



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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USACE Galveston resumes lock operations at Wallisville

GALVESTON, Texas (July 28, 2011) – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District's Wallisville Lake Project resumed operations at the saltwater barrier navigation lock today at 9 a.m. The Corps will continue to open the lock every hour on the hour from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily to allow recreational boaters to move up and down the river.

According to the Corps, the recent drought has reduced the river's natural flow and ability to prevent saltwater intrusion upstream making it necessary to intervene using controlled lock measures to protect fresh water intakes including those of the City of Houston and Lake Anahuac.

"We will only lock on the hour, using both sets of gates," said Supervisory Natural Resources Manager Richard Long, USACE Galveston District. "At no time will the upstream and downstream set of gates be open concurrently."

According to Long, care will be taken to fill and or empty the lock chamber at a rate of flow that will not endanger boaters waiting to lock.

"We have not experienced a drought of this severity in the 11-year history of the project, and consequently we've had to modify our operations over the past few months to reduce the movement of saltwater up river," said Long. "We know these measures are an inconvenience for recreational boaters and will resume with normal operations as soon as possible."

For more information and updates concerning lock operations, monitor the USACE Galveston District's social media sites: Facebook, www.facebook.com/GalvestonDistrict and Twitter, www.twitter.com/USACEGalveston.

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