



NEWS RELEASE

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***The Lee A. Tregurtha* opens 2010 Soo Locks shipping season as first vessel through the locks**

DETROIT – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced the Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., opened Sunday, March 21, marking the beginning of the Great Lakes shipping season.

The *M/V Lee A. Tregurtha* was the first ship to clear the Poe Lock at 7:46 a.m., followed by six other commercial vessels later in the day. The Poe Lock opened earlier than scheduled this year after the Corps received several requests from the shipping community and their customers to open early due to “an improved business climate” and to replenish critically low iron ore and coal inventories.

Since Jan. 15, the Poe Lock, one of the Soo Locks’ two operational locks, was closed and underwent repairs and maintenance during the winter shutdown. The second operational lock at the Soo, the MacArthur Lock, has been closed since December 13, 2009. The MacArthur Lock is undergoing maintenance and is expected to reopen later in April depending on traffic volume.

For more information about the Soo Locks please contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lynn Duerod, Detroit District public affairs officer at (313) 226-4680, or Steve Rose, acting area engineer at the Corps’ Soo Area Office at (906) 635-3464.

Photo cutlines:

- (1) The *MV Lee A. Tregurtha* heads up-bound through the Poe Lock as the first ship through the locks in 2010.
- (2) The *MV Lee A. Tregurtha*, initiating the shipping season, moves through the lock gates at the Poe Lock as it heads up towards Lake Superior.

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