



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Pittsburgh District

# PUBLIC MEETING INVITE

Public Affairs Office  
1000 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Release No. 08-078

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## **Corps to Hold Public Meeting to Discuss East Branch Dam Safety Initiative**

**WHO:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District

**WHAT:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has implemented a dam safety initiative at East Branch Dam, located in northwestern Pennsylvania near Ridgway. The initiative includes lowering the water level of the lake and other risk reduction measures taken to ensure the dam will be operated at a safe level while the Corps investigates some seepage-related concerns. At this meeting, Corps officials will inform the public about its initiative and invite the public to ask questions and voice concerns about the Corps' actions.

**WHEN:** 6: 30 - 7:00 (Open House) 7 - 9 PM (Presentation and Discussion), Monday, March 24, 2008

**WHERE:** North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission Office, Teleconference Room, located at 651 Montmorenci Avenue (SR 948) in Ridgway, PA.

**ATTENDEES:** All members of the public are encouraged to attend.

**MEDIA:** Corps officials will be available for media between 6 – 7 PM at the venue on the day of the public meeting.

**WHY:** Public safety is the number one priority of the Corps' Dam Safety Program. In 2004, the Corps began using a risked-informed screening process that considers the dam's current behavior, how well it meets current design criteria, as well as potential consequences. Our screening process at East Branch Dam identified unconfirmed issues which merit further analysis and evaluation. To reduce the risk to the public, Pittsburgh District has implemented several interim risk reduction measures which include increased monitoring; 24/7 staffing; updating emergency action plans; and reducing the water level in the reservoir to relieve pressure on the dam. These and other short-term actions allow us to operate the dam to meet our public safety objective while we further investigate our concerns and pursue long-term repairs, if necessary. As we take steps to reduce risk to public safety, we recognize that recreation, water supply, hydropower and the environment may be impacted. This public meeting is the Corps' initial effort to inform the public of its actions and to encourage public involvement and engagement.

**RSVP:** We are trying to determine whether our venue will have capacity for all interested attendees. Please RSVP by Thursday, March 20, to 412-395-7103 or [EastBranch@usace.army.mil](mailto:EastBranch@usace.army.mil).

**RESOURCES:** Website: <http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/eastbran.htm>

Email: [EastBranch@usace.army.mil](mailto:EastBranch@usace.army.mil)

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