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IMPACTS OF HIGH WATER ON RECREATION FOR WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2004

PITTSBURGH – Many of the “KEEP OUT – DAM” buoys placed upstream and downstream of navigation dams on the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers have been moved off station or washed away during recent heavy rains and flooding events. Recreational boaters are cautioned to approach the locks and dams with **extreme** care, especially when proceeding downstream. These buoys will not be replaced during the remainder of the recreational boating season. Also, effective the week of October 17, 2004, small boat warning signs and pillar buoys at all navigation dams will be removed from the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio Rivers in this District in advance of the ice and high water season. Boaters are cautioned that they must approach the locks, when proceeding downstream, with extra care. All boaters are urged to consult their navigation charts to be absolutely sure of their landmarks when approaching the locks and dams.

Recreational boats are also advised to be alert to floating debris which is prevalent on the rivers during high water.

The lingering effect of tropical storm Frances on reservoir levels has resulted in the continued closure or partial closure of some recreation facilities at US Army Corps of Engineers projects in the Pittsburgh District. The impacts are outlined below for those facilities that are affected. Recreation areas scheduled to be opened at this time of year will reopen as the pool levels recede and debris cleanup is accomplished. The status is subject to change based on any additional rain that is received and it is recommended that members of the public call the recorded 24-hour information line or the project office for updates.

Kinzua Dam and Allegheny Reservoir, Pa. and N.Y. – The US Forest Service reports that the courtesy docks at their boat launching ramps on the Allegheny Reservoir are not available due to high water. The boat ramps themselves can still be used for launching. *(24-hour recorded message, 814-726-0164)*

Shenango River Lake, Pa. and Oh. – The lake level remains approximately 7 feet above normal summer pool level. The Shenango Recreation Area Boat Launch is the only boat launching ramp currently available. The Shenango Recreation Area Campground will not reopen this season. The Chestnut Run Swim Beach has already closed for the season. The Mahaney Day Use Area remains open. *(24-hour recorded message, 724-962-4384)*

Tionesta Lake, Pa. – Tionesta Lake Boat Launch, Nebraska Boat Launch, and the majority of the Tionesta lakeshore campsites are expected to be back in service by the weekend. Boaters are cautioned to be alert to the continued presence of floating debris on the lake. The Kellettsville

Campground and the Outflow Recreation Area Campground remain open. Unrelated to high water, the campground at the Tionesta Recreation Area closed for the season on September 7. (Project Office, 814-755-3512; 24-hour recorded message not available)

Recreation facilities at the remaining Pittsburgh District reservoirs – Berlin Lake, Conemaugh River Lake, Crooked Creek Lake, East Branch Clarion River Lake, Loyalhanna Lake, Mahoning Creek Lake, Michael J. Kirwan Dam and Reservoir, Mosquito Creek Lake, Stonewall Jackson Lake, Tygart Lake, Union City Dam, Woodcock Creek Lake and Youghiogheny River Lake – are not currently affected by high pool levels. However, we remind the visiting public that heavy rains can lead to high lake levels and recreation facility closures at any time. Therefore, visitors are encouraged to call the 24-hour recorded messages or the project offices for the most up-to-date information on closures due to changing pool levels.

Visitors are also reminded that, although there are many recreational opportunities still available through the fall, there are also many areas that are closed as the season progresses. Most of these are scheduled closures due to the time of year, but other closures are related to receding pool levels as certain reservoirs are drawn down to levels that allow them to accept runoff from snow melt and spring precipitation events. Information on scheduled recreation area closures can be found on the District website (www.lrp.usace.army.mil) in a June 3, 2004 press release titled “2004 Recreation Fee Schedule” under the “News and Information” tab.