

ABSTRACT

The Fleeting Report is an interim product of the Upper Mississippi River-Illinois Waterway System Navigation Study and addresses the impacts of fleeting as related to traffic increases. The Navigation Study is a feasibility study addressing navigation improvement planning for the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway (UMR-IWW) system for the years 2000-2050. The study assesses the need for navigation improvements at 29 locks on the Upper Mississippi River and 8 locks on the Illinois Waterway and the impacts of providing these improvements. More specifically, the principal problem being addressed is the potential for significant traffic delays on the system within the 50-year planning horizon, resulting in economic losses to the Nation. The study will determine whether navigation improvements are justified and, if so, the appropriate navigation improvements, sites, and sequencing for the 50-year planning horizon. The feasibility study also includes the preparation of a system Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The goal of this interim report was to identify existing fleeting conditions, and predict the magnitude of fleeting under without-project and with-project conditions. The report considered the nature of barge fleeting, identified the current fleeting conditions on the UMR and the IWW, and includes interviews with 30 fleeting operators. The information collected from the operators was used in determining what drives the need for additional fleeting areas, what role increasing river traffic plays in the process, and identified the major determinants of fleeting levels. The report concluded that the without-project condition delay times will remain high and could contribute to an increased demand for more fleeting space. The with-project conditions should cause the amount of fleeting area used in the system to decrease or remain unchanged.