

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Public Notice and F.E. Walter Website Public Information**





**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Philadelphia District

## Public Notice

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Public Notice No.  
CENAP-PL-E-05-03

Date  
09 March 2005

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Internet Homepage <http://www.nap.usace.army.mil>

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In Reply Refer to: Environmental Resources Branch

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Philadelphia District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Delaware River Basin Commission is conducting an operation technical study at F.E. Walter Reservoir. The Francis E. Walter Reservoir, originally known as Bear Creek Reservoir, is located near the convergence of Bear Creek and the Lehigh River in Luzerne and Carbon Counties in northeastern Pennsylvania (Figure 1). It is a man-made impoundment created by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1961 by damming the Lehigh River at the confluence with Bear Creek. The 3,000-foot long, 234-foot high earth-fill dam creates an 80-acre pool at the normal 1,300-foot elevation National Geodetic Vertical Datum (N.G.V.D.) and controls a drainage area of 288 square miles. The reservoir is approximately 86 miles north of Philadelphia, 20 miles southeast of Wilkes-Barre, 39 miles south of Scranton and 23 miles north of Allentown. The project area is part of the Pocono Mountain complex.

F.E. Walter, in addition to aiding in flood control along the Lehigh River, is operated for recreation and drought emergency water storage for salinity repulsion in the Delaware River Estuary. The primary purpose of the project is flood control. A secondary purpose is recreation. The F.E. Walter Reservoir was authorized in House Document No. 587, 79th Congress, 2nd Session for Lehigh River flood control protection. The reservoir project was also authorized for recreation as part of Public Law 100-676, Section 6, dated November 17, 1988.

F.E. Walter Reservoir plays a vital role in providing flood control and recreation in the Lehigh River watershed. In the recent past, public interest has grown in regard to modifying operations at F.E. Walter Reservoir to benefit in-lake and downstream recreation meanwhile maintaining flood control capabilities, and protection of the environment. Historically, pool level operations at F.E. Walter Reservoir have been tailored, in part, to allow a public access road that crosses the upstream side of the dam to re-open as soon as feasibly possible following a flood storage event. Due to the recent construction of a new access road across the top of the dam a physical restriction on pool operations has been removed. As a result, the opportunity to further evaluate and study the public recreational alternatives associated with the reservoir has emerged. The 2005 plan of operation includes raising the current operation base pool elevation from 1300' N.G.V.D. to 1335' N.G.V.D. beginning in mid-April 2005 and ending in September 2005 at which time the pool will be returned to the operation base pool elevation of 1300'.

During this period of time water quality, flow, and recreational data will be collected to evaluate the planned change. The data will be used to consider long-term reservoir operational plans that enhance public recreation.

The plan includes a temporary summer recreational pool elevation of 1335 feet with a pool fluctuation of no more than 5 feet, a minimum flow target downstream of 250 cubic feet per second (cfs), and additional recreational whitewater releases of 750 to 1000 cfs. Meeting the objectives of the plan is directly dependent on seasonal environmental conditions and normal reservoir operations, specifically flood control. The likelihood of the plan realistically meeting the aforementioned objectives was determined by simulating historic outflows from 1 May - 1st weekend in October (1961-2003) using the following parameters and guidelines:

- Begin after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in April so early trout season angling pressure would not be impacted in-lake and downstream.
- Store to 1335' by 1 May if possible depending on inflows.
- Keep lake elevations between 1330' and 1335' between 1 May and 30 June to protect newly inundated in-lake spawning areas.
- Maintain a minimum outflow target release of 250 cfs, as long as water is available (otherwise will match inflow above 50 cfs or 43 cfs if in drought) to protect/improve downstream aquatic resources.
- Whitewater recreational releases would be made every weekend in May and June when possible to augment whitewater rafting opportunities.
- Recreational outflows would be 750 to 1000 cfs from May to the 1<sup>st</sup> week in June and 750 cfs during the remainder of June.
- Recreational whitewater releases would be made on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weekends in July and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weekends in August.
- Recreational outflow releases of 750 cfs would be made in July and August.
- Recreational whitewater releases would be made on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weekends in September and the first weekend in October.
- Recreational outflow releases of 750 to 1000 cfs would be made in September and October.

