



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

Public Comment

F. E. Walter Dam Public Comments for 2011 recreation plan

As my wife and I are private boaters of the Lehigh we rely on the dam releases throughout the summer. We learned how to kayak on the Lehigh River. We are in the Canoe Club of the Greater Harrisburg and enjoy boating with other club members on the Lehigh River. In our opinion the Lehigh is our favorite river. We would appreciate that you would give us as many or more release days in the upcoming year for 2011. Thank you for your time and keep up the good work.

Mike and Deanna Moyer

I wanted to drop you a line and say thank you for the 2010 recreational releases on the Lehigh. My wife and I started whitewater boating this year and made it up for at least 6 whitewater releases, it's a wonderful resource to have so close to our home in Dillsburg, PA. We appreciate that it's not just for the rafters or private boaters, but for anglers as well and, above all, for flood control. By the way, the Facebook site is fantastic, I love the updates and the flow information, as well as the pictures.

We weren't able to make it to the public meeting on 11/1 but just wanted to say we appreciate what you do for the boating community and hope that the 2011 schedule will be as active as 2010. Thank you for your time, it may be a bit early but I hope you have a great holiday season, amazing that it's almost that time. Take care, and we look forward to 2011.

Chris Kovaly

I could not attend the recent public meeting. My main comment about the 2010 paddle-able release schedule is that I and some of my paddling friends much preferred the 2009 schedule where more water was stored for September and October releases. I am aware that the lack of last summer and early fall rainfall influenced the scheduled 2010 releases; however, having a few scheduled release in September 2009 was much enjoyed by many paddlers and it extended the paddling season. I hope that more releases are scheduled in September and October 2011 than planned in 2010.

Thank you. -Greg Burgdorf, Hershey, PA

The Lehigh Coldwater Fishery Alliance (LCFA) submits the following comments and recommendations for the 2011 Recreational Flow Plan ("Plan"), in addition to comments previously submitted for prior Flow Plans:

1) Improvement of Angling Opportunities: LCFA recommends improvement of angling opportunities by releasing water from FEW Reservoir (FEW) on all non-whitewater release weekends at a rate no greater than 400 CFS, when hydrological and meteorological conditions permit. This is particularly important during the Spring season (end of March, April, May & early June) when angling is at its peak.

2) Improvement to In-Stream Flows: Increasing augmentation to maintain a release of 100 cfs above inflow from July 1 to August 31 would provide benefit to the Lehigh's aquatic resource. By increasing and maintaining 100 cfs augmentation, improvements to water quality would benefit the Lehigh River's aquatic resources by reducing impact from Acid Mine Drainage (AMD), sewage and non-point sourced pollutants that degrade the river's water quality.

3) Equitable Allocation: It has been the LCFA's contention that a 50-50 distribution of water that has been accumulated through precipitation ("accumulated storage") during the recreational season, is not equitable. The Lehigh's aquatic resource is dependent on that water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and whitewater needs only require water for 288 hours during the recreational season. LCFA requests that the Agencies review this policy and make changes to reflect the current distribution (Fisheries to Whitewater) of accumulated storage in FEW.

4) Beltzville Reservoir – The Pohopoco Creek provides a significant coldwater refuge area for trout in the Lehigh. The LCFA requests that coldwater releases (13C/55F) are maintained from Beltzville between June 15th and September 15th. Early spring releases should be monitored in an effort not to exhaust the coldwater pool in the lake. The LCFA also recommends that high volume water releases (> 200 cfs) from Beltzville should not exceed 18C or 65F, when possible.

5) Filling process: The LCFA requests clarification on the purpose of matching inflow up to 1000 cfs on weekends during the lake filling process? The LCFA recommends keeping the release at 250 cfs up to 400 cfs for angling favorable releases through the weekends.

In closing, on behalf of the LCFA, I want to thank all the agencies for their cooperation and hard work in making this meeting possible and the overall willingness to work towards the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the water resources of the Lehigh River.

Sincerely,

Dean Druckenmiller, President
Lehigh Coldwater Fishery Alliance