Opekiska Lock and Dam

Fairmont, WV

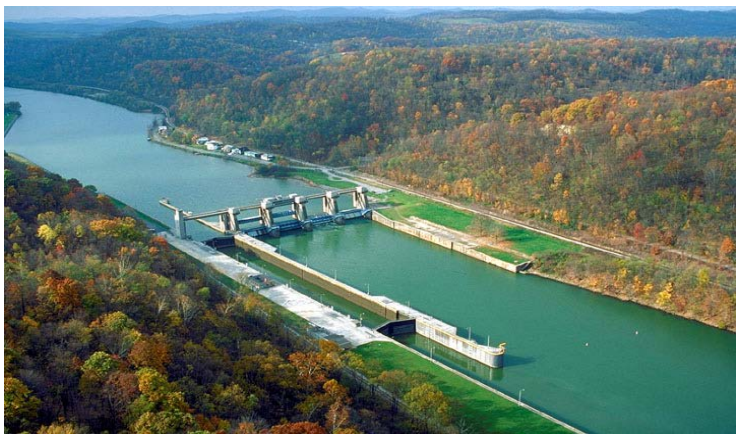
Project Features

• Authorization: Rivers and Harbors Act dated 17 May 1950.

• Opekiska Lock and Dam was built from 1961-1964 on the Monongahela River.

•The facility is comprised of a 366 ft gated dam comprised of 4 gated sections, each 84 ft in length. There is a 84 ft X 600 ft lock, both the dam and the lock provide a 22 ft vertical lift.

• 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 0.3M tons of cargo and over 125 commercial vessels and 550 recreational vessels locked through the project. Cargo consists of coal, petroleum, chemicals, crude materials, manufactured goods, manufactured machinery, 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 US. Steel companies move coal from West Virginia to coking facilities on the Monongahela River. The transportation savings associated with this facility averages $1.7M.

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) none
- National Rank: N/A
- Current Miter Gate In Service Date: 1964
- Projected Year Lock Miter Gates Reach "F" Condition: 2022
- Projected Miter Gate Replacement: Downstream: 2034 Upstream: 2034
- Fee Lands: 247.39 acres
- Flowage Easement Lands: 142.29 acres

Congressional Interests

Senator Joe Manchin, D-WV
Senator Shelley Moore Capito, R-WV
Representative David McKinley, R-WV-1