Maxwell Locks and Dam

East Millsboro, PA

Project Features

• Authorization: Rivers and Harbors Act dated 3 March 1909.

• Maxwell Locks and Dam was built from 1960-65 on the Monongahela. It is comprised of a 460 ft gated dam, an 84 ft X 720 ft land side lock, and an 84 ft X 720 ft river side lock which provides for a 19.5 ft vertical lift. The dam has an overall length of 460 ft. The spillway is comprised of 5 gated sections, each 84 ft in length,

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

Regional Importance

• Annually there are 12.6M tons of cargo and over 3,800 commercial vessels and 1,800 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 Maxwell Locks and Dam. Construction companies move stone, sand and gravel, and cement into the region through Maxwell. These and other shippers that rely on Maxwell Locks and Dam realized an average annual transportation cost savings in excess of $79.4M.

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) 6,595
- National Rank: 90
- Current Miter Gate In Service Date: 1964
- Projected Year Lock Miter Gates Reach "F" Condition: 2023
- Projected Miter Gate Replacement: Downstream: 2031 Upstream: 2031
- Fee Lands: 47.77 acres
- Flowage Easement Lands: 98.05 acres

Congressional Interests

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