



Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, Steel Dynamics CEO-Mark Millett and a number of local community and business leaders attended a groundbreaking ceremony on Monday, January 25, 2016 for a \$100 million paint and galvalume line at SDI. The expansion is expected to create 40 new jobs. Six persons have already been hired and the remainder will be added in the second quarter of this year. SDI, the fourth largest steelmaker in the U.S., announced plans for the state-of-the-art expansion last May.

President's FY 17 Budget Cuts Civil Works Funding

The Administration's FY17 budget reflects a 22 percent reduction in the Army Corps civil works funding. The budget, coming just weeks after the Congress passed a FY16 omnibus funding bill that included \$5.9 billion for civil works, would be a major setback for the nation's waterway infrastructure. Specifics of the budget include a 14% reduction in O&M funding and a drop in construction funding from \$1.86 billion to \$1.1 billion. In total, the Administration's proposed budget provides \$4.6 billion for the Corps.

Funding for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund is also off FY16 levels of \$1.2 billion with \$951 million included in the budget. Additionally, under the budget proposal only Olmstead would receive funding from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund. The \$33 million proposed for Olmstead would leave approximately \$75 million in the Trust Fund. Also included is a user fee proposal that would be used in part to fund maintenance activities.

The House Appropriations energy and water subcommittee will consider the budget beginning February 26th and the Senate is expected to convene

their review the first week of March.

KENTUCKY AND CHICKAMAUGA LOCKS RECEIVE FUNDING

*On Wednesday, February 10, 2016 the US Army Corps of Engineers FY16 work plan was released. Included in the plan is \$45.4M for Kentucky Lock which will largely be used to construct the downstream cofferdam project. Also included in the Corps work plan is \$29.9M that will primarily ** go toward lock excavation. Contracts for all this work must be in place prior to September 30th of this year.*

**** \$29.9M Chicamauga Lock**

WRDA 2016

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee held a roundtable discussion the first week of February to begin to develop priorities for a Water Resources Development Act in 2016. It is imperative from the standpoint of non-federal stakeholders that the process be transparent and that it provides for full representation in the implementation guidance development effort. The National Waterways Conference recently hosted a WRDA briefing with staff from the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in an attempt to establish those priorities as early as possible in the WRDA development process.

MISSISSIPPI WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION AWARDED BP CLAIM

On February 5, 2016, MWRA leadership was notified that they would receive \$24,099.24 as settlement for losses the Association incurred in connection with the BP Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill in 2010. Congratulations to Deirdre McGowan and her MWRA team for the success of their lengthy and considerable efforts.

SELDON LOCK CLOSURE

At a stakeholders meeting held at the USACE offices in Tuscaloosa, Alabama on Wednesday, January 27, 2016 it was decided that the thirty day closure of the Selden Lock would be from July 6 - August 4, 2016. The closure will allow for the replacement of the lower lock gates. At an undetermined date in late April or early May a five day closure will occur at Selden to prepare the anchor system for the gate installation. When completed, these repairs will return Selden to good operating condition.

PANAMA CANAL NEWS

In late December, Panama Canal CEO and Administrator Jorge L. Quijano announced that the project had reached the 96% completion stage. Since the announcement, lock reinforcements have been completed and a transit trial test using a chartered vessel is tentatively scheduled in the Atlantic Locks in April. Final release of a commercial opening date will be made following

successful testing.

Forthcoming Events

February 29 - March 2, 2016 - National Waterways Conference 2016 Legislative Summit. Loews Madison, Washington, D. C. Contact (703) 224-8007 www.waterways.org

May 3 - 5, 2016 - Inland Rivers Ports & Terminals 2016 Annual Meeting, Natchez, MS Convention Center. Contact: Aimee Andres, email admin@irpt.net; internet www.irpt.net

August 22 - 26, 2016 - Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Development Opportunities Conference. Marriott Grand Hotel, Point Clear, AL. Contact: ttw@tenntom.org or call (662) 328-3286 or toll free TTW (888) TENNTOM. Find it on line at www.tenntom.org.

September 21 - 23, 2016 - National Waterways Conference Annual Meeting Norfolk, VA. Contact: (703) 224-8007 www.waterways.org

October 24 - 26, 2016 - Mississippi/Alabama Rural Tourism Conference. Columbus, Mississippi. Rooms have been blocked at the Marriott Courtyard, Fairfield Inn and the Hampton Inn. Contact: Tenn-Tom Tourism Association (662) 328-8936/800-457-9739 or email azaiontz@tenntom.org.

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