



**US Army Corps
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Philadelphia District

News Release

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— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —

Corps plans to begin construction of Prompton Dam Spillway Modification Project in April

PHILADELPHIA (Mar. 21, 2006) --- The Corps of Engineers has opened the bidding for the Prompton Dam Spillway Modification Project and plans to begin construction in April to increase the Dam's flood protection capabilities.

During construction, which is scheduled to be completed in December 2006, the Dam area will be closed to the public with a few exceptions:

Boat launch facility will be open throughout construction
Parking, picnicking, disc golf, and fishing at the Dam will be accessible only on the weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day

The existing dam, completed under the 1948 Flood Control Act as a single purpose flood control project, is located on the Lackawaxen River four miles above Honesdale, Pa., and 31 miles above its confluence with the Delaware River.

Subsequent to the construction of the Prompton Dam in 1960, the technical criteria for estimating Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) events were revised. The PMF is an estimated upper-limit flood event used for the safe design of a project. When the new criterion was applied to the Prompton Dam the dam was found to be hydrologically deficient. The current estimated PMF for the Prompton Dam has a peak inflow of 111,000 cfs (cubic feet per second), which is a significantly higher inflow than the 81,500 cfs that the dam was designed to safely pass.

In 2004 a Design Documentation Report provided the basis to proceed with the dam modification and in FY-05 funding was provided to prepare plans and specifications for the Prompton Dam modification. The total estimated cost for construction was approximately \$26 million, to be completed over a three year period.

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Funds in the amount of \$8.4 million were made available in FY-06 to advertise the work and begin construction; however, due to other funding priorities for FY '07, the planned construction activities for FY '07 were not funded. The modification plans were analyzed and a determination made that the work could be completed in different phases, without jeopardizing the integrity of our current flood control capabilities, and without requiring redundant work, when funding becomes available to construct the remaining work.

Phase I of the Prompton Dam Spillway Modification Project, beginning in April 2006, will entail:

- Widening the spillway from 50 feet to 85 feet
- Lowering the spillway depth by 5 feet
- Construction of a 5 foot high fuse plug in the spillway
- Placement of rip rap protection around the stilling basin and in the outlet channel
- Placement of material excavated from the spillway in the designated fill area to the west of the spillway
- Construction of diversion ditches.

For further information please see contact the Project Manager Austin Gerrard at 215.656.6737.