



US ARMY CORPS  
OF ENGINEERS  
ROCK ISLAND  
DISTRICT

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# Navigation Notice

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River:  
ILLINOIS WATERWAY

Date:  
29 May 2007

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Location:  
Increased Shallow Water  
Areas Around Peoria

Effective Period:  
31 May 2007  
to  
2 June 2007

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In Reply Refer to:  
OD-I

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## ILLINOIS WATERWAY

### Increased Shallow Water

### Areas Around Peoria

Beginning Thursday morning, 31 May, all boaters and recreational users of the Illinois River above Peoria Lock & Dam are cautioned to be aware of lower pool levels and increased shallow water areas. The affected area may include Peoria Lock and Dam (river mile 157.6) to Chillicothe (river mile 180.2).

Peoria Lock & Dam, situated just south of downtown Peoria, consists of 108 wickets constructed of wood and steel. Each wicket is lowered and raised throughout the year to maintain a nine-foot navigation channel. Last weekend, three wickets were damaged while raising the dam and cannot be raised. On Thursday, May 31, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin repairs to the wickets.

Due to the lowered wickets, the Illinois River will experience lower than average river levels. Many areas will be shallower and boaters will need to be aware of unsafe conditions. According to Corps of Engineers Park Ranger, Todd Ernenputsch, "You need to verify river levels in the area prior to fishing, boating, jet skiing or sailing. Areas previously underwater may now be experiencing mud flats and sandbars. Be very careful and wear life jackets." When a boat hits the riverbed it can result in a disabled motor, throwing somebody overboard or destroying the boat.

Depending upon the number of wickets lowered to accomplish repairs, it should take no more than three days total for the Peoria pool to return to normal levels. The safest action for river users is to wait for the river to return to normal levels.

For additional information, please contact Todd Ernenputsch, Park Ranger at the Illinois Waterway Project Office at 309-676-4601 Ext. 209.

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