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# News Release

**US Army Corps  
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Detroit District

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## Corps awards \$3.2 million contract for Soo Locks equipment with Stimulus funds

**DETROIT** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, has awarded a \$3.2 million contract to fabricate equipment that will be used in maintenance at the Soo Locks.

The contract is the second awarded by the Detroit District that is funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, also known as the economic Stimulus Package.

G&G Steel, a large-scale steel fabricator in Russellville, Ala., was awarded the \$3,249,476 contract to construct and deliver six steel stoplogs for the Poe Lock, one of the two operational locks at the Soo, located on the St. Marys River in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich.

The more than 100-foot long steel stoplogs will be used to stop the flow of water into the lock from the St. Marys River canal. This permits the lock chamber to be dewatered to conduct repairs and maintenance in a dry environment.

“The stoplogs will allow Soo employees to replace the Poe Lock’s gates, if they are damaged and can’t be repaired, said William O’Donoghue, the Detroit District’s Chief Technical Service Branch.

“Not only can the stoplogs be used on the Poe Lock, but they can be used on a replacement lock once it’s built,” O’Donoghue said.

The Corps will make an announcement in the coming weeks about the replacement lock, which will be funded by the 2009 Omnibus bill. The new lock will replace two older inoperable locks.

The stoplogs project is one of 18 the Detroit District will complete with Recovery Act funds. The Detroit District received \$41 million in Stimulus funds

The Soo Locks are vital to Great Lakes shipping and to the nation’s economy.

In 2008, 8,461 vessels passed through the Soo Locks, carrying 80.6 million tons of cargo, mainly iron ore, coal, stone and other bulk products.

Operation and maintenance of the Soo Locks falls under the jurisdiction of the Corps’ Detroit District. Located on the St. Marys River, the locks have been a part of the Corps’ navigation mission since 1881.

For more information about the Soo Locks please contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District Public Affairs Officer, Lynn Duerod, at (313) 226-4680.