



# NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

For Immediate Release:  
March 25, 2011  
Release No. 032511-01

Contact:  
Lynn Duerod, 313-226-4680  
cell 313-300-0662  
Lynn.Duerod@us.army.mil

## ***The Paul R. Tregurtha* is first vessel through as Soo Locks open for 2011 shipping season**

**DETROIT** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, announced the Soo Locks in Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., opened Friday, March 25, marking the beginning of the Great Lakes shipping season.

The upbound *Paul R. Tregurtha* a 1,013-foot freighter, was the first ship to enter the Poe Lock at 12:01 a.m. It cleared at 2:50 a.m. after the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Mackinaw* helped clear away foot-and-a-half-thick ice that had been blown toward the lock by a strong northwest wind, said Chief Lockmaster Gary Clow. Six other vessels had cleared the Poe as of 9:50 a.m. March 25.

Since Jan. 19, the Poe Lock was closed and underwent repairs and maintenance during the winter shutdown. The Soo Locks' other operational lock, the MacArthur, is still undergoing maintenance and is expected to open April 10 at 7 a.m.

“Maintaining and operating the Soo Locks is one of the most important responsibilities of the Detroit District,” said Lt. Col. Michael Derosier, district engineer. “Thanks to the hard work and skill of dozens of Soo Area Office employees who performed their duties under harsh winter conditions, the Poe Lock is open on time.”

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, maintains a navigation system that includes 94 harbors and the Great Lakes Connecting Channels that join lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, and Erie.

For more details, contact Lynn Duerod, Detroit District public affairs officer, 313-226-4680; or Kevin Sprague, area engineer at the Corps' Soo Area Office, 906-635-3464.

-30-

To see the *Paul R. Tregurtha* in the Poe Lock, visit our Flickr site:

[http://www.flickr.com/photos/detroit\\_district/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/detroit_district/)

---

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – DETROIT DISTRICT

477 Michigan Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48226  
[www.lre.usace.army.mil](http://www.lre.usace.army.mil)