



American Commercial Barge Line
1701 E. Market Street
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

October 29, 2025

2026 Illinois River 49-Day Closure of Lockport Lock (3/31/26-5/19/26, mile 291)

Dear Valued Customers,

This notice will be of special interest to customers that have freight moving to/from the Illinois River, especially for customers with barge destinations/origins in the Lemont through Chicago, and Ports of Lake Michigan area. Per Navigation Notice #211568 from the USACE, the complete and total closure of the Lockport Lock at mile 291 will begin March 31 and remain closed until May 19. Marine operations on the Illinois River will be severely impacted by this closure. This closure directly affects all ports in the “Chicagoland” area: Chicago, Lemont, Romeoville, Willow Springs, Alsip, Blue Island, Lake Calumet, Whiting, Gary, Argo, etc.

Shippers: We have provided information and loading schedules for your use so that you can plan your final barge loadings (prior to the lock closure) accordingly to avoid demurrage and/or storage charges associated with this closure. Also, please refine your plans, and plan with your barge off-loading facilities, so that all barges are off-loaded no later than Friday, March 6, doing so provides necessary time for barges to be prepared and reloaded for southbound trips. Barges that are not off-loaded on time may be subject to additional demurrage and/or storage charges. Please contact your ACBL Salesperson for additional details and possible options to mitigate logistical issues. As operating conditions dictate, these dates may be modified:

Schedule ‘A’: Instructions for Northbound Shipping (final loading schedules) from ports of origin to destinations within the Lemont through Chicago, and Ports of Lake Michigan closure area:

Origins	0700 Final Release Dates
Mobile/Tenn Tom	January 15
Houston	January 15
Salt Mines	January 22
New Orleans	January 29
Pittsburgh	January 29
Southpoint, WV	February 2
Decatur	February 2
Memphis	February 5
Evansville, IN	February 7
Cairo	February 15
St. Louis	February 15

Schedule ‘B’: Instructions for Southbound Shipping (final loading schedules) from ports of origin, for barges loading within the Lemont through Chicago, and Ports of Lake Michigan closure area to destinations off the Illinois River. Please be advised, these dates are also our planned final departure dates from the closure area:

Origins	0700 Final Release/Departure Dates
Ports on Lake Michigan	March 15*
Chicago/Lake Calumet	March 18*
Lemont	March 20*

We will confirm a “post closure, resumption of northbound shipping schedule” in Q1.

If you have any questions, please contact your ACBL Salesperson or Customer Experience Specialist.

See our American Currents website for a copy of this letter and for updates on the most recent river conditions: <https://www.bargeacbl.com/american-currents/>