
Public Notice

**U.S. Army Corps
Of Engineers**
Pittsburgh District

In Reply Refer to
Notice No. below

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District
1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186

Application No. 1998-00625

Date: July 31, 2007

Notice No. 07-M2

Closing Date: August 31, 2007

1. TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: Notice is hereby given that the Pittsburgh District, pursuant to Section 101 of Public Law 102-580 (Water Resources Development Act of 1992), Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, proposes to perform work in and along the river in the vicinity of Locks and Dam 4 at Charleroi (L/D 4) associated with minor modifications to the Lower Monongahela River Navigation Project, River Miles 11.2 - 41.5. Water Quality Certification is required for several of the actions described below.

2. EXISTING CONDITIONS: Work items not previously identified as part of the project plan are now required due to recent project refinements. Consequently, this Public Notice is being issued to provide updated information on these actions associated with the Lower Monongahela River Navigation Project.

3. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK:

The proposed modifications to the work that may not have been covered by previous Public Notices consist of the following actions:

a. New Bank Protection - The District determined that a 300-foot reach of stream bank along the left descending bank beginning immediately upstream of Locks and Dam (L/D 4) will need protection to prevent erosion. The bank protection will consist of R-6 (12-inch diameter) stone placed atop a granular bedding material. The total volume of stone including the bedding is estimated at 9,600 cubic yards. The protection will extend from the toe located at the junction of the river bank and river bottom up to elevation 745.5 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD), which is two feet above the normal pool elevation of 743.5 feet NGVD.

b. New Boat Ramp - The construction of a 16 foot wide concrete boat ramp to accommodate Corps work boats for regular operation and maintenance at L/D 4 will be located on the right bank just upstream of the new lock's upper guide wall. Although not intended for public use, it would be made available to local officials in the event of an emergency. The ramp will extend approximately 28 feet into the river to a depth of 4.5 feet.

c. Dredging upstream of L/D 4 - The District determined that the wider lock chambers proposed at L/D 4 (56 feet wider than the present locks) could restrict river flows sufficiently to potentially increase the 100-year flood elevation of the river. To offset any potential increases, the District will deepen the channel by dredging upstream of the dam to compensate for the new locks' narrowing of the river's cross-sectional area. Most of the dredging will occur on the left descending side of the channel and will extend approximately 1,400 feet upstream from the dam. About 10 vertical feet of river bottom (substrate) will be removed. This area would be dredged to approximately elevation 718 feet NGVD with 1:3 side slopes. Approximately 95,000 cubic yards of material will be excavated. Disposal of the uncontaminated dredged material will be at the District's existing Victory Hollow disposal site. Any contaminated waste encountered during dredging would be removed from the work area and disposed of at a properly permitted, commercial disposal site.

d. New Mooring Cells - The District plans to install two new mooring cells about one mile downstream of the new Charleroi locks along the right bank at river miles 40.5 and 40.6. The 30-foot diameter cells will be constructed of interlocking steel sheet piles, filled with sand and gravel, and capped with concrete. The top of each cell will be at elevation 747.7 feet NGVD, which will be 24.0 feet above the future Braddock Pool, elevation 723.7 feet NGVD.

e. Dredging Associated with "in-the-wet" construction for the new Locks at L/D 4 - Initially, the District proposed to construct two new locks at Charleroi "in-the-dry" by employing a traditional cofferdam system. The work would have been completed sequentially using two separate cofferdams, one for each lock. Because cofferdam construction is costly and time consuming, the District is now considering "in-the-wet"

procedures. This involves pre-excavation of the river bottom in the footprint of the new lock walls and construction of drilled shaft foundations and underwater concrete placement within sheet pile boxes. This procedure minimizes the area of riverbed directly affected by construction, but introduces the potential for underwater excavation at any time of year necessary to support the construction schedule.

4. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: This Public Notice serves as notification to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for Water Quality Certification.

5. IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES: There are no known facts which indicate that any of the proposed construction activities described in this Public Notice would have a significant adverse long term effect upon the environment, or would threaten, destroy, or endanger any known critical habitat of a threatened or endangered species as identified under the Endangered Species Act; therefore, formal consultation procedures with the Fish and Wildlife Service will not be initiated, unless warranted by later developments.

6. IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES: The Lower Monongahela River Navigation Project's effect on cultural resources has been accounted for in compliance documents prepared under a Programmatic Agreement implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The shoreline and river areas to be impacted by the proposed actions have low potential for the presence of historic properties. Prior to construction, the District will confirm the condition of these areas and consult with the Pennsylvania Bureau for Historic Preservation under the terms of the Programmatic Agreement. No significant historic properties are anticipated in the area of effect.

7. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in the paragraph below entitled "RESPONSES", that a public hearing be held to consider this application. The requests for public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

8. EVALUATION: Interested parties are invited to state any objections they may have to the proposed work items. The

decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activities on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposals must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies, and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of these proposed activities. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for these proposals. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above and to determine overall public interest of the proposed activities. The evaluation of the impact of the activities on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act(40 CFR Part 230).

9. RESPONSES: A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest. Written statements concerning the proposed activities should be received in this office on or before the closing date of this Public Notice in order to become a part of the record and to be considered in the final determination. All responses to this notice should be directed to the Regulatory Branch, attention: Scott Hans at the above address, by telephoning (412)395-7155 or by e-mail at

CELRP-OP-R
Public Notice No. 07-M2

scott.a.hans@usace.army.mil. Please refer to CELRP-OP-F Public
Notice No. 07-M2 in all responses.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

//SIGNED//

Scott A. Hans
Acting Chief, Regulatory Branch