

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Little Chartiers Creek Emergency Streambank Protection Project
Washington County, Pennsylvania
Section 14, Flood Control Act of 1946

The US Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District (USACE), is proposing to cost-share a streambank protection project with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Transportation (Non-Federal Sponsor). Section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946, as amended, authorizes USACE to design and execute emergency streambank erosion protection projects with a local sponsor through a cost-sharing agreement.

Design and construction of a streambank protection project will protect Linden Creek Road (SR1023), along Little Chartiers Creek. The proposed project includes stabilization of an alluvial bank using an H-pile and lagging panel wall, in addition to placement of a stone berm. Streambank erosion that has been occurring in the project area for a number of years, if unchecked, poses a structural threat to Linden Creek Road. Erosion could cause a portion of the road to collapse, introducing risk to human safety, causing traffic to be diverted and negative environmental impacts to Little Chartiers Creek, while Linden Creek Road is repaired.

In January 2017, USACE finalized a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA), satisfying National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance associated with the implementation of its Section 14 Regional Emergency Streambank Program. Under the PEA, where a proposed project, such as this one, conforms to the PEA's standard project criteria, USACE will develop a project specific Finding of No Significant Impact. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory Search was performed, which returned results concluding that the proposed project would have no known impacts to threatened or endangered species, and/or special concern species and resources within the project area. Pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the PA Fish and Boat Commission were contacted and no comments were received. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the State Historic Preservation Office was contacted, resulting in the conclusion that the proposed activity will have no effect on archaeological or historic resources. A limited Phase I Environmental Site Assessment did not identify any Recognized Environmental Conditions.

A project-specific alternatives analysis also included consideration of a "No Action" alternative, an alternative utilizing stone slope protection, and an alternative utilizing sheet pile wall with a stone berm. "No Action" is unacceptable, as it would not fulfill the intent of the Section 14 program to protect public infrastructure from the eroding and failing streambank. The stone slope protection and sheet pile wall with stone berm alternatives were eliminated because they achieved the same objective as the proposed alternative, but at higher costs.

I have determined that the design and construction of the Little Chartiers Creek emergency streambank protection project will not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, as defined in the Council on Environmental Quality's current regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act. The project conforms to the standard project criteria contained within the Section 14 Programmatic Environmental Assessment. The preparation of an environmental impact statement is therefore unwarranted. This determination precedes the Corps of Engineer's final decision concerning this proposed action. This Finding of No Significant Impact will be placed on the District's website (<http://www.lrp.usace.army.mil>), and the Detailed Project Report, containing the Environmental Assessment, may be obtained by contacting Mr. Tom Maier (thomas.j.maier@usace.army.mil; 412-395-7219).

Date _____

John P. Lloyd
Colonel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
District Engineer