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# News Release

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## **Braddock Dam Selected for Engineering Achievement Award**

PITTSBURGH, Pa. – The new Braddock Dam has been selected for the 2005 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Pittsburgh Civil Engineering Achievement Award. Braddock Dam, located on the Monongahela River at Braddock, is a key component of the US Army Corps of Engineers' [Lower Monongahela River Project](#) which is being built to keep river transport reliable and economical through the lower part of the Mon River.

As part of their annual Engineer Week activities, the Pittsburgh Section of ASCE recognizes an exemplary civil engineering project with their Civil Engineering Achievement Award. This prestigious award honors the project that best illustrates superior civil engineering skills and represents a significant contribution to society and civil engineering progress. Criteria include resourcefulness in planning and solution of design problems, pioneering in the use of materials and methods, innovations in construction, considerations of impact on environment as well as unusual aspects and aesthetic values. Past award winners include the Pittsburgh International Airport, the new Allegheny County Jail and the Smithfield Street Bridge Rehabilitation Project.

The new Braddock Dam was completed using in-the-wet construction techniques to achieve cost and time savings and improve quality. This is the first use of this innovative technology by the US Army Corps of Engineers. It exemplifies the highest level of dedication, innovation and leadership to maintain schedule, control quality and to overcome design challenges never undertaken for civil design and construction of a navigation dam.

The unique feature of the Braddock Dam contract was the fabrication, assembly and delivery of two large floating concrete segments that form the base of the new dam. These float-in segments were built at Leetsdale and delivered to the project site by way of the inland navigation system utilizing commercial towboats. The segments were transported to a location upstream of the project site for further outfitting before being floated back to the dam site and into position for set-down onto a previously completed foundation system of drilled shafts. Dedication of the Braddock Dam in May 2004 was a major milestone in the Lower Mon Project's "two-for-three" replacement plan. In addition to replacing the nearly 100 year-old fixed-crest dam at Locks and Dam 2 in Braddock with the new gated Braddock Dam, the project will remove Locks and Dam 3 in Elizabeth and construct two new larger locks (Charleroi Locks) at Locks and Dam 4 in Charleroi.

The significance of this engineering and construction achievement has been recognized in many engineering periodicals, including *Civil Engineering* magazine. *Engineering News Record* named Braddock Dam one of the top 25 newsmakers of the year in 2002 and it was a finalist for the 2004 National ASCE Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award. Additionally, *Popular Science* magazine featured the Braddock Dam in the engineering category of their 2004 "Best of What's New" edition and the History Channel's *Modern Marvels* highlighted the Braddock Dam construction in its documentary on the history of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The award will be presented later this month at the National Engineer's Week Banquet being held at The Club at Nevillewood in Nevillewood, Pennsylvania.