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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 24, 2011

Release No. NR11-297

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Corps awards first construction contract for East Branch Dam Safety Initiative project

PITTSBURGH - The US Army Corps of Engineers recently awarded a \$2.9-million contract as part of the East Branch Dam Safety Initiative in Elk County, Pa. The site development work went to Tab Construction Company of Canton, Ohio. The contract is the first phase of a construction effort to remedy seepage-related dam safety concerns at East Branch Clarion River Lake in northwestern Pennsylvania.

"Moving from the study phase and into design and construction marks a significant milestone for this project," said Mike Rattay, the project manager for the initiative.

The work includes rebuilding and widening of the dam access road, improving utilities, and preparing laydown areas for construction equipment and material. The Corps issued a notice to proceed earlier this month for the contract which is scheduled for completion in November 2012.

This summer, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works approved the Corps' plan to construct a concrete cutoff wall through the existing dam to address seepage concerns. The wall will run the length of the dam and down into bedrock. The Corps estimates that the construction of the cutoff wall and other features will take until 2017 to complete, pending efficient funding and weather conditions.

Two more contracts to build a construction office and to install additional monitoring instrumentation are slated to be awarded in 2012.

For more information regarding the East Branch Dam Safety Initiative, please visit:

http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/ebdam_safety.htm