



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Pittsburgh District

News Release

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CORPS OF ENGINEERS RESERVOIRS HOLD WATER

PITTSBURGH – The US Army Corps of Engineers' 16 reservoirs in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio collected and stored an additional 218 billion gallons of water during the past two weeks. Several heavy rainfalls, totaling 4.95 inches in the region since January 3rd, have raised the District reservoir's pools significantly but all of them still have storage capacity available to accommodate additional precipitation should it occur. Our Mahoning reservoir pool increased over 72 feet, but even with this increase, 26% of its flood storage capacity remained. Conemaugh reservoir saw the greatest increase in the amount of water stored yet had 37% of its capacity available.

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 \$4.1 billion in flood damages since 1990 with Conemaugh alone preventing more than \$1 billion in downstream damages over the life of the project.

Pittsburgh District lake and dam projects have been constructed to store the floodwaters in the Allegheny, Monongahela and Beaver River basins. The flood damage reduction system is designed to hold water at reservoirs on these 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.

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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