



NEWS

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Bridge Reconstruction Continues as Railroad Plans To Open Interchanges For Traffic Next Week

PITTSBURG, KANSAS – September 5, 2007 – Reconstruction of the Canadian River Bridge has continued steadily since last week’s delay, and railroad officials plan to lift the traffic embargo next week. The Canadian River Bridge carries traffic for the Stillwater Central Railroad (SLWC) and was damaged by flooding that hit the Oklahoma City, Okla. area three weeks ago. The SLWC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Watco Companies, Inc. (Watco), is still under a traffic embargo.

Construction crews were delayed last week when additional damage was identified after reconstruction had begun. Since then they continued to work daily to complete repairs that will allow the bridge to reopen. Those repairs should be completed late Friday, allowing the bridge to be open for online traffic.

“We have met some challenges on this project,” said Jimmy Horner, Director of Operations for Watco’s Central Region. “Greg Ingram and the contractors have put in long hours since this began and are working as quickly and safely as possible to open the bridge so we can resume normal operations. We don’t foresee any more delays and plan to open the bridge for traffic by the weekend and to lift the traffic embargo next week.”

The embargo was issued August 20 after the bridge, near Tuttle, Okla., received structural damage from flood waters brought on by Tropical Storm Erin. Tuttle is located approximately 25 miles southwest of Oklahoma City. Traffic affected by the closed bridge will continue to be rerouted over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) until.

“Opening the bridge to traffic will not immediately result in normal operations,” said Pat Cedeno, Chief Operating Officer for Watco’s Central Region. “We will use the days following the reopening for cleanup to clear the line of existing traffic. Once the line is clear we will lift the embargo and be able to accept traffic for interchange.”

A public update will be provided next week. SLWC Customers may call Customer Service toll free at 866-889-2826 for more information

Watco Companies, Inc. (Watco), a Pittsburg, Kansas, based company, operates 16 railroads in 15 states including the Alabama Southern, Arkansas Southern, Eastern Idaho, Great Northwest, Kansas and Oklahoma, Kaw River, Louisiana Southern, Mission Mountain, Mississippi Southern, Palouse River and Coulee City, Pennsylvania Southwestern, South Kansas and Oklahoma, Stillwater Central, Timber Rock, Vicksburg Southern and Yellowstone Valley Railroads. Watco also operates industrial switching locations and mechanical and locomotive shops across the United States and is the owner of Millennium Rail, Inc. (MRI), a fully-integrated provider of repair and maintenance services to the rail industry. MRI operates eight car repair shops across the United States. More information about Watco and MRI can be found on their website at www.watcocompanies.com.

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