REVERSALS TO LAKE MICHIGAN

The number of reversals from the Chicago Area Waterway System to Lake Michigan has been reduced with the onset of TARP. There are two types of reversals: gate reversals and lock reversals. The more common is a gate reversal which is characterized by a smaller volume of water released through adjacent gates to the lock. The other type of reversal is a lock reversal, during which the locks are opened to maximize reversal flow. Lock reversals allow a much greater volume of water to flow back to Lake Michigan. They are only necessary in cases of severe storms.