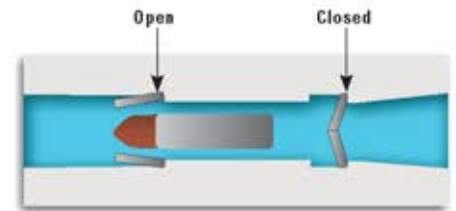
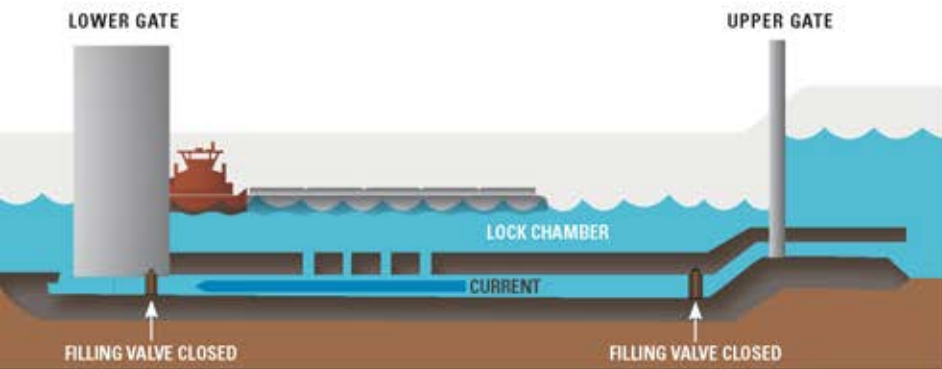


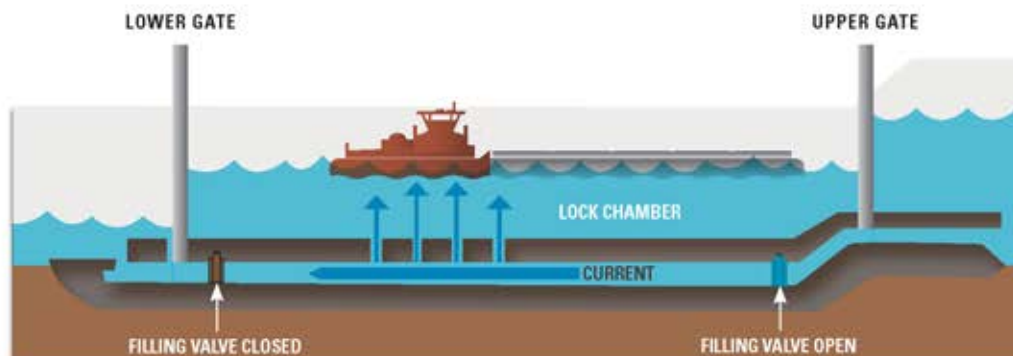
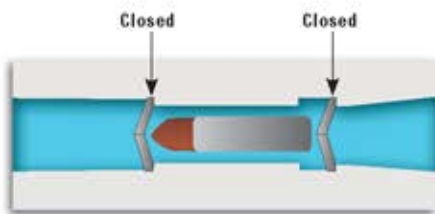
HOW CANAL AND RIVER LOCKS WORK

Locks are critical to the success of the U.S. soy industry. In fact, 59 percent of 2011 soybean exports passed through Mississippi River ports, such as the port of New Orleans. Of those soybeans, 89 percent arrived at those ports via the locks of the U.S. inland waterways.

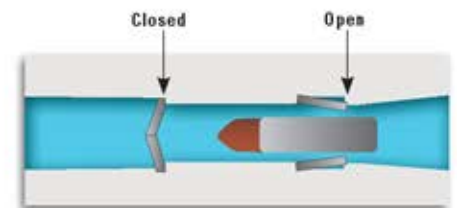
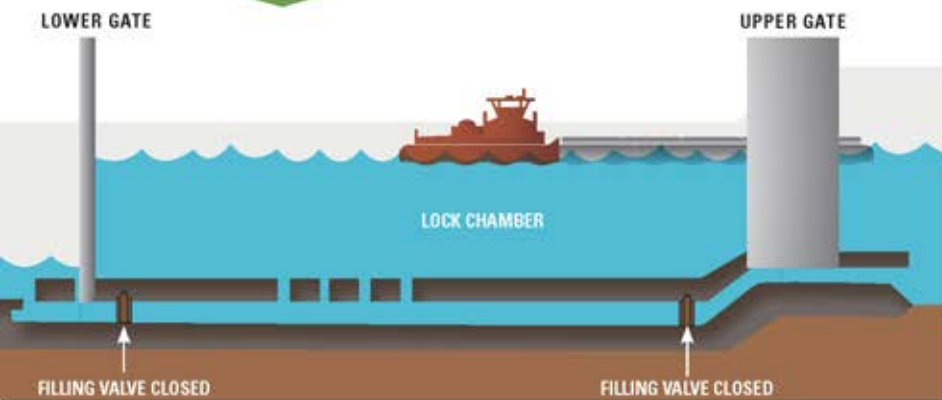
But, in addition to being important pieces of our U.S. infrastructure, locks are fascinating devices. Below is a look at how they work.



1 Boats, barges and other vessels traveling upstream enter the lock at the bottom. Once inside the lock, the lower gates are closed, and the filling valve is opened. The lock fills up with water from upstream.



2 As the lock fills with water, the vessel rises until it lines up with the water level upstream.



3 Once the vessel reaches the water level upstream, the filling valve is closed, and the upper gates are opened. The vessel exits the lock and continues upstream.



For vessels going downstream, the process is reversed.