



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 14, 2011
Release No. NR11-045
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Corps to reduce services at Allegheny River locks

WHO: US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh

WHAT: Corps officials will be available to discuss significant service reductions planned for the Allegheny River navigation system.

WHEN: Tuesday, February 15 at 2 p.m.

WHERE: Allegheny Lock and Dam #2, 7451 Lockway West, Pittsburgh, PA 15206 (see attached directions)

WHY: The President's Fiscal Year 12 budget focuses on directing funds to programs that provide the highest return on investment. To accomplish this, federal agencies were required to identify low-priority programs for elimination or reduction by 50 percent. For its navigation program, the Corps of Engineers identified low commercial use projects. Nationally, the President's FY12 budget provides \$76 million for the Corps' low use navigation projects compared to FY11's \$140 million. Locally, the Pittsburgh District's Allegheny River system received \$4 million in the FY12 budget compared to more than \$8 million in FY11. This funding is \$1.9 million less than what we need to maintain the current level of service; it requires the elimination of significant lock maintenance of the system. This reduction in funding will greatly impact the service we can provide to Allegheny River users, especially recreational boaters. Though commercial vessels will have access to all locks, recreational boaters may see elimination or significant reduction in services at Allegheny River locks in FY12.

ACTIONS: The Corps is holding two public meetings to inform the public about the proposed Allegheny River service reduction plan and to gather public comments and perspective that will help shape that plan and the future of the Allegheny River system.

6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 22, O'Hara Elementary School, 115 Cabin Lane, Pittsburgh, PA

7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 24, West Kittanning Fire Department, 401 Arthur Street, Kittanning, PA

For media inquiries, contact the Public Affairs Office at 412-395-7500 or email: celrp-pa@usace.army.mil.