

# Waterways Association of Pittsburgh

## **Membership Meeting**

**November 10, 2021**

### **Navigation Report**

**Provided by David Podurgiel, Vice President**

Between the dates of 21 October 2021 to 25 October 2021, incidents involving suspected explosive devices occurred on commercial towing vessels, pushing barges, while operating on the Ohio River.

On 21 October 2021, a crewmember making rounds on an underway commercial towing vessel, operating on the Ohio River near St. Mary's West Virginia, discovered a suspicious device, which was suspected to be an explosive device. The device was located on the towing vessel's lead open hopper barge. Law enforcement responded, x-rayed the device, and determined it lacked certain components required to be active. The device was removed by law enforcement. This investigation is ongoing.

On 25 October 2021, crew members on a commercial towing vessel underway on the Ohio River near Marietta, Ohio and while passing directly under the Interstate 77 highway bridge, heard metallic objects strike the vessel. Upon investigation by the vessel's crew, two devices described as suspected explosive devices, were found lying on the bow of the towing vessel. Law enforcement responded, x-rayed the devices, and rendered the devices harmless. The devices were removed by law enforcement. This investigation is ongoing.

On 26 October 2021, crew members on a commercial towing vessel underway on the Ohio River at approximate river mile marker 176.7, discovered suspected explosive devices on a tank barge loaded with crude oil. Law enforcement responded, x-rayed the devices, and rendered the devices harmless. The devices were removed by law enforcement. This investigation is ongoing.

As an Industry we must continue to be vigilant and stress to our employees the importance of See something/ Say something. We are very fortunate these incidents did not result in injuries or catastrophic damage not only of vessel/barges but environmentally also.

## **2021**

### **Ohio River**

#### Montgomery Mile 31.7

This outage was moved out four days due to coal shortages at the power plants.

10/29-12/22

Primary Chamber Closed, no weekend openings. Major Delays

#### Willow Island Mile 161.7

11/1-12/9

Aux chamber, minor delays

12/9 thru 1/6/22,

Primary Chamber, significant delays