

Extended Navigation Lock Outage: Fuel Supply Impacts to Eastern Oregon

Situation Report: 2 - - Issued: December 8, 2010

Columbia & Snake Rivers: December 2010 - March 2011

The Dalles, John Day and Lower Monumental navigation locks all begin their extended outages Friday, December 10 at 6 a.m. River traffic through the locks will not be possible until they re-open in March.

Work continues at all three dams in preparation for the lock repairs, including the assembly of a couple of the largest cranes available in the United States. Each of the cranes requires more than 50 truckloads of equipment, three other cranes, and about four weeks to assemble.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is conducting a one-time public viewing of the Lower Monumental Navigation Lock December 14, 2010 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. The goal is to provide more information about the Lower Monumental Dam's downstream gate replacement and concrete repair projects. Those interested in participating in the tour must contact the USACE Walla Walla District at (509) 527-7700

USACE will provide weekly updates beginning December 10 about the progress of each project on <http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/navigation/lockoutage.asp>.

Photos are also available at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/portlandcorps/>
<http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/html/offices/pa/NR/LoMoLockGate/LoMoLockGate.htm>

Oregon Department of Energy

Possible mild gasoline and diesel supply disruptions are anticipated in Eastern Oregon communities as a result of the extended outage. Eastern Oregon communities experiencing fuel shortages during the extended lock closures are encouraged to contact the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE).

ORS 176.809 authorizes ODOE to prepare for and respond to potential petroleum shortages or disruptions that threaten the health and safety of Oregonians. ODOE is working with USACE, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Columbia River, and petroleum industry partners to ensure adequate fuel is available to Eastern Oregon communities as a result of the USACE extended lock closures. ODOE will prepare Situation Reports (SITREPS) to provide fuel outlook updates as needed. All SITREPS are posted on the Oregon Department of Energy's website at <http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/> under "What's New." Look for "Columbia-Snake Navigation Lock Outage."

ODOE is recommending Eastern Oregon motorists save money and fuel during the extended outage by following a few simple "dos" and "don'ts."

DO	DON'T
Coast up to stop lights	"Top off" gas tanks <i>(creates abnormal demand)</i>
Use brakes less	Stockpile gasoline <i>(creates abnormal demand)</i>
Use cruise control when traffic allows	Allow your vehicle to idle for long periods
Obey speed limits	
Bicycle, walk, make use mass transit and carpools	
Combine trips and errands	
Telecommute	

Oregon Department of Justice

Eastern Oregon communities can also anticipate higher fuel prices as a result of the extended outage. Although slightly higher fuel prices are expected, consumers should report possible price gouging by contacting the Oregon Department of Justice's (ODOJ) toll-free hotline at 1-877-877-9392 or report suspected price gouging online at www.doj.state.or.us.

For More Information

USACE Extended Lock Closure

Portland District
(503) 808-4510
Walla Walla District
(509) 527-7020
<http://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/navigation/lockoutage.asp>

Oregon Fuel Outlook

Deanna Henry
Emergency Preparedness Manager
Oregon Department of Energy
(503) 932-4428
deanna.henry@state.or.us