2017 EXTENDED LOCK
MAINTENANCE CLOSURE ON THE
COLUMBIA – SNAKE RIVER
WATERWAY

Sheryl Carrubba Northwestern Division, Navigation Inland Waterways Users Board Meeting No. 84 19 July 2017



"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the authors(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of th Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation."





465 miles inland from Astoria, OR, to Lewiston, ID By weight: 64% Export; 10% Import; 26% Internal

Top Exports: wheat, oilseeds (e.g., soybean, flaxseed); forest products, corn, other chemicals and related products

Top Imports: iron and steel, manufactured equipment, building cement and concrete

Top Internal: wheat, aggregate, forest products, distillate, residual & other fuel oils; lube oil & grease









Average Annual Commodities Movements 2011-2015

Columbia-Snake 57 Million Tons

36.6 Million Tons Export

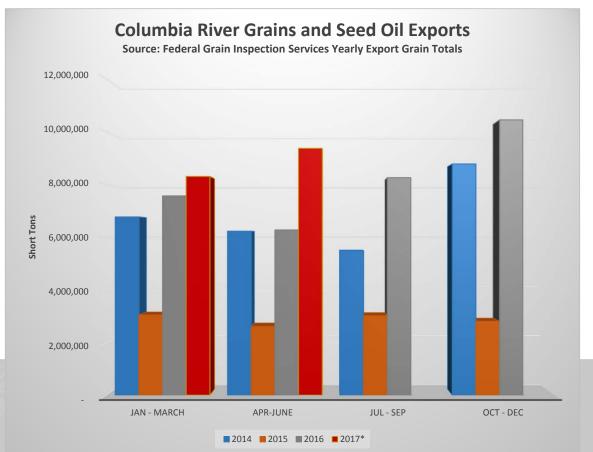
14.6 Million Tons Imports

14.7 Million Tons – Internal, Coastwise

Data Source: Waterborne Commerce Statistics







2017 is shaping up to be a good year for grain exports



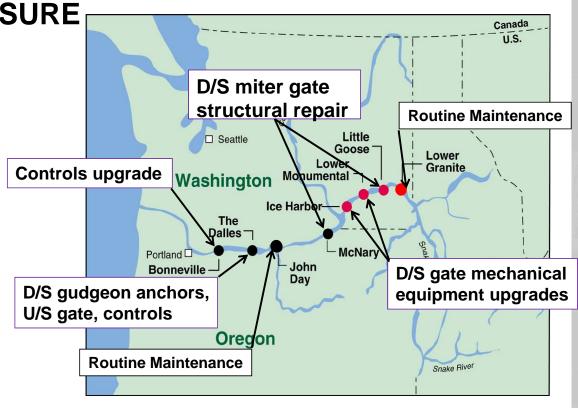


Overview:

Original 14 week scheduled system closure Dec 12, 2016 – March 20, 2017

Added 2 Projects since 2014 IWUB Briefing

Bonneville Lock Controls Upgrades
McNary Downstream Lock Gate repairs







Bonneville Lock

 Controls System Upgrades – In-house design and labor Programmable Logic monitoring equipment and components install and software programming

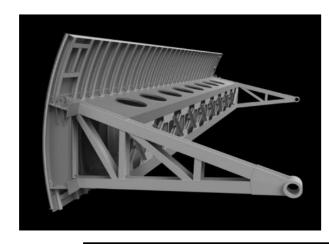






The Dalles Locks:

- Fabricate and Replace Upstream Gate
- Replace the Downstream Gate Gudgeon hardware
- Upgrade the Operator Interface controls and electrical power distribution system











McNary Locks:

- Downstream Gate Structural crack repairs
- Gudgeon line boring and pin replacement
- Replacement of bottom seal
- Replacement of timber fenders









Ice Harbor Locks Upgrades:

- Replace machinery and controls
- Replace the bull gear ring











Lower Monumental Lock:

- Replace machinery and controls
- Repair the sheave











Little Goose Lock:

Structural repairs to the downstream miter gate :

- Gudgeon and pintle replacement
- Quoin and miter seal repairs









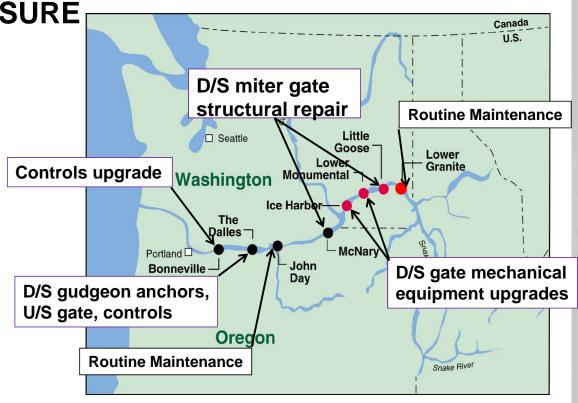


Overview:

