Charles Mill Lake

Muskingum River, OH

Project Features

• Authorization: Section 4 of the Flood Control Act of 1938, as amended by Section 4 of the Flood Control Act of 1939.
• One of the original system of 14 reservoir projects constructed in 1938 in cooperation with the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District.
• Project purposes served are flood damage reduction, recreation and fish and wildlife.
• The dam was completed in August 1936 and serves a drainage area of 215 square miles.
• The dam is a rolled earth-fill with an impervious core, 48 ft. tall and 1,390 ft. long.
• The spillway consists of two uncontrolled concrete overflow sections at the right abutment. The primary spillway has five gated sluices that discharge into a stilling basin. The secondary spillway discharges between the primary spillway and right abutment of the dam.
• Minimum pool is maintained by a control weir with stop gates in front of the sluices and one gated bypass conduit around the control weir.
• Corps of Engineers facilities include a day use area.

Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

• Failure to adequately fund the flood damage reduction mission at this facility would result in the project's inability to adequately execute the flood damage reduction mission as authorized by congress. The consequences could range in severity depending upon the condition of the project, but would ultimately lead to a failure of the structure and a subsequent life safety concern for those in the affected downstream areas.

• Closure of recreational facilities will result in degradation of facilities, negative public reaction and potential Congressional inquiries.

Regional Importance

• The project averages 1.1 million visitors annually, contributing $333 million to the local economy, supporting 371 jobs. This represents a sizable component of the economy in the local community.

• The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District makes a direct contribution to the region's economy by employing 85 people year round, and typically more than 300 people to meet summer season needs.

• As a system, the Corps dams in the Muskingum area prevented over $56 million in flood damages in FY 2016 with an accumulative total of $4.9 billion damages prevented since the construction of each project in the system.

• Natural and recreational resources at this project provide social, economic and environmental benefits. Project personnel conducted 3 recreational programs in FY16 that help strengthen family ties and friendships; provide opportunities for children to develop personal skills, social values, and self esteem; and increase water safety.

Additional Information

- Fee Lands: 111 acres
- Flowage Easement Lands: 8,320 acres
- Project Boundary Line Marked: 4 miles

Congressional Interests

Senator Sherrod Brown, D-OH
Senator Robert Portman, R-OH
Congressman Bob Gibbs, R-OH-07