

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District
7400 Leake Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

CEMVN-ODT-C

4 January 2019

NAVIGATION BULLETIN NO. 19-02

MISSISSIPPI RIVER
OLD RIVER CONTROL STRUCTURES PROJECT

Mariners are advised that there are strong currents in addition to turbulent water around the entrances to the inflow channels of the federally-owned Old River Auxiliary (mile 311.0 Above Head of Passes) and Low Sill Control Structures (mile 314.5 Above Head of Passes), and the privately-owned Sidney A. Murray, Jr. Hydroelectric Plant (mile 316.5 Above Head of Passes).

During normal operation of these structures, a drawdown occurs at the entrances to the inflow channels. The drawdown becomes severe when the structures operate during high river stages. The inflow channel of each of the structures is marked with a flashing amber light that is located on the south bank of the entrance.

Commencing on 9 January 2019 and continuing until further notice, the U.S. Government M/V GRUGGET will be performing picket boat duties at the inflow channels of the Low Sill and Auxiliary Control Structures. The M/V GRUGGET can be reached on VHF channels 13 and 16. The inflow channels of these structures are NOT navigable channels and are restricted from recreational purposes due to the hazardous conditions. When in the vicinity of these structures, tows and other vessels should navigate between the red nun buoys and green can buoys that mark the navigation channel of the river. This is advised in order to avoid effects of crosscurrents caused by the drawdown.

Vessels in distress that are drawn into the inflow channel of any of the structures or within the restricted mooring zone (see 33 CFR Ch.1, part 162.80, 01 July 2005 Edition) in the Mississippi River (between mile 311.0 and 340.0 Above Head of Passes) should contact the M/V GRUGGET or any of the following by marine radio or any other emergency means. The structures that are staffed 24 hours each day and can be reached are as follows:

- Old River Complex - VHF Channel 16 (Marine Radio) / (225) 492-2159 or (225) 492-2690 (Phone)

- Sidney A. Murray, Jr. Hydroelectric Plant - VHF Channel 16 (Marine Radio) / (225) 492-2153 ext. 207 (Phone)
- Old River Lock - VHF Channel 14 (Marine Radio) / (225) 492-3333 or (225) 492-2301 (Phone).

The point of contact with the New Orleans District is Russell Beauvais at (225) 492-2169 (Work) or (225) 202-3851 (Cell).

The following are information resources that are currently available and display in chart format the location of the hazardous conditions at the Old River Control Structures and the Sidney A. Murray, Jr. Hydroelectric Plant:

- Map Nos. 66 and 67 (internet edition) of the 2015 Mississippi River Navigation Charts clearly depict the inflow channels of the above structures; the website address is:
http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Engineering/Geospatial-Section/MRNB_2015/
- The hard copy of the 2015 Mississippi River Flood Control and Navigation Maps.
- CD-ROMs of the updated Map Chart Nos. 66 and 67 of the 2015 Mississippi River Navigation Charts.
- Chart No. 1 of the 2016 Atchafalaya River Chart Books (hard copy) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) publication CD-ROMs.
- Chart No. 1 (internet edition) of the 2016 Atchafalaya River Navigation Charts; the website address is:
http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Engineering/Geospatial-Section/ARNB_2016/



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