



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Philadelphia District

News Release

Release Number: **060703**
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— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —

Army Corps lifts emergency declaration for Blue Marsh; lake still closed to recreation through July 7

PHILADELPHIA (July 3, 2006): With the reservoir gradually drawing back down to pre-storm levels, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers today officially lifted the Emergency Declaration that has been in effect for its Blue Marsh Lake project since last Wednesday morning. The lake is located on the Tulpehocken Creek, a tributary of the Schuylkill River, about four miles northwest of Reading, Pa.

The current pool level behind the dam is approximately 298 feet, down from a high of 309. Relatively high outflows (5,000 cubic feet per second as of this morning) should continue a few more days until the reservoir reaches its normal summer pool of 290 feet.

Meanwhile, Blue Marsh Lake will remain closed to all recreation activities through at least July 7 to accommodate safety inspections, restore sewage pump stations, accomplish debris removal, and restore comfort stations.

The dam has been functioning as designed, including the three days last week when the lake reached its maximum elevation and water was running through the spillway—for the first time since the dam began operations in the late 1970s. Even under spillway flow conditions, the reservoir stored (and continues to store) significant volumes of water that would otherwise have made flooding much, much worse in Reading, Pottstown and other communities downstream.