



*******PANAMA CANAL UPDATE*******

May 18th, 2006

Re: Locks Maintenance Schedule 2006

Tentative.

Jun 6-15 (10 days) Miraflores - Lane w/restrictions.
Jul 11-20 (10 days) Gatun - Lane w/restrictions.
Jul 17-22 (6 days) Miraflores - Culvert outage.
Aug 12-14 (3 days) Gatun - Lane w/restrictions.
Aug 15-19 (5 days) Gatun - Lane outage.
Aug 20-24 (5 days) Gatun - Lane w/restrictions
Sep 12-19 (8 days) Gatun - Lane outage.

RE: Canal Expansion ,Third Set of Locks (Master Plan)

The President of Panama announced to various civic groups, etc. government's plans for this major undertaking. A national referendum is anticipated to be held later this year.

The project, once approved, is estimated to be in the range of 5 to 8 billion U.S. Dollars and will take 5 to 10 years. The work will involve the creation of dams, artificial lakes and the construction of additional locks on the Pacific and Atlantic sides of the Isthmus. Tentative dimensions of the lock chambers 1400 ft length, width 180 ft, accepting vessels up to 50 ft Tropical Fresh Water draft. The present locks are 110 ft by 1000 ft. The preliminary excavations for these additional locks were made during WWII and are adjacent to the present locks. The new locks would operate parallel to the existing infrastructure.

Find below all information regarding this Master Plan.

<http://www.pancanal.com/eng/plan/>

Thanks
China Shipping Agency Central America