Kentucky Locks and Dam

The Kentucky Locks and Dam are located in western Kentucky at Mile 22.4 on the Tennessee River. Construction on the project began May 1938 and was completed August 1944.

Due to delays experienced and projected at the existing Kentucky Locks, The Water Resources Development Act of 1996 authorized the Kentucky Lock Addition project. The project includes the addition of a new larger lock along with other upgrades and improvements and is currently underway.

If funded efficiently, the lock construction and related upgrades and improvements are estimated to be completed in 2018; however, funding delays will lengthen the project end date.

Quick Facts

2012 Commercial Cargo Lockages: 3,698 National Rank: 35.

Kentucky L&D Unavailability and Delay

Unavailability (Hours)

0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800


Scheduled Unavailability
Unscheduled Unavailability
Average Tow Delay

Unavailability and Delay

2012 Kentucky L&D Commodity Distribution

Coal 37%
Petroleum 3%
Crude Petroleum 0.86%
Aggregates 20.82%
Iron/Steel 10%
Ores/Minerals 3.26%
Chemicals 7%
Grains 10.80%
Others 7%

Source: Lock Performance Monitoring System

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**2012 Value of Commodities Through Kentucky L&D**

- **Coal**: 11%
- **Petroleum**: 13%
- **Crude Petroleum**: 2.43%
- **Aggregates**: 0.81%
- **Grains**: 17.29%
- **Chemicals**: 24%
- **Ores/Minerals**: 5%
- **Iron/Steel**: 20%
- **Others**: 7%

Source: Lock Performance Monitoring System, 2012 NDSU Commodity Value Study

Total Value: **$4,908.2** (Value in Millions)

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**2012 Rate Savings Through Kentucky L&D**

- **Coal**: 29%
- **Petroleum**: 0.22%
- **Crude Petroleum**: 0.15%
- **Aggregates**: 19%
- **Grains**: 7.75%
- **Chemicals**: 9%
- **Ores/Minerals**: 5%
- **Iron/Steel**: 13%
- **Others**: 16%

Source: Lock Performance Monitoring System, 2010 University of Tennessee Rate Savings Study *rates have been indexed to 2013 price levels

Total Rate Savings: **$744.3** (Value in Millions)

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