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# News Release

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1000 Liberty Avenue  
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Contact: Karen L. Auer, 412-395-7106  
[Karen.L.Auer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Karen.L.Auer@usace.army.mil)

## **Hannibal Locks and Dam, Ohio River Open to Navigation**

**New Martinsville, West Virginia** – At 2:15 p.m. on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, the auxiliary lock chamber at Hannibal Locks and Dam, located at Mile 126.4 on the Ohio River, was placed back in service allowing navigation traffic to pass through the lock. The Hannibal Locks have been closed to navigation traffic since late Tuesday when the failure of a load bearing quoin seal on a lock gate necessitated placing the primary lock chamber out of service. The auxiliary lock chamber was already out of service due to on-going scheduled maintenance.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Pittsburgh District Repair Fleet accelerated their maintenance efforts on the auxiliary lock, replacing the land wall emptying tainter valve and renovating its operating machinery, completing the job four days ahead of the original schedule. The Repair Fleet will now focus their efforts on the emergency structural repairs to the lock gate quoin seals in the primary lock chamber and anticipate that it will reopen to navigation on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

In cooperation with the navigation industry, procedures were developed to facilitate orderly and efficient locking of queued tows upon the reopening of the auxiliary lock chamber. As of reopening, there were 40 tows with over 500 barges awaiting passage through Hannibal locks – 27 up-bound and 13 down-bound. It is anticipated that 8 to 12 tows will be locked through the auxiliary chamber per day. The Hannibal locks average about 5,000 commercial lockages annually. Open 24-hours-a-day year around, more than 52 million tons of cargo consisting primarily of coal are transported through the Hannibal locks annually.

A situational updated briefing will be held at 11:00 a.m. tomorrow, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Hannibal Locks Overlook.