



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Factsheet

Francis E. Walter Dam Overview

Constructed in 1961, the Francis E. Walter Dam has prevented more than \$233 million in flood damages to the Lehigh River Valley. The dam is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Philadelphia District. F.E. Walter Dam is managed in tandem with Beltzville Dam to reduce flooding risk for downstream communities. The dam was built for flood risk management, but Congress added recreation as a congressionally authorized purpose in 1988. The project is located at the confluence of the Lehigh River and Bear Creek, approximately 77 miles above the confluence with the Delaware River, in Carbon and Luzerne County in Northeastern Pennsylvania.



Re-evaluation Study

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, in partnership with the Delaware River Basin Commission and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, has initiated a feasibility re-evaluation study for the Francis E. Walter Dam.

The primary missions of F.E. Walter Dam are to reduce flooding risk and support recreation. Aside from these two primary missions, the study will also consider fisheries, additional recreation, water supply and water quality, and other issues to identify possible improvements to the existing structure, infrastructure, and dam operations. In particular, the study will examine dam and reservoir management options that could release additional water under drought conditions to help repel salinity downstream. USACE's role is to objectively evaluate whether various alternatives to optimize the operation of F.E. Walter Dam are feasible and beneficial to a wide range of stakeholders. Any changes must be economically justified, environmentally acceptable, and technically sound. The study will include public comment opportunities and public meetings.

Study Schedule

Study Milestone	Date
Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement executed/study begins	25 Sep 2019
Kickoff meeting with partners	25 Oct 2019
Public meeting (information gathering)	9 Jan 2020
Alternatives Milestone Meeting (develop and assess alternatives)	3 Feb 2020
Public meeting (basic plan under consideration)	Oct/Nov 2020
Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone Meeting (concurrence on basic plan)	Dec 2020
Draft Report Released for Agency and Public Review	Jan 2021
Public Meeting (refined plan for recommendation)	Mar 2021
Agency Decision Milestone Meeting (concurrence on refined plan)	Jun 2021
Final Report submitted to USACE North Atlantic Division	Mar 2022
USACE Headquarters completes review of Final Report	Apr 2022
Chief's Report & study completed	Sep 2022

Submit Comments & Study Recommendations

- Via email: PDPA-NAP@usace.army.mil
- In writing:

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