

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
**United States
Coast Guard**



Press Release

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(006-04)

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15 Barge Breakaway From The M/V J. ANDREW ECKSTEIN

ST. LOUIS – The U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP), St. Louis has reopened the Upper Mississippi River from mile marker 178.0 to mile marker 180.0 to northbound commercial traffic. It is expected that the river will reopen to southbound commercial traffic, during daylight hours only, beginning August 3, 2004. The grain barge (MAC611), which sank earlier approximately 200 ft. north of the McArthur Bridge, has been marked with a lighted orange and white buoy. Successful north and southbound test tows have been conducted by industry at the Coast Guard's request to ensure the safe navigability of this stretch of river.

The Marine Safety Office St. Louis is currently working closely with Okie Moore Diving and Salvage Co. to facilitate the removal of this barge from the Upper Mississippi River system. It's estimated that Okie Moore Diving and Salvage Co. will arrive on scene no later than the morning of August 4, 2004. Once on scene, the salver will commence salvage operations to remove the barge. This stretch of river (mile marker 178.0 – mile marker 180.0) is restricted to one tow at a time until the barge is properly recovered.

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