

Coffer dam contract awarded

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By Scott Brand
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Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. -

SAULT STE. MARIE — After more than a quarter century of preparation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has awarded a \$1.9 million contract for the construction of two coffer dams at the Soo Locks.

“This is a very significant day in the long life of this project as we now move to the actual construction phase,” said John Niemiec, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Project Manager.

Two coffer dams — one at each end of the Sabin Lock — will be constructed of a single 88-foot diameter steel sheet pile cell and will include instrumentation to monitor the coffer dam performance. This permits the lock chamber to be dewatered to conduct the construction in a dry environment.

The TAB Construction Company of Canton, Ohio has been awarded the contract for the coffer dams and this phase of the project is expected to take about a year to complete.

There will be an open house at the Soo Locks on June 30 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The public is invited to attend the groundbreaking ceremony at 10 a.m. — joining various local, state and federal officials for the event.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also announced that additional funding from the 2009 Omnibus bill will be utilized toward this project with detailed designs for the lock chamber and downstream channel excavation also on tap.

The total price tag for the project, which will replace the older and inoperable Davis and Sabin Locks, is estimated to cost \$580 million. Federal officials estimate the construction project will create nearly 15,000 jobs in the Eastern Upper Peninsula over the next 10 to 20 years.

In 2008, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 8,461 vessels passed through the Soo Locks carrying 80.6 million tons of cargo.

The proposed lock will have the same capability as the existing Poe Lock. With two of the locks operational, however, shipping traffic would not be interrupted should one of them require maintenance.

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couldnt_tell_ya

4 weeks ago

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I'm confused. Are all our local contractors so under qualified that all these big contracts need to be given to out of state companies? We're going to bring nearly 15,000 jobs to the EUP over the next 10 to 20 years but are we going to hire them all out and bring other people in to do them? I understand that having more people come to town will stimulate hotels, restaurants, real estate etc. but c'mon! Give us chance, we can do more than run a 'fudgie' town.

usmcgirl

4 weeks ago

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Yes.

UPwatch

4 weeks ago

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Thank god for the feds, because the state officials cannot seem to get anything going except fro laying people off, not in Lansing of course, just around the rest of the state!

Hammy

4 weeks ago

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I agree with all of the previous comments, but we should be thankful that the project if finally

underway at all and will bring revenue to this dilapidated town. Something needs to be done!!

Imdone

4 weeks ago

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Hey Hammy,

Unfortunately this town has been dilapidated for 30 years. Where did you come from. I was born and raised there. Moved to make a living. No jobs. Beautiful country, beautiful people but no money to speak of, unless you are tied in. Who in the Soo can do this job?

bojangles

3 weeks ago

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It does not have to be local to Sault Ste. Marie although M.C.M. could probably handle it. but local to Michigan would be nice. there is Derocher, Ryba or Luedtke I am sure many more.

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