London Locks and Dam

Kanawha River, WV

Project Features

• Authorization: River and Harbors Acts of 1930 and 1935.

• Primary project purposes are navigation and recreation.

• The project was placed in operation in September 1933.

• The project has a non-navigable gated dam, 557 ft. long with five roller gates, spanning 100 ft. between piers, one 56 x 400 ft. lock chamber and a 56 x 360 ft. lock chamber with miter gates.

• American Electric Power (AEP) operates a hydroelectric plant that has two turbines with total capacity of 14,400 kilowatts.

• Lock is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

• The project has two recreation areas.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

• Failure to maintain the project could result in a halt in the movement of commercial navigation. That stoppage would result in loss of rate savings to the shippers and delayed orders for essential commodities including fuel for power plants and raw materials for major industries. In addition to the loss of the navigation purpose, pool loss could jeopardize water supply for municipal and industrial users, loss of electrical energy produced by hydropower plants at the dams, and loss of habitat for aquatic species. Such a pool loss could affect both recreation users and water quality should there be a prolonged loss.

Regional Importance

• The project averages 429 visitors annually, contributing $12 thousand to the local economy.

• In calendar year 2015, the volume of cargo transported exceeded 1.1 million tons, valued at over $70.4 million.

• The minimum fill time for each lock is approximately 4 minutes.

• It takes approximately 45 minutes for a commercial tugboat with a 9 barge tow and approximately 30 minutes for a pleasure craft to lock through.

• The most common cargo locking though are coal, petroleum products, gravel, rock, cement, scrap metal and chemicals.

Additional Information

- 2015 tonnage (in thousands) : 1,128
- National Rank: 131
- Current Miter Gate In Service Date:
  Main: 1994 Auxiliary: 1994
- Projected Year Lock Miter Gates Reach "F" Condition:

Main: 2072
Auxiliary: 2110

- Projected Miter Gate Replacement:

Main: 2075
Auxiliary: 2110

- Fee Lands: 14 acres
- Flowage Easement Lands: 189 acres
- Project Boundary Line Marked: 1.2 miles

Congressional Interests

Senator Joe Manchin III D-WV
Senator Shelley Moore Capito R-WV
Congressman Alex Mooney R-WV-02