



U.S Department of Transportation
Office of Public Affairs
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590
www.dot.gov/affairs/briefing.htm

News

SLSDC 05-12
Wednesday, April 25, 2012
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Seaway Corporation Maintains Exceptional Safety Record for Asset Renewal Winter Work

The U.S. Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) today announced exceptional worker safety statistics for this past winter's preventative maintenance work at the U.S. locks as well as six projects completed by contractors and subcontractors under the Seaway's multi-year Asset Renewal Program (ARP). The total number of work manhours lost due to safety-related incidents represented only one-quarter of 1 percent (0.272%) for work spanning three months and comprising over 50,000 documented work manhours.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood said, "Safety is the highest priority issue at the Department of Transportation. The SLSDC and its ARP contractors and subcontractors can take pride in these outstanding numbers and the incredible commitment to safety they represent."

"The attention to safety paid by all these workers and their commitment to getting the job done on time in order to preserve and maintain the Seaway's assets is a noteworthy accomplishment," said SLSDC Administrator Collister Johnson, Jr. "Seaway employees and the many contractors and subcontractors that were working in and around the locks this winter were ever mindful of safety and their completed projects also ensure that the waterway itself remains safe and viable for many years to come."

Seaway Corporation employees located in Massena, N.Y., as well as eight contractors, seven of which were from Upstate New York, completed the vital infrastructure work at the two U.S. locks. It was necessary to finish this work prior to the opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway for its 54th navigation season on March 22. Major ARP projects completed included the upstream Snell Lock miter gate rehabilitation, the vertical lift gate improvements at the Eisenhower Lock, and the upstream culvert valve machinery hydraulic upgrades at both locks. All the scheduled ARP projects as well as numerous other winter maintenance projects were completed on time.

The goal of the ARP is to rehabilitate and modernize the aging U.S. Seaway infrastructure. The amount spent for the ARP project work contracted this past winter totaled \$8.1 million. Nearly 70 percent of the ARP funds obligated during the program's first three years, totaling nearly \$35 million, were awarded to firms located within the Upstate New York region. In addition to these contracts, the ARP is producing approximately \$2.5 million in additional economic benefits to the region each year. An economic impact study of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway System released last October showed that the entire waterway supports 227,000 jobs resulting in \$14.1 billion in annual personal income, and generates annual business revenue of \$34 billion and \$4.6 billion in federal, state and local taxes.

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