



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Philadelphia District

News Release

Release Number: **060719**
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— FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE —

Army Corps projects within the Delaware River Basin prevented \$46 million in damages during June storm events

Philadelphia (July 19, 2006): The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers today announced that its flood damage reduction projects prevented about \$46 million in flood-related property damages that would otherwise have resulted from late June storm events in the Delaware River Basin.

Every year, the Corps' Philadelphia District calculates damages prevented for seven federally constructed flood damage reduction projects: five Corps-run dams and two levee systems now maintained by local authorities in Allentown and Bethlehem.

The result is an estimate of the additional financial cost that would have been incurred had these projects not been built. The total dollar amount is summarized in the below table, which also includes a cumulative estimate of \$359 million in damages prevented since the seven projects became operational.

(All figures are expressed at equivalent July 2006 price levels.)

Project	1st Year	Watershed	Damages Prevented (MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)		
			June 28-30, 2006	3-Flood Total (Sep 04, Apr 05, Jun 06)	Cumulative Lifetime thru June 30, 2006
F. E. Walter Dam	1961	Lehigh	11.2	32.7	158.7
Beltzville Lake	1972	Lehigh	1.8	10.5	23.5
Allentown Levee	1960	Lehigh	7.6	35.0	58.7
Bethlehem Levee	1964	Lehigh	2.5	4.6	23.0
Blue Marsh Lake	1978	Schuylkill	6.6	9.0	51.4
Prompton Lake	1960	Lackawaxen	8.4	10.7	21.1
Jadwin Dam	1960	Lackawaxen	7.7	15.6	23.0
TOTAL			45.8	118.1	359.4

Another way of understanding the impact of these projects is to look at the estimated flood stage reductions (how much less flooding occurred) at key downstream locations in each of these watersheds:

- Lehigh River: Allentown 4.0 feet, Bethlehem 4.5 feet

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- Schuylkill River: Reading 2.5 feet, Pottstown 2.1 feet
- Lackawaxen River: Honesdale 7.2 feet, Hawley 4.6 feet

Finally, all five dams recorded their highest-ever storage levels during the June 2006 storm event (see table at bottom). It is also important to note that the dam at Blue Marsh Lake experienced spillway flow—where the reservoir is filled to capacity—for the first time in its history and still prevented significant damage in downstream communities along the Schuylkill River.

Recorded elevations at each of the dams is as follows:

Project	Watershed	Previous Historic Peak Storage Elevation (feet)	June 2006 Peak Storage Elevation (feet)
F. E. Walter Dam	Lehigh	1417	1442
Beltzville Lake	Lehigh	636	641
Blue Marsh Lake	Schuylkill	302	309
Prompton Lake	Lackawaxen	1141	1156
Jadwin Dam	Lackawaxen	1020	1041