



December 3, 2007

OP'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-31-2007

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators

SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – NOVEMBER 2007

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

a. Transit Pilot Force	275
b. Pilots in Training	10
c. Tugs	27
d. Locomotives	100

2. Traffic Statistics:

	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>High Daily</u>	<u>Low Daily</u>
Arrivals	35.40	54	26
Oceangoing Transits	34.77	40	25
Canal Waters Time (hours)	27.22	45.29	15.98
In-Transit Time (hours)	11.44	16.60	8.18

Distribution of Oceangoing Transits:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Vessels of less than 91' Beam	422	14.07	40.46
Vessels 91' Beam and Over	621	20.70	59.54
Total of Oceangoing Transits:	1043	34.77	
Vessels 100' Beam and Over	512	17.07	48.28
Vessels 900' Length and Over	151	5.03	14.48

Note: For the purpose of this report, the term "oceangoing transits" is equivalent to the number of locomotive transits.

Booking Slots:	<u>Available</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Large Vessels (beam 91' and over)	438*	429*	97.95
Regular vessels (beam < 91')	234*	186*	79.49

*Does not include additional auctioned booking slots

3. The following page provides the scheduled locks maintenance work and other items of interest to the shipping community.
4. This advisory will be canceled for record purposes on December 31, 2007.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Manuel E. Benítez
Executive Vice President of Operations

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LOCKS MAINTENANCE WORK – ONE YEAR						
Dates	Days	Miraflores	Pedro Miguel	Gatun	Estimated Transit Capacity	Status
July 7-14-2008	8	Culvert Outage			28-32	Tentative
Sept. 1-8-2008	8	Culvert Outage			28-32	Tentative

* **Note:** Actual transit capacity will depend on the type of restriction imposed during work.

Transit Capacity: The normal capacity of the Panama Canal is 38 transits per day. This capacity is reduced during locks outages, as indicated in the above table. Consequently, vessels may experience delays in transiting. Normally, during these periods, the Panama Canal Transit Reservation System slots are fully utilized. Whenever a set of locks requires a major outage of one of its two lanes for dry chamber inspection, miter gate repairs, tow track work or other major maintenance/improvement projects, advantage may be taken of this requirement to perform simultaneous single lane outages for additional maintenance at other locks.

PANAMA CANAL RECEIVES STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FROM SEVERAL CONSORTIA VYING TO DESIGN AND BUILD NEW LOCKS

FOUR WORLD-CLASS CONSORTIA FORMED TO BUILD A HISTORIC NEW LOCKS

30 COMPANIES FROM 13 COUNTRIES SUBMIT QUALIFICATIONS

On November 15, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) received statements of qualifications from the four consortia in what will be the largest contract under the Panama Canal’s Expansion Program to design and build the new locks.

On August 27, the ACP released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the construction of the new set of locks to be built under the Canal’s Expansion Program. The four consortia that responded, which are comprised of 30 companies from 13 countries, yesterday submitted a Statement of Qualification (SOQ). The ACP will evaluate the SOQs from the four prospective firms based on pass/fail criteria and capabilities. The firms that meet the basic requirements will pass to the second and final round. ACP will release a request for proposal (RFP) for those having met the criteria for the second round so that they may submit their final proposal. The ACP expects to release the RFP in the coming weeks.

“Four superb, world-class consortia submitted SOQs yesterday. The locks project is the most important contract under the Expansion Program, and we foresee strong competition for the project. The companies that have submitted qualifications are true pros with a wealth of experience, which means that the prospect of completing the Canal’s expansion on time and with the expected quality is very good,” said ACP Executive Vice President of Engineering and Program Management Jorge L. Quijano. “The reputation of these global contractors and their solid ability to compete bodes very well for the project. Now, we will work diligently in reviewing the submissions and list those that have met our basic requirements and move to release the RFP.”

Prior to submitting the qualifications, a total of 144 representatives from North, Central, and South American, Asian and European firms visited the areas where the new locks will be built and attended an informational meeting regarding the contract.