Charleroi Locks and Dam, LD 4

Belle Vernon, PA

Project Features

• Authorization: Rivers and Harbors Act dated 3 March 1909. Authorized for reconstruction at present site under the Rivers and Harbors Act dated 3 July 1930.

• Charleroi Locks and Dam was built from 1931-1932 and rehabilitation was completed in 1967. This work involved reconstruction of the dam, which converted it from a fixed crest to a gated dam and raised the pool level 6 feet. Coupled with the construction of the Maxwell Locks and Dam project, the pool raise eliminated the need for old Lock and Dam 5 at Brownsville.

• The dam is comprised of an uncontrolled spillway fixed weir, 43 ft long, and a controlled spillway comprised of five gated sections each 84 ft long.

• A channel depth of 9 ft. and width of 300 is required for navigation. Maintenance channel dredging is performed annually.

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.

Regional Importance

• Annually there are 12.8M tons of cargo and over 4,600 commercial vessels and 1,000 recreational vessels locked through the project. Cargo consists mainly of coal but other commodities include petroleum, iron/steel, grains, manufactured goods, farm products, chemicals, ores/minerals, and other commodities.

• Electric utilities move coal from mines in Pennsylvania and Ohio to power plants serving the mid-Atlantic, Southeastern and Midwestern regions of the country. Steel companies move coal from West Virginia and Kentucky moves to coking facilities above Charleroi Locks and Dam. Construction companies move stone, sand and gravel, and cement into the region through Locks and Dam 3. These and other shippers that rely on Charleroi Locks and Dam realized an average annual transportation cost savings in excess of $84.7M.

Additional Information

- 2015 lock tonnage (in thousands) 6,967
- National Rank: 85
- Current Miter Gate In Service Date: 2005
- Projected Year Lock Miter Gates Reach "F" Condition: 2059
- Projected Miter Gate Replacement: Downstream: 2061 Upstream: 2061
- Fee Lands: 1.06 acres
- Flowage Easement Lands: 59.76 acres

Congressional Interests

Senator Bob Casey Jr., D-PA
Senator Pat Toomey, R-PA
Representative Tim Murphy, R-PA-18
Representative Bill Shuster, R-PA-9