



LANSING BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

The April showers have extended into May and are making their impression on the job site for the construction of the new Mississippi River Bridge at Lansing. Besides the huge undertaking of building a new bridge, Kraemer North America and its subcontractors also have the very important responsibility of protecting the Mississippi River itself. When de-watering the project site because of rain or cleaning out the deep shafts needed to support the bridge, the contractors need to make sure silt and other materials do not end up in the river. That's why they use filter bags like you see in the picture. When moving water off the site and into the river, the water is pumped through the filter bag. The bag captures the silt and other pollutants that may be in the water before it goes into the river. These filter bags and other erosion control measures are inspected weekly to make sure the Mississippi River is not polluted by the construction process.



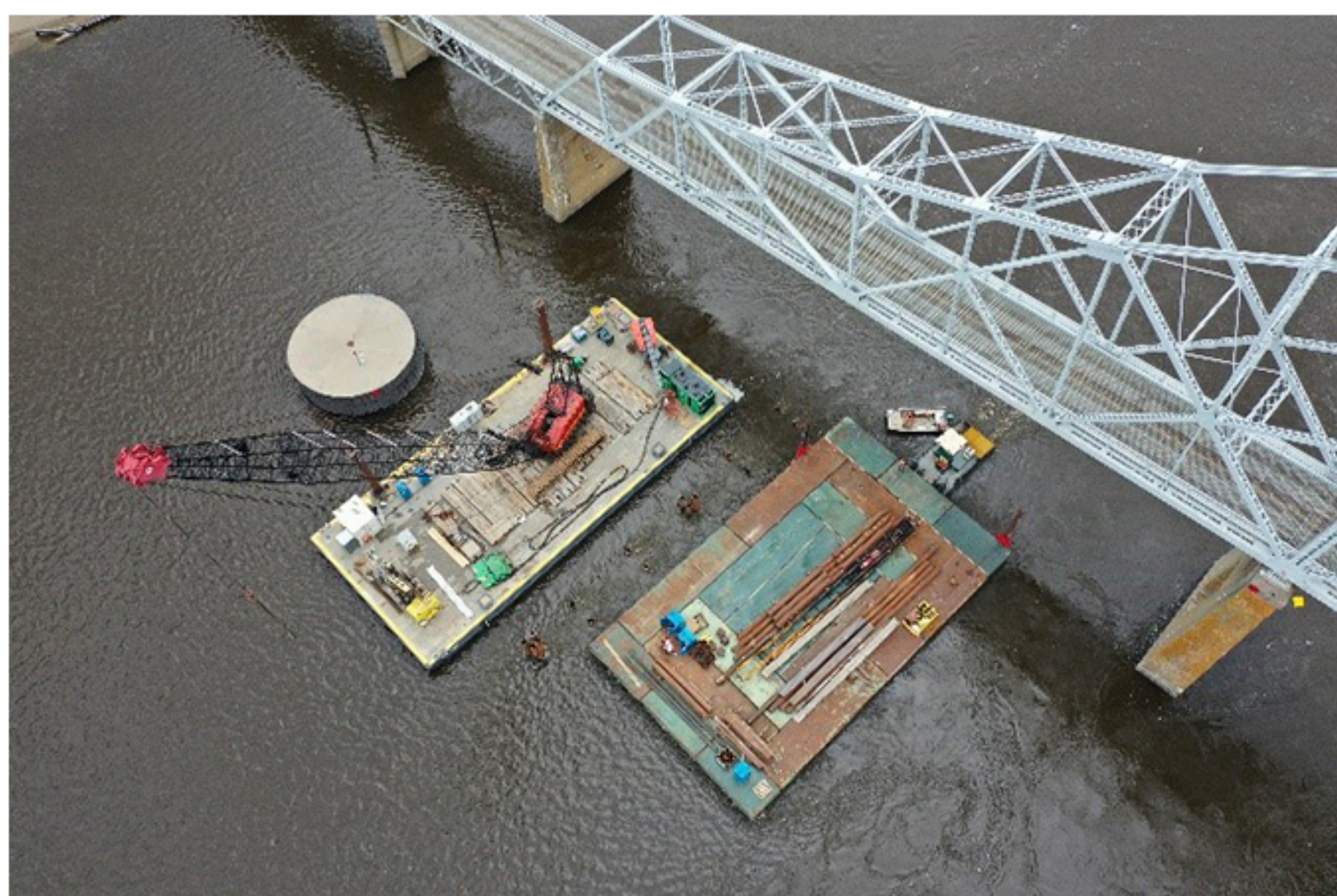
Filter Bag

Speaking of construction, another pier is nearly complete on the Wisconsin shore. Workers made the final pour for pier 4 on May 7. Once the concrete has cured and the forms are removed, we will get an even better look at the substructure that will support the new bridge.



Pier 4

Some of the most intense work right now is taking place in the Mississippi River itself. Crews are currently building a template to help them correctly position the casings for the pier 2 drilled shafts that will extend over 100-feet deep into the riverbed. Workers have driven pipe pile to support the I-beams that will form a large grid above the water. This grid will guide the contractor on exactly where they need to place the casings for the drilled shafts. These shafts will support the footing for pier 2.



Pier 2 Location

Approximately 750 feet to the west things are starting to happen at the site of pier 1 on the Iowa shore. The contractor is cleaning out the cofferdam where they will start to drill the casings for this pier. Workers need to remove enough dirt to get down to the level needed to start drilling the shafts and placing the casings they will later fill with concrete.

Another thing you might not think about is how the construction process could affect the railroad tracks that run under the bridge on the Iowa side of the Mississippi River. A subcontractor on site monitors the tracks daily to make sure they haven't moved in any direction and the trains can continue to run safely through the area.

Don't forget, you can learn more about the existing bridge and the new bridge by going to <https://iowadot.gov/lansingbridge>. This website also has a live webcam where you can watch the progress as the contractor moves forward with construction of the new bridge.