such repairs, including expert welders from its Pittsburgh and Nashville districts. The work was done in 12-hour shifts round-the-clock.

To manage the queues of tows waiting to lock through, the McAlpine Command Center opened a day before the closure. The center is staffed by U.S. Coast Guard and river industry personnel and will remain open until traffic and operations on the river return to normal.

For updates on the lock closure, go to <http://www.lrl.usace.army.mil/>