



# NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## **Corps to conduct East Branch Dam Safety Initiative Public Meeting, begins geotechnical drilling**

**WHO:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District

**WHAT:** The Corps of Engineers is conducting a public meeting to discuss the progress and activities of its East Branch Dam Safety Initiative. The goal is to provide an update on the progress that has been made since the last public meeting in May 2010 and provide information on the proposed way ahead.

As part of the progress, exploratory drilling resumed this week as part of the East Branch Dam Safety Initiative. The samples from drill holes will be used to test bedrock and the embankment material to refine the proposed risk reduction plan. There will be drill rigs on site as the Corps continues these investigations which will be completed this summer.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 27, 7 p.m.

**WHERE:** Johnsonburg High School Auditorium, 315 High School Road, Johnsonburg, PA 15845

**WHY:** In 2008, the Pittsburgh District initiated a dam safety investigation into seepage-related concerns at East Branch Clarion River Lake near Johnsonburg in Western Pennsylvania. The Corps has confirmed potentially unsafe issues that require further study. Subsequently, the Corps has been investigating alternatives to repair it. Public safety is the number one priority of the Corps' Dam Safety Program. To reduce the risk to the public, Pittsburgh District implemented several interim risk reduction measures, including increased monitoring; 24/7 staffing; updated emergency action plans; and reduced water levels in the reservoir to relieve pressure on the dam. These and other short-term actions allow us to operate the dam and to meet our public safety objective while we further investigate our concerns and pursue long-term repairs. As we take steps to reduce risk to the public, we recognize that recreation, water supply, hydropower and the environment may be impacted.

For more information, visit: [www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/eastbran.htm](http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/rec/lakes/eastbran.htm)

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