

Regional Message

During the 2013 annual routine inspection of the Little Goose navigation lock, cracks were first discovered in the gudgeon linkage. After additional monitoring and testing during March 2014, the Little Goose navigation lock downstream gate has been taken out of service until the gudgeon assembly can be replaced. The current condition of the gudgeon indicates the assembly will fail catastrophically with additional crack growth. It is estimated the lock will remain out of service until approximately 1 May 2014. An updated return to service date will be provided after 2 April 2014 when a repair contract is awarded.

With the Little Goose lock out of service, the 2014 FCRPS Supplemental Biological Opinion (BiOp) fish transportation scheduled to begin sometime in late April may be delayed. Coordination of fish transportation operations and related research will be addressed through BiOp adaptive management processes.

To address these issues, the Walla Walla District is working to award a repair contract by 2 April 2014. Our estimate for completion (pending contractor input) is 1 May 2014. Little Goose is currently preparing the lock for immediate access for the repair. A contract was awarded 26 September 2013 for spare gudgeon assembly parts that will be delivered to Little Goose by 4 April 2014. Cracks in the gudgeon were identified during a routine inspection with subsequent phased array ultrasonic testing performed to determine the magnitude of the cracking in July 2013.

Little Goose Lock & Dam is located on the Snake River at RM 70.3.

Your cooperation in this matter is much appreciated. We will provide additional updates as soon as they become available and they will be posted at <http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/Missions/Navigation.aspx>.

For additional information, please call Ann Setter at (509) 527-7125 or Doug Baus at (503) 808-3995.