



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Pittsburgh District

News Release

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CORPS OF ENGINEERS RESERVOIRS HAVE ROOM FOR MORE

PITTSBURGH – As rainfall continues throughout the tri-state area, the US Army Corps of Engineers' 16 reservoirs in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio still have more than half of their storage capacity to deal with the additional precipitation projected through the week.

Corps of Engineers' reservoirs reduce flood damage by storing water for release only after high water downstream has been lowered. Without these reservoirs, lives and property would be at greater risk. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District's reservoirs have prevented more than \$6.8 billion in flood damages since the first one was built in 1938.

The flood damage reduction system is designed to hold water at reservoirs on the tributaries of the Ohio River Basin. This provides protection for communities on local streams while managing the amount of water going to the main rivers such as the Ohio River. This system ultimately reduces crests on the Ohio River. Any release of water from the reservoirs is done in a controlled manner in accordance with the design of the dam structures.

Pittsburgh District lake and dam projects have been constructed to store the floodwaters in the Allegheny, Monongahela, Beaver and Ohio River basins.

Teams of engineers and emergency management personnel from the District's Readiness Office continue to monitor the reservoirs and tributaries on site, provide assistance to communities and provide technical expertise. In concert with state emergency management agencies, the Corps may provide sandbags and advise how to minimize any potential flood damages.

Our daily reservoir report and forecast is available on our web site at <http://wmw.lrp.usace.army.mil/current/forecast.html>

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