

**LOCKS AND DAMS 2, 3, AND 4**

**MONONGAHELA RIVER PROJECT**

**RELOCATION OF PUBLICLY OWNED FACILITIES  
DESIGN MEMORANDUM NO. 3**

**ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

COVER SHEET

July 1996

**LEAD AGENCY**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District

**TITLE**

Locks and Dams 2, 3, and 4, Monongahela River Project Relocation of Publicly Owned Facilities, Environmental Assessment; Additional Documentation to the Lower Monongahela River Feasibility Study Final Environmental Impact Statement

**CONTACT**

Additional copies of this information may be obtained by submitting a written request to: Chief of the Environmental Studies Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, 1000 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222-4186.

**ABSTRACT**

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, has prepared this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate environmental, economic and social impacts which may be associated with the relocation of the public facilities along the Monongahela River and its tributaries from Braddock, Pennsylvania to Charleroi, Pennsylvania.

The relocation activities are a project component of the authorized navigation improvement project for the Lower Monongahela River. The project will create a new pool level between Braddock and Charleroi, Pennsylvania. The new pool will impact a number of public and private shoreside and interconnected landward facilities. The adjustment or relocation of the public facilities affected by the new pool has been authorized by Congress as a Federal project cost. Adjustment of the private facilities is the responsibility of the respective owners.

Following the issuance of the Draft FONSI and EA to the public in September 1994, the following updates have occurred: two relocations were added (MOOL and TO1C) and two were deleted (MO2L and TO1R). Also, the Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) results were received and applicable information has since been incorporated into this FONSI and EA. Although updates have occurred, the overall description of the proposed federal action remains the same. These updates have been identified in the document, and the resulting impacts have been assessed.

## AVAILABILITY

The FONSI and EA are available for public inspection in the following public reading rooms: Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Free Library of McKeesport, Clairton Public Library, Donora Public Library, John K. Tener Library (Charleroi), Monessen Public Library, and the Samuel A. Weiss Community Library (Glassport).

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers encourages public participation in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. Accordingly, the public was invited to provide written or oral comments to the District by the close of the scoping period on October 1994. In the preparation of the FONSI, the District considered both oral and written comments.

All changes in this document, including typographical errors, making grammatical improvements and further clarifying information from the Draft FONSI and EA are indicated with bold print type. The following offers a brief summary of the changes. A new section entitled, Commenting Letters on Draft FONSI and Environmental Assessment, has been added to Section 8. Exhibit 2, Section b. has been updated for clarification purposes. Exhibit 4 has been updated to provide a summary of the Phase 2 ESA. Exhibit 5 has been updated to reflect the proposed relocations current relationship to environmental protection statues and other environmental requirements. Exhibit 7 has been updated to include letters received from PADEP for proposed sewer adjustments. Also, various sections within the text of the FONSI and EA have been updated. The updates are reflected by bold type.

**LOCKS AND DAMS 2, 3, AND 4  
MONONGAHELA RIVER PROJECT**

**RELOCATION OF PUBLICLY OWNED FACILITIES  
DESIGN MEMORANDUM NO. 3**

**FINAL  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
JULY 1996**

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION TO THE  
LOWER MONONGAHELA RIVER  
FEASIBILITY STUDY  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
DECEMBER 1991**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

LOCKS AND DAMS 2, 3, AND 4

MONONGAHELA RIVER PROJECT

RELOCATION OF PUBLICLY-OWNED FACILITIES

1. The Pittsburgh District completed the Lower Monongahela River Navigation System Feasibility Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) in December 1991 recommending a two for three plan for navigation improvement. This plan includes elimination of Locks and Dam 3 near Elizabeth PA; replacement of the fixed crest dam with a gated dam at Locks and Dam 2 near Braddock, PA; and replacement of the existing locks at Locks and Dam 4 near Charleroi, PA with larger twin 84-foot x 720-foot locks. This project will create a new longer Pool 2 (to be known in the future as the Braddock Pool) comprising existing pools 2 and 3, with a normal pool elevation of 723.7. The net effect is that the existing navigation pool between Locks and Dam 2 and Locks and Dam 3, comprising 12.6 river miles, will be raised 5 feet and the existing pool between Locks and Dam 3 and Locks and Dam 4, comprising 17.6 river miles, will be lowered 3.2 feet. This plan was approved by Congress and authorized in the Water Resource Development Act of 1992.

The new pool elevation within existing pools 2 and 3 will impact numerous shoreside facilities by changing the degree of inundation. Facilities affected in existing Pool 2 will experience a greater degree of inundation, including total inundation at the normal pool level. Those facilities affected in existing pool 3 will be inundated to a lesser degree. In either case, facilities will be adversely affected that require adjustments to maintain similar functionality within the new pool. As most adjustments would primarily consist of raising or lowering to accommodate the new pool level, the term "relocation" is used to generally describe the necessary work.

2. In light of the possible economic hardship that could be imposed on the riverside communities if they were required to fund the necessary relocations, the authorized project as presented in the Feasibility Report and FEIS included a special provision. This authority gave the Chief of Engineers power to make compensation for adjustments to facilities owned by an agency of government and used in performance of a government function provided that they are located riverward of existing Ordinary High Water (OHW) on a navigable waterway and adversely impacted by the navigation project. This authority is granted by Section 111 of Public Law 85-500 (72 Stat. 303, as amended by Section 309, 79 Stat. 1094 (33 U. S. C. 633)). Thirty publicly

FONSI-I

owned facilities on the Monongahela and Youghiogheny rivers were identified in the Feasibility Report and FEIS, primarily by field investigation and correspondence with the affected owners. Seven other facilities were identified on Turtle Creek, a non-navigable tributary to the Monongahela River, outside the Federal permit jurisdiction which would also be eligible for relocation at Federal expense. As a result of additional information and more detailed design during preparation of the Relocations DM, however, the 37 facilities described in the Feasibility Report and FEIS that qualify for Federal funding have now increased to 65. These facilities can be categorized into four groups: sanitary and storm sewers, parks, boat launching ramps, and utility lines.

