



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Pittsburgh District
Public Affairs Office
1000 Liberty Avenue
22nd Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186

BUILDING STRONG®

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 23, 2011
Release No. NR11-235
Contact: Jeff Hawk
Phone 412-395-7500/01/02
Fax: 412-395-7503
Cell: 412-526-5435
CELRP-PA@usace.army.mil

Corps has completed visual inspections of navigation and reservoir facilities for possible earthquake impacts

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, has completed visual inspections at its navigation and reservoir facilities to assess the possible impacts of a 5.9-magnitude earthquake that hit Fredericksburg, Va. around 2 pm.

The Corps operates and maintains 23 locks and dams on the Ohio, Allegheny and Monongahela rivers and 16 multi-purpose reservoirs in the upper Ohio River Basin.

Reservoir and lock operators performed visual inspections to look for cracks in concrete or other signs of distress. Technical experts may conduct more detailed inspections as necessary.

As of this release, no damage has been reported.

"All of our projects have been checked in and we have found no impacts resulting from the earthquake at this time," said Jim Fisher, the Corps' operations chief.

Vibrations were reported by Corps personnel as far west as Alliance, Ohio, at Berlin Lake and as far north as Kinzua Dam and Allegheny Reservoir near Warren, Pa.

The district policy states that an immediate inspection must be conducted if earthquake movement at or near the dam site is strong enough to be noticed by a person at rest.

"If we feel it, we inspect," said Col. William Graham, the Corps' district engineer in Pittsburgh.

Specifically, the district must inspect facilities if the Richter Magnitude is 5.0 or greater and the epicenter is within a 30-mile radius. The nearest Corps project to the epicenter is the Youghiogheny River Lake, which extends from Confluence, Pa. to Friendsville, Md. The lake is about 190 miles away from the epicenter.

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

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – PITTSBURGH DISTRICT
1000 LIBERTY AVENUE, 22ND FLOOR, PITTSBURGH, PA 15222
WWW.LRP.USACE.ARMY.MIL