

Senators to Propose Mississippi River Navigation Improvements Bill

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In May, a group of Midwestern Senators announced plans to introduce legislation aimed at upgrading locks and dams on the upper Mississippi River. Sens. Christopher Bond (R-MO), Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Tom Harkin (D-IA) are working on a bill that would provide funds to modernize the facilities used to transport farm goods. The Army Corps of Engineers has studied for several years the need to extend locks from 600 feet long to 1,000 feet long to accommodate the length of modern barge-tows, but has been held up by environmental concerns. The Senators were reluctant to say how much money the legislation would provide, but indicated it might be merged into the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) which authorizes water projects across the country. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a hearing on WRDA in March.

This weekly report is written by the American Society of Civil Engineers' Government Relations staff. If you have any questions or comments about any items in this report please email govwash@asce.org.