3. Sixty of the facilities to be relocated qualify under the Corps of Engineers' Nationwide Permit (NWP) program. NWPs are a type of general permit designed to regulate certain activities that have minimal adverse impacts and generally comply with all environmental laws. Environmental assessments for the NWPs were prepared and coordinated with all appropriate Federal, state and local agencies, other organizations, and the public in conjunction with their processing and approval.

4. The Pittsburgh District has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Section 404 (b)(1) Evaluation to evaluate the impacts associated with the five remaining relocation activities not covered under by a NWP, in addition to, the two relocations not requiring a permit. The two relocations not requiring a permit involve liners which will not result in any terrestrial or water quality impacts. The EA addressed impacts to water quality; terrestrial and aquatic habitat; fish and wildlife resources; wetlands; floodplains; endangered and threatened species; cultural resources; prime farmland; air quality; scenic rivers; socio-economic resources; and hazardous, toxic and radioactive wastes (ESA). It also addressed certain aspects of the relocations activities covered by the NWPs, specifically: wetlands; endangered and threatened species; cultural resources; and ESA.

5. The water quality of the Monongahela and Youghiogheny rivers and Turtle Creek has improved significantly over the past 10 to 20 years. The proposed relocations will not result in significant impact to the water quality of these streams. However, some minor localized and short-term impacts may occur during construction. There will be no significant impacts to riparian wetlands and there are no known wetlands that might be affected landward of OHW. There will be no significant impacts to the fish and wildlife resources of the project area, floodplains, endangered and threatened species, air quality, scenic rivers, or socio-economic resources.

6. Cultural resource investigations are proceeding as specified under a Programmatic Agreement between the District, the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The District has prepared a draft eligibility and effect determination for the relocations. This includes determination of potential eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places of the actual facilities being relocated. Additional studies are underway to determine the cultural resource potential of areas surrounding these facilities, access routes and work areas to be impacted by relocation work. If a determination of adverse effect shows that mitigation measures are required for any impact on cultural resources, the mitigation(s) will be coordinated in accordance with the Programmatic Agreement.

7. In conjunction with the Feasibility report and FEIS, the District conducted Phase 1 and Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessments (ESA). The Phase 1 ESA determined that 30 of the relocation sites, had a potential to contain chemical contamination. Based upon the findings of the Phase 1, a Phase 2 investigation was conducted through contract services under the direction of the Corps' Nashville District (ORN), the center of expertise within the Ohio River Division regarding Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Wastes.

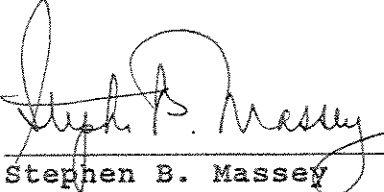
The Phase 2 ESA revealed that nine (9) of the thirty (30) facilities had soil contaminant concentrations which could pose an occupation risk from long term exposure. No contaminants were found which would qualify any of the sites for inclusion on the National Priority List (NPL). In February 1996, the Pittsburgh District presented the Phase 2 ESA findings to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and guidance was requested for the proper excavation and handling of these contaminated soils. The PADEP determined that these soils constituted existing conditions and that the excavation activities associated with the relocations would result in no net change to public health or the environment over the existing conditions. Further, the excavated material could and should be placed back into the excavations as backfill and would require no further testing other than that which was presented in the Phase 2 investigation. In June 1996, the District received a letter, from DEP, which confirmed the determinations as discussed during the February 1996 meeting. A copy of this letter is included in Exhibit 4 of the EA.

Further, the District will comply with OSHA and NIOSH standards to provide for worker health and safety during the excavations. If visibly contaminated groundwater, other seepage or barrels are encountered during a relocation activity, the District will stop work and immediately notify DEP.

8. The proposed relocation of facilities at Federal expense under the Authority of Section 111 for the authorized Lower Monongahela River Navigation Improvement Project has been evaluated in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and all other appropriate environmental laws and statutes, including Section 22 of Public Law 91-611. All aspects of the proposed relocations have been examined, including potential impacts on: water quality; terrestrial and aquatic habitat; fish and wildlife resources; wetlands; floodplains; endangered and threatened species; cultural resources; prime farmland: air quality; scenic rivers; socio-economic resources; and ESA. Letters will be furnished to all appropriate Federal and state agencies, local governmental entities, other organizations, the facility owners, to notify them that a FONSI has been signed and that the EA has become final. Copies of the EA will be submitted upon request. The draft EA/FONSI and Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation, had been previously furnished to all appropriate Federal and state agencies, local governmental entities, other organizations, the facility owners, and the interested public for review and comment. All comments received on the draft EA/FONSI and Section 404 (b)(1) have been addressed in this EA (See Coordination and Public Involvement Section.)

9. Therefore, after having carefully evaluated and balanced all beneficial and detrimental aspects relating to implementing the proposed relocations described in the EA (and further described in greater detail in the Relocations DM), I have determined that the public interest will be served by implementation of the proposed relocations at Federal expense. Moreover, I have determined that this major Federal action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and the preparation of a supplemental environmental impact statement is not warranted.

18 July 1996  
Date

  
Stephen B. Massey  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

FONSI-IV