



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Pittsburgh District

# News Release

Public Affairs Office  
1000 Liberty Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Release No. 08-036  
February 5, 2008

Contact: Karen L. Auer, 412-395-7106

[Karen.L.Auer@usace.army.mil](mailto:Karen.L.Auer@usace.army.mil)

## **Pittsburgh Projects in President's '09 Budget**

PITTSBURGH – The Fiscal Year 2009 (FY09) budget transmitted to Congress on February 4 includes \$4.741 billion in new federal funding for the Civil Works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The budget contains over \$158 million in construction, operations and maintenance funding for projects and programs in the Corps' Pittsburgh District.

Over \$81 million are included for operations and maintenance of Pittsburgh District projects that provide inland navigation, flood damage reduction, recreation, water supply and environmental stewardship in the Upper Ohio River basin areas of western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, northern West Virginia, southern New York and western Maryland. Proposed funding will be distributed among 23 navigation locks and dams on the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers; 16 multi-purpose reservoirs; three federally maintained local flood damage reduction projects in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania and Elkins, West Virginia and an inspection program for 40 non-federally maintained local flood damage reduction projects in Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia and Ohio.

Over \$66 million are budgeted for two Pittsburgh District construction projects – the Lower Monongahela River Navigation Project and the Emsworth Dams Major Rehabilitation Project. Additionally \$1.65 million has been provided for the fiscal completion of Grays Landing Locks and Dam, Point Marion Locks and Dam and Stonewall Jackson Lake. With the exception of Stonewall, half of the funds for these projects come from the Inland Waterway Trust Fund, which was created in 1978 to share the cost of the construction and major rehabilitation for specified federal inland waterways projects.

The Lower Mon project is proposed to receive \$40.8 million in FY09. The proposed funding will sustain work on replacement of the first of two navigation locks at Charleroi, Pennsylvania, and also cover costs associated with utility relocations and a railroad bridge crossing over the Monongahela River just upstream of Braddock Locks and Dam.

Rehabilitation of the Emsworth Dams, the first major navigation structure on the Ohio River below The Point at Pittsburgh, is slated to receive \$25.8 million. The proposed funding will sustain construction to replace the failed and failing dam gates and failed erosion protection to ensure the structural integrity and operability of both Emsworth dams.

For FY09, the Administration proposes to collect lockage-based user fees for commercial barges on the inland waterways to address the declining balance in the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, and to phase out the existing diesel fuel tax for these waterways. Enacting the legislation will

– MORE –

provide the revenue needed to avoid depleting the trust fund by the end of calendar year 2008, and support ongoing and future inland waterways projects. The proposal would ensure that the commercial users of the Corps locks continue to cover their share of project costs, which is financed from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund. The amount of the user fee would be tied to the level of spending for inland waterways construction, replacement, expansion and rehabilitation work.

The FY09 President's budget provides \$2.3 million in funding for the Regulatory Program in the Pittsburgh District and \$4 million in Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program funding for the Shallow Land Disposal Area project in Parks Township, Pa. However, a critical planning study to consider and evaluate the feasibility of navigation improvements and ecosystem restoration opportunities on the upper Ohio River – the Upper Ohio River Navigation System Study – is not included in the budget.

Mr. John Paul Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, said, "This year's civil works budget provides critical funding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to continue to contribute to the nation's economic and environmental well being."

"The budget funds the planning, design and construction of projects for the three main water resources mission areas of the Corps, which are commercial navigation, flood and coastal storm damage reduction, and aquatic ecosystem restoration, and gives priority to those projects that will provide a high returns on the nation's investment, " Woodley continued.

The Army Civil Works program additionally contributes to the protection of the nation's waters and wetlands; the restoration of sites contaminated as a result of the nation's early atomic weapons development program; and emergency preparedness for natural disasters.

The mission of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the world's preeminent public engineering agency, is to provide quality, responsive engineering services to the Nation and its armed forces. The Corps plans, designs, builds and operates water resources projects; designs and manages military facilities construction for the Army and Air Force at home and abroad; provides design and construction management support for other Defense and federal agencies; cleans hazardous areas across the Nation through the Formerly Used Defense Sites program and the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program; and conducts state of the art engineering research and design at its Engineer Research and Development Center.

The FY09 Army Civil Works budget information, including a state-by-state breakdown, is available at [www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwb/budget/budget.pdf](http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwb/budget/budget.pdf).