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Construction begins on new Soo shipping lock

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS • JUNE 30, 2009

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SAULT STE. MARIE — A ceremony will mark the first step toward building a new shipping lock at Sault Ste. Marie.

ADVERTISEMENT Ground will be broken Tuesday for two dams to hold back the St. Marys River so crews can begin work.

The Soo Locks raise and lower ships hauling cargo such as iron ore and coal between Lake Superior and Lake Huron.

The Poe lock is the only one of the four existing locks that can accommodate the largest freighters, which can be up to 1,000 feet long. Shippers have long pushed for construction of a second big lock in case the Poe becomes disabled.

Congress first authorized the project in 1986 but has yet to come through with money to build it. The new lock is expected to cost about \$490 million.

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