

August 9, 2006

MR'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-23-2006

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Change in Condition and Temporary Reduction in the Number of Available Transit Booking Slots due to Locks Lane Outage

Beginning Saturday, August 12, 2006, from 0500 hours through Monday, August 14, at 1800 hours, and from Sunday, August 20, at 1800 hours through Thursday, August 24, at 1800 hours, restricted lockages will be performed in the **WEST** lane of Gatun Locks. In addition, beginning Monday, August 14, at 1800 hours through Sunday, August 20, at 1800 hours, the **WEST** lane of Gatun Locks will be out of service. Therefore, relay operations will be conducted on the **EAST** lane.

These restricted lockages and closing of the West lane of Gatun Locks are necessary to perform critical tow track rehabilitation work on the track sections between Miter Gates 3 and 7 on the centerwall, and 4 and 8 on the sidewall, and dry chamber work on Miter Gates 31,32,39 and 40.

Due to this maintenance work, and the rules governing the Transit Reservation System (MR's Notice to Shipping No. N-7-2006), a reduction in the number of available booking slots will be in effect commencing at 0001 hours, August 13, 2006 until 2359 hours, August 14, 2006. In addition, **Condition 2** will be in effect from 0001 hours, August 15, 2006 until 2359 hours, August 20, 2006.

On August 13th and 14th, the available slots will be reduced to thirteen (13) for supers and six (6) for regular vessels. The number of slots per direction and restriction will be limited as follows:

- No more than eight (8) supers may be booked for transit in the southbound direction, and of these, no more than six (6) with "full daylight-hour" restriction. Similarly, no more than seven (7) supers may be booked for transit in the northbound direction, and of these, no more than five (5) with "full daylight-hour" restriction.
- The total number of "full daylight-hour" restricted supers shall not exceed eight (8) vessels per day.
- No more than four (4) regular vessels may be booked for transit in the same direction.
- Of the six slots available for regular vessels, no more than two (2) may be allocated to regular vessels transiting under restrictions.

Applications for reserved transits for August 13th and 14th will be received beginning at 0900 hours, Thursday, August 10, 2006. Applications for reserved transits under **Condition 2** will be received beginning at 0900 hours, Saturday, August 12, 2006.

The booking slot available through the auction process will continue to be offered in addition to the booking slots mentioned above.

This document is cancelled for record purposes on August 31, 2006.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Jorge L. Quijano
Maritime Operations Director