A Draft Environmental Assessment was prepared in accordance with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The EA assesses conditions at the project site and evaluates the potential impacts of the 2005 operational study plan on existing resources in the immediate and surrounding areas to include: physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem; endangered and threatened species; hazardous and toxic materials; aesthetics and recreation; cultural resources; and the general needs and welfare of the public. The Draft 2005 Operational Study EA incorporates, through reference, environmental data collected for the project area for the 2002 F.E. Walter Emergency Drought Storage Environmental Assessment. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its partners will continue to pursue additional studies and data collection efforts to evaluate the 2005 study and to refine potential future plan modifications.

A range of pool level and minimum low flow target alternatives were evaluated based on potential negative and positive impacts on flood control, recreation and the environment in

general. Historic flow and operational records (1961-2003), in-lake and river water quality data (1975-2003), expected recreational use, and known environmental resources in the project area were evaluated against the alternatives. A conservative operational study plan, described previously, was selected as the least likely to cause negative environmental impacts in-lake and downstream on the Lehigh River and would likely not impact the flood control capabilities of the reservoir. This plan is expected to benefit in-lake and downstream recreation meanwhile protecting and potentially enhancing the natural environment. Coordination between project partners and the public will continue through and after the study period. Data collected during the study will be used by the Corps and its partners to evaluate the degree of success in meeting the objectives of the study plan and for identification of any environmental impacts not previously expected. This information will be used to more fully consider future alternative plans in a subsequent environmental assessment.

All practicable means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the selected plan. Coordination with resource agencies conducted for the 2002 F.E. Walter Emergency Drought Storage Environmental Assessment was utilized for this Environmental Assessment. That project was coordinated with the Delaware River Basin Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Game Commission, and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The 2005 F.E. Walter study plan was developed through coordination with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Delaware River Basin Commission. The 2005 plan was presented to the public at a public information workshop on 24 February 2005 at the Split Rock Lodge located in Carbon County, Pennsylvania. This forum allowed attendees to directly question project partners and comment on the proposed plan. In addition, the public is being afforded the opportunity to comment on the 2005 plan and future plans by submitting written comments directly to the Philadelphia District Corps or by providing their comments via the project website at [www.nap.usace.army.mil/Projects/FEWalter/index.htm](http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Projects/FEWalter/index.htm).

The Draft Environmental Assessment has shown that the proposed activity is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any species or the critical habitat of any fish, wildlife or plant, which is designated as endangered or threatened pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended.

Work in waters of the United States, including wetlands, must be in compliance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. No work will be performed within the waters of the United States. Therefore, a review of impacts associated with the potential discharge of fill material has not been performed as per Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. The requirements of Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands, are therefore met.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires a 401 State water quality certification for any work, which may affect water or waterways in the state. This project entails an operational management change at F.E. Walter Reservoir and does not require any physical instream or riparian work. As a result, a water quality certificate from the Commonwealth is not required.

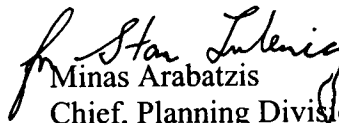
In accordance with guidelines established under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission determined that the proposed plan would have no effect on archaeological sites or historic structures.

