



NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
TULSA DISTRICT**

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Preventive Maintenance Program Initiated by Corps of Engineers

Tulsa - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Tulsa District will implement a new program of daily preventive maintenance for the McClellan Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. The system has operated without interruption except for routine scheduled maintenance for more than 40 years. The implementation of daily maintenance periods should increase long-term availability of the facilities and reduce unscheduled outages.

As part of the Corps of Engineers national plans to continue operating the nation's waterways to the Corps' high standards of service, Webbers Fall, Chouteau and Newt Graham locks will close for four hours daily beginning October 1, 2012 sometime within a 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. window. This will allow personnel to perform routine preventive and scheduled maintenance. This plan and schedule was developed jointly with shipping and port interests.

During the daily 4-hour period, no lockages for commercial or recreational boats will take place which will allow maximum effort by lock and maintenance crews.

The Corps is developing a recreation vessel lockage policy this fall and winter for the 2013 season. The policy will take into account special scheduled events, recreation boater needs and other recreation interests as well.

Signs will be posted at launching ramps, marinas and on the up and down stream ends of locks to inform the public of the changes in operating hours.

The McClellan Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System locks are fully functional, and historical data indicates the locks can accommodate current commercial and recreational traffic without impact with the maintenance period in effect. The need for and ability to continue these scheduled maintenance periods will be evaluated by the Corps annually.