



Notice to Navigation Interests

**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Huntington District

Date: 07 JANUARY 2005

Notice Number: 05-01

In Reply Refer to: CELRH-OR-TD 502 Eighth Street, Huntington, WV 25701-2070 Telephone: 304-399-5239

BARGE SALVAGE AND DAM INSPECTION OPERATIONS

BELLEVILLE LOCKS AND DAM

OHIO RIVER, MILE 203.9

Notice is given that on 6 JANUARY 2005, six barges became trapped against the dam at Belleville Locks and Dam after they broke apart after locking through the dam. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials and the United States Coast Guard are working with the towing company to determine the best method of removing the barges.

Some of the barges are wrapped around the gate piers and are affecting the operations of gates 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7. Due to the high water, the Corps cannot accurately determine the amount of damage to the gates. Corps officials warn that there is the possibility of losing the navigation pool above Belleville Locks and Dam to Willow Island Locks and Dam starting in 8-12 days if the barges cannot be freed from the gates.

Loss of the navigation pool can have serious effects. It would close that part of the river between Belleville and Willow Island to traffic, including coal shipments to power companies located along the Ohio River and the stability of barges in fleeting areas along the river. It could also shut down public water supply intakes and other industrial intakes. In addition, with the rapid reduction of water level, some areas along the river may suffer severe bank failure and slips.

Additional Notice to Navigation Interest containing updates will follow. For more information, contact the public affairs office at 304-399-5353

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arlie D. Bishop".

ARLIE D. BISHOP
Chief, Technical Support Branch