Original 14 week scheduled closure: December 12, 2016 – March 20, 2017

Actual Reopening Dates:

- Bonneville February 8th
- The Dalles to McNary March 20th
- Ice Harbor March 23rd
- Little Goose April 10th







Weather Challenges:

The Winter of 2017 was among worst in Decades.

Instances of contract weather allowance was used 3 weeks into the outage.

Work progress aggressively communicated to all stakeholders.









Weather resulted in damage during work:

At McNary Locks, tainter valves damaged by ice formation – interim repairs made and replacements pending











Little Goose Lock Repair:

Weather, onsite work efficiency, and unforeseen damage delayed return to service.

Contract was terminated and a new contract awarded on March 10, 2017 to Knight Construction. Work deficiency discovered, adding time to the schedule.

Locks returned to service on April 10th.







Things that went well:

Internal USACE alignment

- Identify risk reduction priorities
- Good Scopes of Work
- Budget Support at the regional and national Level

Engineering and Project Management

- Starting Early
- Realistic schedules
- Tight design specifications
- Early contract awards for prefabrication and staging





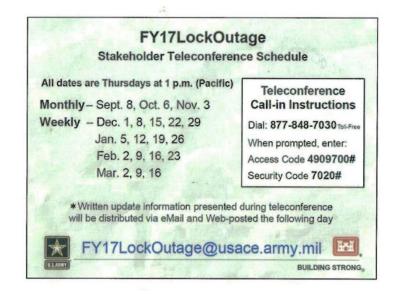
Another Good Thing: Stakeholder Support:

Communication to stakeholders began in 2014 at multiple forums (e.g. Pacific Northwest Waterways Association)

Initial confirmation in May 2016 after FY 2016 President's Budget Release

More frequent communication contracts established

Stakeholder Visitation Days.





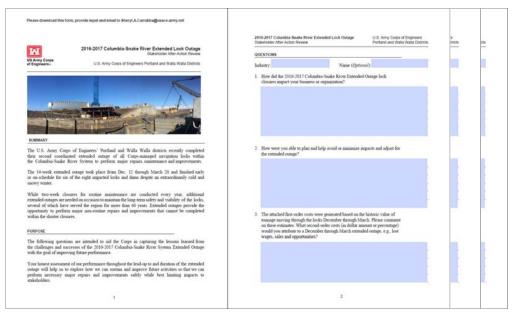


Briefing the Customers & Getting Feedback:

Learning, Improving, Sharing Lessons and Preserving Institutional Knowledge

May 2017 - AAR with Stakeholders

Request for Information







EXTERNAL COMMENTS

System Reliability is Important for Commerce:

- Clearly understand risk and reliability decisions
- Supported planned shutdown.
- But OUCH!! It really does effect the Bottom Line







EXTERNAL COMMENTS

Reported Impacts:

Some wheat and grain shipments went early and at reduced profit (shipping before a market price settled)

Lost revenue, contracts, marketability

Layoffs, reductions in dividend distributions to shareholders

Permanent loss of market in the petroleum industry to rail alternatives

Tourism excursion trips rerouted, alternate transportation between stops (Snake River delays)





EXTERNAL COMMENTS

Scheduling of extended multi-project outages – Ideas, questions, reflections:

- Resources: Does system-wide effort tax the regional Construction resources and increase risk?
- Is 14 weeks too long? Should the Corps apply more resources (\$\$) to accelerate schedules and reduce impacts? Or should the work drive the schedule?
- Could slightly longer annual maintenance closures reduce the need for extended closures?





EXTERNAL COMMENTS

Scheduling extended multi-project outages – Ideas, questions, reflections:

- Winter Construction: Does work period increase risk of construction delays, to safety and add to project risk?
- Should contractors be better vetted for capability?
- Are Tourism and Excursion vessels properly accounted for in the Lock Performance Monitoring System (LPMS) data?





Final Thoughts

Communication is Two Ways

The Corps is obligated to communicate needs assessments, risks, problems, and scheduled maintenance... and to understand and consider stakeholder concerns and impacts of extended system wide closures.

ESSAYONS!









