



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 02-13

Monday, April 29, 2013

Contact: Nancy Alcalde (SLSDC)

Tel: 202-366-0091

Seaway Corporation Repairs Critical U.S. Locks With Exemplary Safety Record

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (SLSDC) today announced worker safety statistics for this past winter's infrastructure modernization work at the U.S. locks as part of the SLSDC's multi-year Asset Renewal Program (ARP). For the 2013 winter work period, there were no work hours lost due to safety-related incidents for work spanning three months, January through March and comprising nearly 130,000 documented work hours.

"Safety is our top priority, whether it involves protecting drivers on the road or repairing our Seaway locks, a critical part of modernizing the Seaway and achieving President Obama's goal of doubling U.S. exports," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "Three major construction projects were completed at the U.S. Seaway locks this past winter, with no time lost to safety incidents, a testament to the Seaway's effective safety protocols."

The 2013 winter work included some of the most crucial, difficult, and labor intensive activity since the ARP began in 2009, and the seven contractor firms worked around-the-clock with SLSDC staff in order to complete the work. Major ARP projects completed at the U.S. locks in Massena, N.Y., included the installation of a new ice flushing system at Snell Lock, rehabilitation of the downstream Eisenhower Lock miter gate and hydraulic upgrades of culvert valve machinery at both locks. All of the scheduled ARP projects, as well as numerous other winter maintenance projects completed by SLSDC crews were accomplished on time.

"This past winter represented the busiest time at the U.S. Seaway locks since their construction in the 1950s," said SLSDC Acting Administrator Craig H. Middlebrook. "SLSDC staff worked collaboratively with contractors to ensure that intensive timelines and milestones were met at every step along the way to get these important projects completed safely prior to the Seaway's opening in late March, notwithstanding harsh winter conditions."

The goal of the ARP is to rehabilitate and modernize the U.S. Seaway infrastructure. More than 70 percent of the ARP funds obligated during the program's first four years, totaling nearly \$48 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 showed that the entire waterway supports 227,000 jobs resulting in \$14 billion in annual personal income, and generates annual business revenue of \$34 billion and \$5 billion in federal, state and local taxes.

###