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Of Engineers®**
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News Release

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“Wilson Lock Damaged by Barge”

Florence, ALA, (Aug. 3, 2006)- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials at Wilson Lock have reported that the Motor Vessel Potomac with two barges carrying mixed xylene have hit the Upper Gate and one barge is currently lodged under the Upper Gate. The barge is damaged but is not leaking at this time and is being monitored by lock personnel. No one was hurt during the accident. A hazardous materials team is en route to the site, and all non-essential personnel have been evacuated from within a 1/2 mile radius of the lock area.

"The main lock chamber at Wilson Dam is closed until further notice to remove the vessel and to repair damage to the upper gate, gate machinery, and river wall." said Mike Enschede, chief, Operations Division, Nashville District. "The access road above the bridge, Hwy 133, is closed at this time."

Xylene is a flammable odorless and colorless liquid and is classified as a hazardous material. All precautions are being taken to protect the public. The Corps is working with other agencies including US Coast Guard, Tennessee Valley Authority and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency in responding to this accident. The accident is under investigation.

The Motor Vessel Potomac is owned and operated by Maryland Marine Inc., out of Houston, Texas. The tow was traveling up river at 5:30 a.m. this morning and was locking through Wilson Lock when the accident occurred. The Corps will be working with Maryland Marine to safely dislodge the barge. More information will be released as it becomes available. The Corps Point of Contact is: Mike Enschede at 256-766-8052.

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