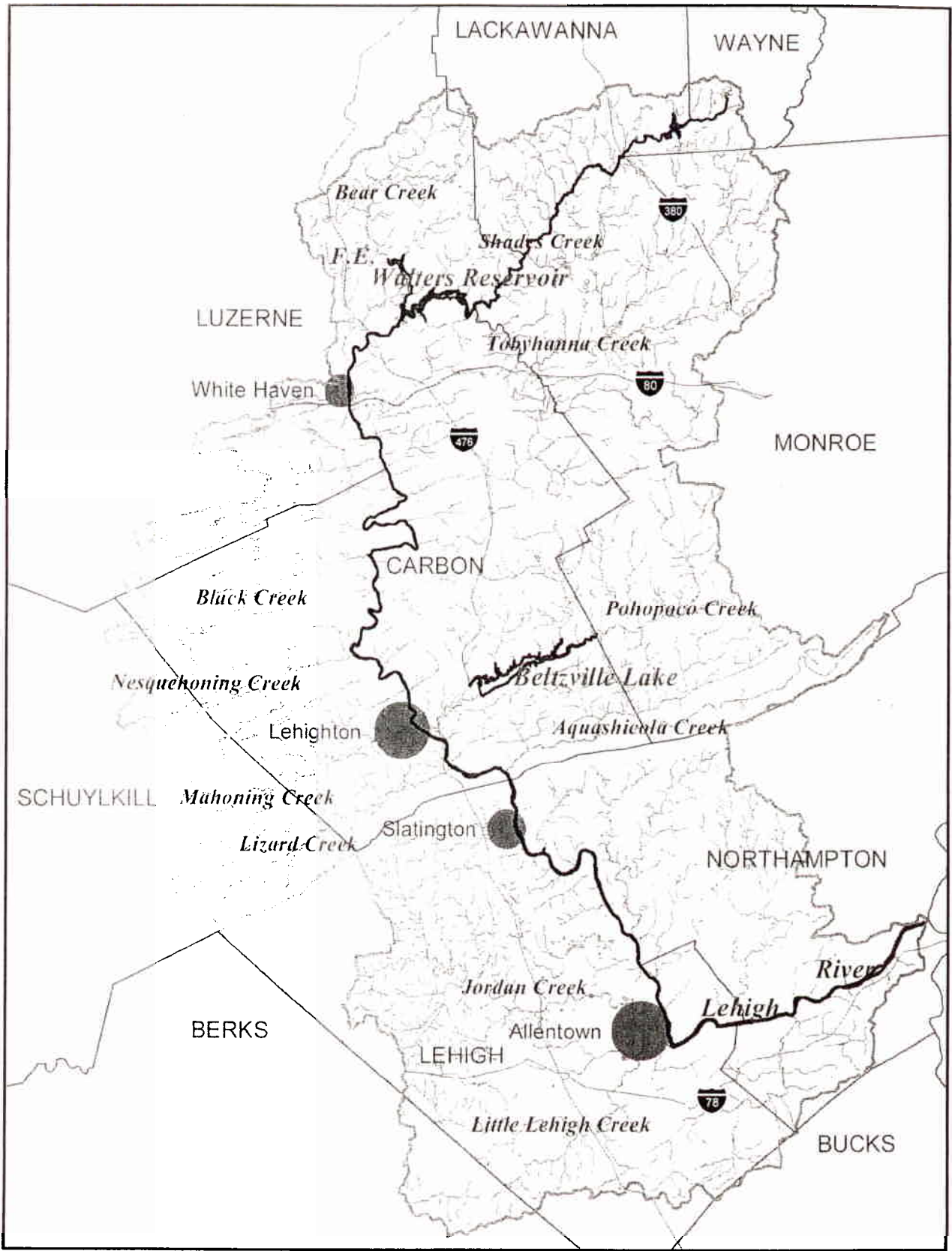
The decision whether to accomplish the work proposed in this public notice is based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed work on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for the protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonable foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, will be considered. Among those are conservation, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, general environmental concerns, economics, historic values, navigation, energy needs, recreation, safety, water quality, food production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The public and all agencies are invited to comment on this proposal. Copies of the Draft Environmental Assessment are available upon request by calling (215) 656-6561. The public notice, Draft 2005 Temporary Operations Study Environmental Assessment, and the Final 2002 F.E. Walter Emergency Drought Storage Environmental Assessment are available for review on the Philadelphia District web page at [www.nap.usace.army.mil](http://www.nap.usace.army.mil) and the project web site at [www.nap.usace.army.mil/Projects/FEWalter/index.htm](http://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Projects/FEWalter/index.htm).

