

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**2020 Upper Mississippi River Navigation Opening Letter**

Dear Valued Customers, Friends, and Neighbors,

Spring flooding could play a major role in when we are able to navigate the Upper Mississippi River above St.Louis. Per the 2020 Spring Flood Outlook Report (provided by NWS Quad Cities), there is a greater than 50% chance of major flooding on the Mississippi above St.Louis. If flooding occurs and the opening is delayed, barges arriving at Cairo and/or St.Louis will be charged for demurrage until conditions allow transits.

This is our reopening plan for the Upper Mississippi River above St. Louis *(as operating conditions dictate, these dates may change)*. This year, Lock 25 and Lock 24 must complete repairs before navigation may commence (UMR mile 241, Winfield, MO and UMR mile 273 Clarksville, MO respectively). Both locks are scheduled to reopen April 1. **ACBL will begin accepting barge releases to destinations above St. Louis for the following dates:**

<u>Origin</u>	<u>Release Dates for Destinations below and including Clinton, IA (mi. 522-south)</u>
Houston	March 10
New Orleans	March 17
Pittsburgh	March 16
Louisville	March 21
Chicago	March 22
Cairo	March 27
St. Louis	March 30

*(Common Destinations: Louisiana MO, Hannibal, Quincy, Ft.Madison, Burlington, Quad Cities, Clinton, etc.)*

<u>Origin</u>	<u>Release Dates for Destinations above Clinton, IA (mi. 523-north)*</u>
Houston	March 17
New Orleans	March 24
Pittsburgh	March 23
Louisville	March 28
Chicago	March 29
Cairo	April 3
St. Louis	April 6

*(Common Destinations: Dubuque, Clayton, Prairie Du Chein, Lacrosse, Winona, Redwing, Twin Cities, etc.)*

<u>Destinations on the UMR</u>	<u>Projected Departure Date from St. Louis</u>
Points including and below Clinton, IA	March 30th
Points above Clinton, IA	April 6th**

Transit times on the initial voyages may be longer than normal due to waiting required for locks and bridges to open. Any barge that completes loading to the UMR before the dates stated above may be subject to demurrage while barges interchange at Cairo and/or St.Louis prior to our projected departure dates to the UMR (departure dates are contingent on river conditions).

*\*\*\*Please be aware that Lake Pepin (UMR mi. 752-796) can have a dramatic affect on our ability to navigate to locations above UMR mi. 752 (Redwing, Twin Cities). Often times at this time of year, Lake Pepin is covered with ~two feet of ice. Wintery conditions can push our departure dates from St. Louis out by weeks. Winter is not over, but this year's ice measurement is down dramatically versus last year's measurement of ice thickness (17" this year versus 29" in 2019 at the thickest point, measurements taken in mid February).*

Please contact me if you need any clarifications or have any questions regarding departure dates for specific origins and destinations not listed above.

Thank You,

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