



# News Release

**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Norfolk District

**U. S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lack of rain, low water levels

## ***Dismal Swamp Canal locks close on October 30***

**NORFOLK, VA** – Due to the lack of rain over the past several months in the area around Lake Drummond in the Dismal Swamp, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Norfolk District will suspend lock operations on the Dismal Swamp Canal effective Oct. 30 at 3 p.m. The suspension will remain in place until there is sufficient rain fall in the Lake Drummond watershed to recharge the swamp. Lake Drummond is fed by the Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and in turn supplies water to the Dismal Swamp Canal through weirs located at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Lake Drummond Reservation. For boaters traveling along the Atlantic Intercoastal Waterway the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal will remain open and operating as normal, 24 hours a day.

According Public Law 93-402, passed in 1974, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Norfolk District coordinates with the Department of Interior to make sure that in operating the Dismal Swamp Canal there is no adverse affects to the refuge. Because of this coordination, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that it will halt operations of the Canal when lake levels drop below 3.6 feet to protect the Dismal Swamp from environmental damage as well as allow for the ability to use the lake for firefighting should a forest fire break out in the refuge.

Current lake levels stand at 3.63 feet and have been dropping over the past few months. Since 1977 the Dismal Swamp Canal has been closed 15 times due to low water levels in Lake Drummond.

Boaters are encouraged to check out the Norfolk District Website at [www.armyengineersnorfolk.com](http://www.armyengineersnorfolk.com) for the most current information on conditions at the canal. Boaters may also contact the District at 757 201-7500 and press option 3 for dismal swamp canal information.

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<**Note to Media:** The final locking will take place at the South Mills lock on Oct. 30 at 3 p.m., There is sufficient space for live shots and coverage of this event should any media wish to cover. Please coordinate your visit with the Norfolk District Public Affairs Office at (757) 201-7606.>