

September 18, 2014

Notification of Reduced Lift Schedule at the Burlington Lift Bridge from March 21 to April 2, 2016

Dear <contact name>,

We wish to inform you of a delay in the regular operations of the Burlington Lift Bridge at the end of the 2016 navigation shutdown period.

PWGSC is the owner and operator of the Burlington Canal Lift Bridge. In 2012, the Government of Canada announced a major project to upgrade the facilities at the Bridge through the replacement of the controls, drives and overhead cables.

Built in 1959-62, the Burlington Canal Lift Bridge is over 50 years old and the bridge equipment and controls are nearing the end of their service life. This project must be completed so that the bridge remains reliable and able to serve the community and industries that use the canal.

PWGSC intends to operate the Burlington Lift Bridge at a reduced lift capacity from March 20, 2016 until April 2, 2016. This will provide additional time for verification, testing, and complete delivery of the controls, drives and overhead cables project.

During this time, PWGSC will use the Bridge's auxiliary system to ensure bridge lifts are possible. However, the frequency and number of lifts will be limited, as use of the auxiliary system requires greater coordination of marine traffic and more time for lift operation. For this reason, we ask your assistance in providing early notification to the bridge operators of any incoming or outgoing vessels.

We appreciate the challenge of managing a vast, shared resource such as the St. Lawrence Seaway System and have engaged the Hamilton Port Authority to inform them of our intent to adjust our lift operations at the start of the navigation season for the 2016 calendar year and they have acknowledged the importance of this project.

We also recognize the impact this decision may have on the commercial shipping industry and trust that this advance notification will give you ample time to make any changes to the schedule for any shipping requirements between these dates.

The successful completion of this project will ensure that the Burlington Canal Lift Bridge can continue to serve the community and your business for many years.

We expect normal bridge operation during the 2014-2015 navigation period. The project is currently in the tendering stage of the process to engage a qualified contractor for implementation. We anticipate that the contract award will be awarded in the fall of 2014 and end with the construction, completion, verification, testing and commissioning in Spring 2016.

We will keep you posted on our plans to coordinate lifts during March and April 2016 as the date draws closer.

The Burlington Canal Lift Bridge is a crucial piece of infrastructure serving the cities of Hamilton and Burlington. Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) is dedicated to maintaining its functionality for the benefit of industry and community alike.

If you require further information at this time, please contact Assad Ghubril at 416-512-5766.