

Jonesville Lock and Dam Open for Navigation – August 20, 2026

After almost three weeks of needed maintenance and inspection, the Jonesville Lock and Dam is fully operational!

The “dewatering” and closure, originally planned to begin July 6, was shifted to begin July 30, when conditions on the river were right.

In addition, an original 2–3-week closure for the upper deck, followed by a 1–2-week window of operations, and a 2–3-week closure for the lower deck was changed. The process of the closures, which are not good at any time, and especially during harvest season, were also changed. Naturally, our industry partners were concerned with the timing. The current schedule began with a July 30 closure, affecting only the upper miter gate bay; only one closure vice two closures.



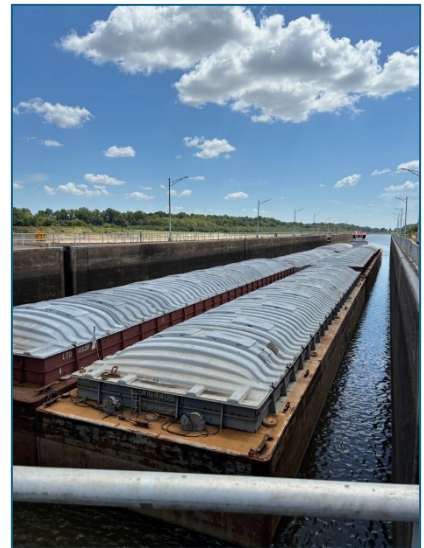
This past Tuesday, August 18, Lance Bond, representing Monroe Terminal LLC (and an ORVA Louisiana board member) led a team of professionals from Placid Refining on an industry tour of the Jonesville Lock and Dam. They were accompanied by key operations staff from the Vicksburg District, US Army Corps of Engineers.

The lock completely “dewatered” – August 18, 2026

Placid fuels much of north Louisiana with Parker Towing moving substantial amounts of fuel through the lock on its way to Monroe. Fuel – 60, 000 barrels at a time – moves consistently through the Jonesville Lock, providing consumers fuel for transportation and allowing freedom of movement on the nation’s highways.

Empty grain barges headed north through the lock – August 20, 2026.

Substantial amounts of grain also move through the Jonesville Lock. But fuel and grain are not the only products on the river. Substantial amounts of rock, limestone, sand, gravel, and fertilizer also move on the river. ORVA and area economic developers are working to bring more movement to the river. Transportation on the Ouachita is safe, reliable, and economic.



Timing is never good for a dewatering process. The last time this maintenance action was performed – a partial dewatering – was close to 20 years ago. This process – a full dewatering, maintenance, and inspection – has not been accomplished since its construction.

Successfully accomplished, engineers and technicians report that the lock is in surprisingly great shape! Jonesville Lock and Dam is open for business...and business is good!