



Mahoning River Environmental Dredging

BUILDING STRONG®

LOCATION and DESCRIPTION

The ecosystem of the Mahoning River has been adversely affected by contaminated river sediments, which are a legacy of the heavy industrial development in the Mahoning Valley throughout most of the 20th Century. The Mahoning River Environmental Dredging project will restore the aquatic ecosystem in the Mahoning River over a distance of approximately 34 stream miles, from the Pennsylvania – Ohio state line at river mile 11.8 to the Leavittsburg Lovers Lane Dam at river mile 45.3.

The first phase of the project, a reconnaissance study, was completed in May 1999. The reconnaissance study identified a federal interest (benefits outweigh the cost) to remove and remediate approximately 750,000 cubic yards of contaminated in-river and riverbank materials at an estimated cost of over \$100 million.

An Alternative Formulation Briefing Package was submitted in November 2005, which resulted in a Policy Guidance Memorandum that surfaced several key issues to include: low-head dam removal; Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. 9601 (CERCLA) compliance; and Potential Responsible party issues. According to a draft feasibility report submitted in April 2006, these issues remain unresolved. Therefore, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that while the project appears to be technically feasible, it cannot be implemented in a way that complies with Corps policy for Section 312(b) Projects.

PROJECT COST

FY11 PRESIDENT'S BUDGET: \$0
FY11 EFFICIENCY: \$0

CURRENT STATUS

A specific project authorization, that includes dam and sediment removal up to the ordinary high water mark, is required for the Corps to implement the plan recommended in the draft feasibility report. Until such time when this authorization occurs, the Corps has stopped all work on the feasibility study, and on the project.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Dave Heidish, Project Manager
(412) 395-7276