Locks and Dam 53

Grand Chain, IL

Project Features

- The existing navigation project on the Ohio River, which includes Locks and Dam No. 53, was authorized by the River and Harbors Acts approved 3 March 1909. The locks and dam were completed in 1929.

- Low lift navigation dam with two locks.

- The original lock structure is 110' x 600'. The added temporary lock is 110' x 1,200'. The purpose of the new lock is to provide additional capacity for traffic until the existing dam is replaced by a more modernized structure.

- When the locks are closed due to high water, navigation my pass over the existing dam, navigable pass, between the locks and the Kentucky bank.

- Normal upper pool elevation is 290 feet mean sea level; lower pool low water elevation is 276.6 mean sea level.

Regional Importance

- Reduction of annual channel maintenance dredging formerly required in low lift pools.

- The deeper, wider and more stable pool formed by the Locks and Dam 53 permits more efficient operations of towboats and enhances the efficiency of terminal operations in the area.

- Average 3 year tonnage 71,337,131

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- Failure to provide adequate funding to maintain this facility will have significant effects to the local and regional economy including: increased transportation costs and delays in the shipment of raw materials.

- The rivers of this country have long been recognized as vital links in a transportation network. Not maintaining the project would have a negative impact on the commerce of the Nation.

Additional Information

- 2016 tonnage (in thousands) : 67,843

- National Rank: 2

Current Miter Gate In Service Date:
Main: Downstream: 1975 Upstream: 1975
Auxiliary: Downstream: 1983 Upstream: 1999

- Lock and Dam 52 will be placed out of service upon completion of Olmstead Locks and Dam.

Projected Year Lock Miter Gates Reach "F" Condition:
Main: Downstream: N/A Upstream: N/A
Auxiliary: Downstream: N/A Upstream: N/A

Projected Miter Gate Replacement:
Main : Downstream: N/A Upstream: N/A
Auxiliary: Downstream: N/A Upstream: N/A

Congressional Interests

Senator Dick Durbin, D-IL
Senator Tammy Duckworth, D-IL
Congressman Mike Bost, R-IL-12
Senator Mitch McConnell, R-KY
Senator Rand Paul, R-KY
Congressman James Comer, R-KY-1