Little Goose Navigation Lock Closed for Emergency Repair to Downstream Gate

The Little Goose navigation lock downstream gate has been taken out of service until the gudgeon assembly can be replaced on the south miter gate leaf. At this time, it is estimated the lock will remain out of service until 1 May 2014. An updated return to service date will be provided after 2 April 2014 when a repair contract is awarded.

This weekend load tests were performed to confirm whether or not the gate could be operated safely. Results obtained on Monday indicate loads cannot be reduced in the cracked gudgeon to ensure safe operations. The current condition of the gudgeon indicates the assembly will fail catastrophically with additional crack growth. Under current load condition engineers have determined cracking will propagate with additional lock usage.

The gudgeon is a steel structure that holds the upper portion of the miter gate to the lock structure and allows the miter gate to rotate open. A miter gate leaf is approximately 118 feet tall and weighs 334 tons.

Walla Walla District is working in earnest to award a repair contract by 2 April 2014. Our estimate for completion (pending contractor input) is 1 May 14. Little Goose is currently preparing the lock for immediate access for the repair. A contract was awarded 26 September 2013 for spare gudgeon assembly parts which will be delivered to Little Goose by 4 April. Cracks in the gudgeon were identified during a routine inspection with subsequent phased array ultrasonic testing performed to determine the magnitude of the cracking in July 2013.

Little Goose Lock & Dam is located on the Snake River at RM 70.3.

Your cooperation in this matter is much appreciated. We will provide additional updates as soon as they become available and they will be posted at http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation.aspx.

For additional information, please call Operations Division at (509) 527-7115 or (509) 527-7120.

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