

September 7, 2009

OP'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-15-2009

TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators
SUBJECT: Monthly Canal Operations Summary – AUGUST 2009

1. Panama Canal Statistical Summary:

a. Transit Pilot Force	291
b. Pilots in Training	0
c. Tugs	32
d. Locomotives	100

2. Traffic Statistics:

	<u>Average Daily</u>	<u>High Daily</u>	<u>Low Daily</u>
Arrivals	34.32	44	26
Oceangoing Transits	34.58	42	24
Canal Waters Time (hours)	18.09	23.48	14.33
In-Transit Time (hours)	9.07	11.08	6.99

Distribution of Oceangoing Transits:	Total	Average Daily	Percentage
Vessels of less than 91' Beam	459	14.81	42.82%
Vessels 91' Beam and Over	613	19.77	57.18%
Total of Oceangoing Transits:	1072	34.58	
Vessels 100' Beam and Over	524	16.90	48.88%
Vessels 900' Length and Over	115	3.71	10.73%

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

Booking Slots:	Available	Used	Percentage
Large Vessels (beam 91' and over)	527*	200* ¹	37.95%
Regular Vessels (beam < 91')	248*	85* ¹	34.27%

*Does not include additional auctioned booking slots

¹ Includes booked transits only

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 September 30, 2009.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Manuel E. Benítez
Executive Vice President of Operations

ONE YEAR SCHEDULE OF LOCKS MAINTENANCE WORK						
Dates	Days	Miraflores	Pedro Miguel	Gatun	Estimated Transit Capacity ¹	Status
Oct. 14-16, 2009	2			East Lane	26-28	Tentative
Sept. 8-17, 2010	10			Centerwall Culvert	29-33	Tentative

¹The normal transit capacity of the Panama Canal is 38-40 vessels each day, depending on vessel mix and other factors. This capacity is reduced during locks maintenance work, 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 AUTHORITY ISSUES NOTICE TO COMMENCE WORK

On August 18, 2009, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) reached a critical milestone for the Canal Expansion Program moving ahead on time and on budget. Culminating months of arduous work, the ACP received Grupo Unidos por el Canal's (GUPC) performance and payment bonds, signed the contract, and ACP Executive Manager and Locks Project Management Division and Contracting Officer Jorge de la Guardia issued the Notice to Commence work.

The scope of work included in the contract encompasses the design and construction of the Canal's new set of locks and water-saving basins on both the Pacific and Atlantic ends of the Canal.

"This event marks both an end and a beginning for the Canal Expansion Program," said Jorge de la Guardia. "The fair, rigorous and transparent contracting process for the new set of locks has concluded. A new partnership with Grupo Unidos por el Canal has begun."

GUPC, composed of Sacyr Vallehermoso S.A., Impregilo S.p.A., Jan De Nul n.v. and Constructora Urbana, S.A., together with its surety, Zurich American Insurance Company, submitted a \$400 million performance bond and a \$50 million payment bond on August 11.

"Today's issuance of the Notice to Commence is, without a doubt, one of the most significant moments for the ACP since we broke ground on expansion in September 2007," said Panama Canal Administrator/CEO Alberto Alemán Zubieta. "None of this would be possible today without the hard work of all the men and women of the ACP, our external consultant Deloitte and all the parties involved, which have been instrumental in executing an airtight contracting process."

The new set of locks contracting process began August 28, 2007, when the ACP released its request for qualifications for the project. The ACP announced four prequalified consortia, comprised of 30 companies from 13 countries, and released its request for proposals December 21, 2007. From January 2008 through January 2009, the ACP held more than 50 meetings with the prequalified consortia and hosted field visits to the sites where the new set of locks will be built.

On March 3, three of the four prequalified consortia submitted bids for the contract during a public ceremony. The sealed price proposals, including the ACP's sealed owner's price, were signed by the Notary Public, the ACP Contracting Officer and the Canal's Inspector General and subsequently locked in a vault in Panama's National Bank. The technical proposals to be assessed and scored were delivered to the Technical Evaluation Board, composed of 15 highly qualified ACP engineers with substantial and diverse technical experience.

Upon completion of the technical evaluations, the ACP revealed the technical scores and opened the consortia's sealed price proposals in a public forum July 8. The ACP calculated a final weighted score, constituting 55 percent for the technical proposal and 45 percent for the price submission, which was presented on a large screen showing that GUPC garnered the highest total points.

After ensuring GUPC's price proposal and contractor's qualifications complied with the established ACP requirements, the ACP awarded the consortium with the new set of locks contract on July 15.

All of the consortia were notified of the results and given five days to review all of the documentation regarding the evaluations, as well as the proposals of the other consortia. Following the five-day review, the ACP gave the consortia three days to file a protest. The ACP did not receive any protests from the competing consortia.

Expansion will build a new lane of traffic along the Panama Canal through the construction of a new set of locks, which will double tonnage capacity and allow the transit of much longer, wider ships.