Any person may request, in writing, to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice (**09 March through 09 April**) that a public hearing be held to consider this proposal. Requests for a public hearing shall state, in detail, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

All comments on the work described in this public notice and/or in the Draft Environmental Assessment should be directed to Mr. Minas Arabatzis, Chief, Planning Division, ATTN: Environmental Resources Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390 by **09 April 2005**.

  
Minas Arabatzis  
Chief, Planning Division  
Philadelphia District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineer



**FIGURE 1. F.E. Walter Reservoir and Lehigh River watershed.**

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT  
WANAMAKER BUILDING  
100 PENN SQUARE EAST  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107-3390**



**Ms. Kate Crowley**  
**Water Management Program Manager**  
**Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, NE Office**  
**2 Public Square**  
**Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18711-0790**

**Ms. Christine Martin, Deputy Secretary**  
**Water Management**  
**16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Rachel Carson State Office Building**  
**P.O. Box 2063**  
**Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-2063**

**Mr. Kurt Carr, Chief**  
**Division of Archaeology & Protection**  
**Bureau of Historic Preservation**  
**Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission**  
**Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor**  
**400 North Street**  
**Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-0093**

**Mr. Barry Frantz, Soil Conservationist**  
**Natural Resource Conservation Service**  
**One Credit Union Place, Suite 340**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17110**

**Mr. Carl Haensel**  
**ARPS SE Region**  
**PA Fish and Boat Commission**  
**PO Box 9**  
**Elm, PA 17521**

**Mr. Dean Druckenmiller, President**  
**Lehigh River Stocking Association**  
**PO Box 54**  
**Walnutport, PA 18088**

**Mr. Chris Kocher**  
**Wildlands Conservancy**  
**3701 Orchid Place**  
**Emmaus, PA 18049**

**Mr. Tom Kerr**  
**Wildlands Conservancy**  
**3701 Orchid Place**  
**Emmaus, PA 18049**

**Mr. Christian Berg, Outdoor Writer**  
**101 North Sixth Street**  
**PO Box 1260**  
**Allentown, PA 18105**

**Mr. Jim Clauser**  
**Carbon County Conservation District**  
**5664 Interchange Road**  
**Lehighton, PA 18235**

**Mr. Leroy Young, Chief Aquatic Resources Section  
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
Division of Environmental Services  
450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823-9620**

**Ms. Carol R. Collier, Executive Director  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
25 State Police Drive  
P.O. Box 7360  
West Trenton, New Jersey 08628-0360**

**Mr. Richard Fromuth  
Delaware River Basin Commission  
25 State Police Drive  
P.O. Box 7360  
West Trenton, New Jersey 08628-0360**

**Mr. James Leigey, Environmental Review Coordinator  
Division of Environmental Planning and Habitat Protection  
Bureau of Land Management  
Pennsylvania Game Commission  
2001 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9797**

**Mr. Tony Ross  
Bureau of Wildlife Management  
Pennsylvania Game Commission  
2001 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9797**

**Ms. Jamie Davis  
U.S. EPA, Region III  
3ES30  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029**

**Mr. Richard G. Sprenkle, Deputy Secretary  
Conservation and Engineering Services  
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Rachel State Office Building  
P.O. Box 8767  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8767**

**Mr. Jared Brandwein, Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
315 South Allen Street  
Suite 322  
State College, PA 16801**

**Ms. Jeanne Harris, Environmental Review Specialist  
Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
P.O. Box 8552  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552**

**Luzerne County Conservation District  
Smith Pond Road  
Shavertown, PA 18708**

**Mr. Kevin Fazzini, Regional Park Manager  
PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
2808 Three Mile Run Road  
Perkasie, PA 18944-2065**

**Mr. Dave Madl, Manager  
Lehigh Gorge State Park  
RR1 Box 81  
White Haven, PA 18661**





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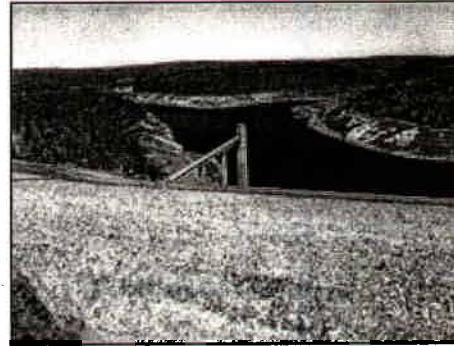
Who to Contact?

