



# INFORMATION RELEASE

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### **Detonation to Bring Down U.S. Highway 67 Bridge Span Over the Black River in Pocahontas**

**RANDOLPH COUNTY (9-30)** – Demolition of the old U.S. Highway 67 Bridge over the Black River has reached a point where the main river span will be brought down using explosives, according to Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) officials.

At approximately **7:15 a.m. on Sunday, October 2nd**, U.S. Highway 67 in Pocahontas will be shut down between Old County Road and U.S. Highway 62 to allow the contractor to establish a clear zone in preparation for blasting. The target time for detonation is 7:30 a.m., after which the highway will reopen. The AHTD estimates a total highway closure time of 15 to 30 minutes with delays in through traffic required.

The 490-foot river span consists of steel Warren Through Trusses constructed in 1929 by Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Company from Des Moines, Iowa. Jensen Construction Company was awarded a \$10 million contract in March 2016 to remove the bridge and replace it with another structure. The estimated completion date of this project is summer 2018.

Unfortunately, terrain in vicinity of the bridge does not provide a good vantage point for witnessing the event. The clear zone will be strictly enforced by the AHTD in concert with the Pocahontas Police Department, Arkansas Game and Fish, as well as Jensen Construction. While this event is an unusual and very interesting occurrence, the general public is encouraged ***to avoid the area and not to be present for the event due to expected traffic congestion.***

Procedures are in place to mark specific points in time approaching the detonation. Any encroachment into the clear zone will require the timing to be reset and delay the event. Additionally, there is a “daylight” requirement, which requires clear line of sight for 1,000 feet. Weather impacts such as fog may impact specific event timing as well.