Olmsted Locks and Dam

Olmsted, IL

Project Features

- Congress authorized this project in the Water Resources Development Act of 1988.

- The project consists of twin 110' x 1,200' wide lock chambers located near the Illinois shoreline.

- The dam will consist of a 2,200' long navigable pass with movable wickets that can be raised or lowered for navigation purposes. An additional 425 feet of fixed weir ties the dam to the Kentucky shore.

- Approximately 60% of the year, during high water, tows will bypass the locks and go over the top of the dam.

- To insure adequate navigable depth, the hinged pool will maintain elevation 300 at the Paducah gage and elevation 302 at the Smithland L&D.

- The length of the Olmsted pool is approximately 45.9 miles.

Regional Importance

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

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

- Olmsted will replace the failing Locks and Dams 52 and 53.

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. •

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