**Public Affairs Office**  
**Merv Brokke, CENAP-PA**  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
**Wanamaker Bldg., Rm 600**  
**Phila., PA 19107-3390**  
**Phone: (215) 656-6032**  
**Fax: (215) 656-6820**

**Project Title**

**Francis E. Walter Dam Flow Management Working Group**

The Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Delaware River Basin Commission have begun the process to explore potential recreational enhancements along the Lehigh River.



Part of the process is to recommend a short-term flow management plan for the Francis E. Walter Dam and plans to collect information to develop future plans.

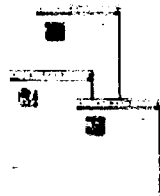
Public involvement is the key to the success of the current plan and any future plans concerning flow management of the F. E. Walter Dam and recreation along the Lehigh River. With this in mind, the cooperating agencies plan to work closely with its stakeholders.

One of our many challenges will be to maintain this website as a portal to facilitate two-way communication and encourage information sharing. The public is encouraged to provide us feedback and tell us how we can better serve them through this web site.

Please visit the site regularly for process updates as well as to share your comments, concerns, data, and questions.

**Study Documents & Presentations**

**2005 plan draft environmental assessment**



- [EA cover](#)
- [TOC](#)
- [EA Draft](#)
- [FNSI Walter](#)
- [Public Notice](#)
- [2002 EA](#)
- [Appendix b F. E. Walter](#)

**Questions & Comments?**

Thank you for your interest in this project.



Please let us know if you have any questions, comments, and/or concerns.

**Let us know!**

**FE Walter Reservoir Pool Elevation Comparison Map**

- [JPG high resolution - 10 MB](#)
- [JPG low resolution - 1 MB](#)
- [PDF - 1 MB](#)

- [F.E. Walter Reservoir Water Quality Sampling Program & Quality Sampling Program &](#)

- [Environmental Considerations Presentation](#)
- [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Information Workshop Presentation](#)
- [Changes in the Management of Francis E. Walter Dam Comments for the Public Meeting February 24, 2005](#)
- [Evaluation of the Effect of Water Quality Degradation and Iron Oxide Precipitation on the Benthic Macroinvertebrate Community Downstream of F.E. Walter Reservoir](#)
- [2001 Lehigh Study](#)
- [2002 Iron Study](#)
- [Lehigh Temps 02-04](#)
- [Walter Annual Report 02-04](#)

**In the News...**

- [Whitewater Release Schedule Announced](#) -- The Express-Times, March 2, 2005
- [Newsrelease 02082005 -- Corps to hold workshop addressing recreational enhancements on the Lehigh River](#)

**Additional Links...**

- [Dams & Water Releases](#)
- [DCNR](#)
- [Fish and Boat Commission](#)
- [DRBC](#)
- [Wildlands Conservatory](#)

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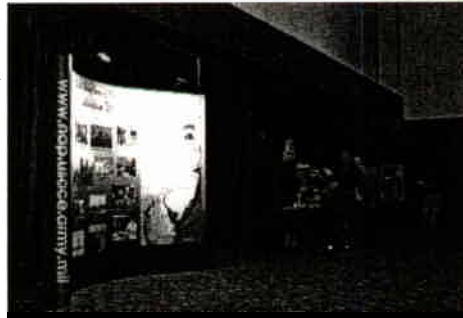
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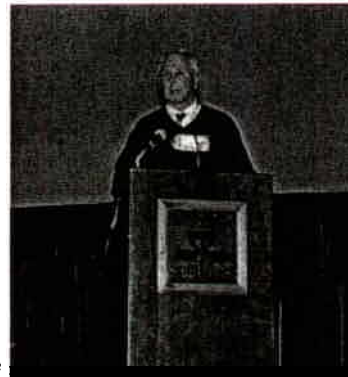
**Francis E. Walter Dam Flow Management  
 Working Group Information Workshop Feb 24,  
 2005**

The Corps of Engineers and its partners the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Delaware River Basin Commission, despite the snow, conducted an Information Workshop at the Split Rock Lodge Feb. 24, 2005.



