Allegheny 4 Lock and Dam

Allegheny River, PA

Project Features

• Authorization: River and Harbors Acts of 1912.

• Allegheny 4 Lock and Dam was built in 1920-1927 and began operations in September 1927.

• Primary project purpose is navigation.

• The project has a non-navigable, 876 foot long fixed crest and a single 360ft x 56ft lock chamber which provides an 11 foot vertical lift.

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

Regional Importance

• In calendar year 2015, the volume of cargo transported exceeded 164 thousand tons, valued at over $107 million.

• In 2016, there were 295 commercial vessels and 1,477 recreation vessels locked through Lock and Dam 4 on the Allegheny River.

• Cargo consists of coal, petroleum, chemicals, crude materials, manufactured goods, farm products, manufactured machinery, and other commodities.

• The principal commodity at Lock 4 crude materials such as stone, sand, gravel, and cement.

• Construction and supply companies use this facility to move raw materials throughout the region.

• The transportation savings associated with this facility is approximately $3 million a year.

• Singles up and down lock time is approximately 25 minutes up and down.

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 and could lead to the loss of habitat for aquatic species. Such a pool loss could affect both recreation users and water quality should there be a prolonged loss.

Additional Information

- 2015 lock tonnage (in thousands) 164
- National Rank: 152
- Current Miter Gate In Service Date: 1996
- Projected Year Lock Miter Gates Reach "F" Condition: 2052
- Projected Miter Gate Replacement: Downstream: 2059 Upstream: 2059
- Fee Lands: 10.5 acres
- Flowage Easement Lands: 5.3 acres

Congressional Interests

Senator Bob Casey Jr., D-PA
Senator Pat Toomey, R-PA
Representative Keith Rothfus, R-PA-12
Representative Michael Doyle Jr., D-PA-14