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# News Release

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## **Hannibal Primary Lock Chamber Open to Navigation**

**New Martinsville, West Virginia** – At 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, the primary lock chamber at Hannibal Locks and Dam, located at Mile 126.4 on the Ohio River, was placed back in service for navigation traffic. The primary lock chamber at Hannibal had been closed to navigation traffic since November 1<sup>st</sup> when the failure of a load bearing quoin seal on a lock gate necessitated placing the chamber out of service.

At the time of the emergency closure of the primary lock chamber, 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 chamber placing it back into service and allowing navigation traffic to pass through the lock on November 6<sup>th</sup>, four days ahead of the original schedule.

In cooperation with the navigation industry, procedures utilizing helper tow boats were developed to facilitate orderly and efficient locking of queued tows upon the reopening of the auxiliary lock chamber. Since reopening nine days ago, 125 tows with well over 1500 barges have locked through the Hannibal auxiliary lock chamber. 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.

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