



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Pittsburgh District

News Release

Public Affairs Office
1000 Liberty Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release No. 05-221
August 9, 2005

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Charleroi Site Dedication and Locks Groundbreaking

CHARLEROI, PENNSYLVANIA – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District will host a Dedication and Groundbreaking Ceremony on Tuesday, August 9, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. The combined event recognizes the completion of the Charleroi Site Development Contract with a Dedication Ceremony and the initiation of the Charleroi River Wall Contract with a Groundbreaking Ceremony and marks the Lower Mon Project's shift in focus from the completion of the new Braddock Dam to the modernization of the Charleroi Locks (Locks and Dam 4). The ceremony will take place on the new bridge located just off PA State Route 906 in Charleroi, Pa.

"These locks and dams are the region's industrial lifeline, so with every federal dollar we spend here, we're investing in Southwestern Pennsylvania's economic well-being," said Congressman John Murtha, main speaker at the event. "Modernization of the Mon River navigation system has been one of my top priorities for years, and we'll keep working through the severe budget restraints in Washington to make sure these vital projects continue to move forward."

Locks and Dams (L/D) 2, 3 and 4 are located within 50 miles of the "Point" in Pittsburgh. The authorized Lower Mon Project is a two-for-three improvement that has already replaced the 100-year old fixed-crest dam at L/D 2 with a gated dam (Braddock Dam) and will replace the 70-year old, undersized Locks 4 with new twin 84' x 720' lock chambers. The 100-year old L/D 3 will be removed and a new navigation pool will be established that will be 5' higher between Braddock and Elizabeth and 3.2' lower between Elizabeth and Charleroi. The project will adjust all municipally owned facilities adversely affected by these river level changes and dredge existing Pool 3. In addition, the Port Perry Railroad Bridge crossing at river mile 11.7 will be adjusted to accommodate the higher pool level under a cost sharing contract with Norfolk Southern Railroad.

The recently completed Charleroi Site Development Contract was the first of several contracts to provide new facilities for the Charleroi Locks and Dam. The contract was awarded to Sterling Contracting, LLC in September 2002 to construct a new service building, operations building, access road, parking lot, concrete mechanically stabilized walls, concrete retaining wall, pre-cast concrete box beam girder bridge, site drainage, storm sewer system, sanitary sewer system with lift station, and gas, water and electrical distribution systems, and gas and water main relocations.

The on-going River Chamber Demolition Contract was awarded to Choi Enterprises in September 2003 to prepare the existing river chamber for construction of the new river chamber. Activities already completed in this contract include construction of upstream pivot and protection cells, downstream diversion dike and stabilizing cell, fabrication and installation of stabilizing struts, and installation of an instrumentation system. Currently, the contractor is working on the removal of miter gates, floor struts, chamber floor and concrete sills.

The River Wall Contract was awarded to Trumball/Brayman, Joint-Venture, in September 2004 to construct the new river wall. Notice to Proceed was issued on May 2, 2005 and the Groundbreaking Ceremony will mark the start of construction of the new Charleroi Locks.

Prior to the Dedication Ceremony, at 1:30 p.m., a tour of the completed new operations and services buildings along with the on-going lock construction activities is available.

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