



1701 East Market Street, Jeffersonville IN 47130-4717

February 20, 2026

2026 Illinois River Re-Opening of Lockport Lock

Dear Valued Customers,

We are pleased to inform you that the Illinois River is scheduled to re-open on May 19 following the completion of the Lockport Lock closure at mile 291. This notice is particularly relevant for customers with freight moving to/ from the Illinois River, especially those with barge destinations/origins in the Lemont through Chicago area and Ports of Lake Michigan. Marine operations on the Illinois River will resume, and all ports in the “Chicagoland” area, including Chicago, Lemont, Romeoville, Willow Springs, Alsip, Blue Island, Lake Calumet, Whiting, Gary, Argo, etc., will be fully operational.

Shippers: We have provided updated information and loading schedules to help you plan your barge loadings and avoid any demurrage and/or storage charges. Please coordinate with your barge loading and unloading facilities to ensure a smooth transition as operations resume. For additional details and possible options to mitigate logistical issues, please contact your ACBL Customer Experience Specialist. These dates may change based on the progress of lock repairs and prevailing operating conditions:

ACBL will begin accepting barge releases to destinations above Lockport Lock, Illinois River mile 291, for the following release dates (initial departures to be planned on/near these dates)\*:

ORIGIN PORT	For barges destined above Lockport Lock (IR 291) first release date from origin:
Mobile/Tenn Tom	18-Apr
Houston	16-Apr
Salt Mines	19-Apr
New Orleans	24-Apr
Pittsburgh	23-Apr
Cincinnati	26-Apr
Decatur	1-May
Memphis	1-May
Evansville, IN	3-May
Cairo	7-May
St. Louis	10-May

**Is there a penalty if I choose to ship/release barges prior to the release dates in the above schedule?**

Yes. Barges loaded prior to the above scheduled release dates will be subject to demurrage while barges await departure dates from origin, and/or ACBL chosen interchange points.

**What can I expect for transit on my initial shipment to Lemont/Chicago?**

Transit times on the initial voyages may be longer than normal due to the backlog of industry barges needing to transit through the area.

Please contact me if you need additional information, or if you have questions regarding release dates for specific origins and destinations not listed above.

Thank You,

Vince Willis  
ACBL Logistics Director of Customer Experience  
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