



# NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## **President's Budget: \$91 Million for regional Corps projects**

PITTSBURGH – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, reports that the President's Fiscal Year 2012 Budget includes \$91 million in new federal funding for the district's Civil Works Program. The allocated funds will help improve the reliability of the region's inland waterways navigation system, enhance the environment, and reduce the risk of flooding in the Upper Ohio River Valley.

The budget allocates \$3 million for ongoing rehabilitation work at Emsworth Locks and Dams on the Ohio River, where the Corps is working to stabilize two high risk dams by replacing failing dam gates and fixing severe erosion. The Emsworth dams create a stable pool of water that provides Pittsburgh's scenic riverfront.

The budget also consists of \$1.3 million to fund the Upper Ohio River Navigation Study, which is considering long-term solutions for maintaining safe, reliable, efficient and environmentally sustainable navigation on the Upper Ohio River at Emsworth, Dashields and Montgomery locks and dams. These three facilities are the smallest locks remaining on the Ohio River and all are showing significant signs of structural and operational degradation, increasing the risk of failure which could halt navigation for up to one year. The study also looks at opportunities to improve upper Ohio River aquatic ecosystems.

The budget directs one million dollars to the long-delayed Lower Monongahela River Project, where the Corps is now using Recovery Act funds to complete construction of river and guard walls at Charleroi Locks and Dam. Almost \$50 million has been appropriated for this project that has not yet been allocated because of insufficient revenue generated by the Inland Waterways Trust Fund to support half the cost of new construction and major rehabilitation of inland waterways infrastructure. Work at Charleroi may halt when Recovery Act dollars run out this year unless the IWTF cost-share issue is resolved.

The budget includes \$13 million for the Shallow Land Disposal Area clean-up effort in Parks Township, Armstrong County, Pa. The Corps is currently building out the site infrastructure in preparation for removal of radiological contaminants this spring.

The budget provides nearly \$27 million for operation and maintenance of the district's 16 flood damage reduction reservoirs. The Pittsburgh District's management of these reservoirs has prevented more than \$12.6 billion in flood damages. The reservoirs also provide additional flows to improve

downstream water quality and to ensure adequate depths for commercial river navigation. Six million people also visit the district's lakes each year to recreate.

More than \$44 million was included in the budget to maintain and operate the district's navigation system of 23 locks and dams. The Allegheny River System received \$4 million for FY12 which is less than half of their FY11 budget of \$8.4 million. The Monongahela River budget increased from \$15.6 million to \$17 million and the Ohio River budget decreased from \$28 million to \$23 million

Other funds totaling \$203,000 were directed to support the district's operation and maintenance of its three flood damage reduction projects at Johnstown and Punxsutawney, Pa., and Elkins, W. Va.. The inspection of 80 local federal and non-federal flood reduction projects received \$759,000.

The district's additional missions include water supply, emergency response, and regulation of the Clean Water Act. The Corps often partners with local communities to improve water supply, sanitary sewer and storm water infrastructure. During disasters, the district manages the nation's emergency power contract which provides temporary power to downed critical infrastructure. District personnel deploy overseas to help build, manage and administer water resource infrastructure projects in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The FY12 Army Civil Works budget press book, including a state-by-state breakdown, is available at [http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/PID/Pages/cecwm\\_progdev.aspx](http://www.usace.army.mil/CECW/PID/Pages/cecwm_progdev.aspx).

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