Facilitating the workshop was [The Wildlands Conservancy](#) represented by [Chris Kocher, Chief Program Officer/Director, Rivers Program](#). Kocher's remarks, a brief history of the Lehigh River, are provided here for those who could not attend the workshop.

Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf, 12th District, addressed the group of 50 who attended the workshop and spoke individually with attendees as they visited the various information stations of the cooperating agencies.



Our thanks go out to the 50 people who attended the workshop and provided their input to the process.

Also, we are very appreciative of the time taken by well over 300 people who have since provided their input via email and letters. This is a tremendous response and we hope that, as the study progresses, everyone will continue to contribute to our efforts to enhance recreational opportunities along the Lehigh River.

Finally, the support provided by the Split Rock Lodge staff helped ensure that the workshop was successful.

**Questions & Comments?**

Thank you for your interest in this project.



Please let us know if you have any questions, comments, and/or concerns.

**[Let us know!](#)**

**The Wildlands Conservatory Comments:**

- [Thomas J. Kerr, President](#)
- [Chris Kocher, Chief Program Officer/Director, Rivers Program](#)







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**Phone: (215) 656-6032**  
**Fax: (215) 656-6820**

**Project Title**

**Francis E. Walter Dam Target White Water Release Schedule for 2005**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers today announces modifications to the Francis E. Walter Dam Target White Water Release Schedule for 2005.

As a result of the public input received after the Francis E. Walter Dam Flow Management Working Group Information Workshop Feb. 24, the Corps, in coordination with the reviewing agencies, determined that the flow management schedule announced during the workshop needed modifications to better enhance this year's recreation potential both up and downstream along the Lehigh River.

The project to enhance recreation along the Lehigh River does not end here with the announcement of this year's target white water release schedule. It is vital for the public to continue providing input as we look to the future of the river and the region.

The Francis E. Walter Dam Target White Water Release Schedule for 2005 as approved by the cooperating agencies and contingent upon hydrologic and other conditions.

Date	Target flow
May 7 – 8	Target flow of Inflow Equals Outflow
May 14 – 15	Target flow of 750 – 1000 cfs
May 21 – 22	Target flow of Inflow Equals Outflow
May 28	Target flow of Inflow Equals Outflow with a 750 cfs min
May 29	Target flow of Inflow Equals Outflow with a 500 cfs min
June 4 – 5	Target flow of Inflow Equals Outflow
June 11 – 12	Target flow of 750 cfs
June 18 – 19	Target flow of Inflow Equals Outflow
June 25 – 26	Target flow of 750 cfs
July 2 – 3	Target flow of 750 cfs
July 23 – 24	Target flow of 750 cfs
August 6 – 7	Target flow of 750 cfs
August 20 - 21	Target flow of 750 cfs
September 3 – 4	Target flow 750 – 1000 cfs
September 17 – 18	Target flow 750 – 1000 cfs
October 1 – 2	Target flow 750 – 1000 cfs

To meet the Francis E. Walter Dam Target White Water Release Schedule for 2005, the Corps and cooperating agencies have agreed to the following flow management constraints.

- Begin raising pool the Monday after the first weekend of trout season (April 18, 2005) with a target to reach a pool of 1335 ft. by May
- Temporarily raise pool from 1300 ft. to 1335 ft. between May and October 2005.
- Limit pool fluctuation between 1330 ft. and 1335 ft. in May and June for lake spawning enhancement.

**Questions & Comments?**

Thank you for your interest in this project.



Please let us know if you have any questions, comments, and/or concerns.

**Let us know!**

- Increase Target Minimum flow to 250 cfs between May and September 2005 for downstream fisheries.

- However, beginning July 1, if a target release cannot be met due to limited pool, then the minimum target flow would be reduced to 200 cfs until the pool returns to a level where in all likelihood it could sustain the next scheduled release.

The reviewing agencies: Delaware River Basin Commission, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Watershed Management

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