

# FRANCIS E. WALTER DAM RE-EVALUATION STUDY

*Jan. 9, 2020 Public Meeting*

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# F.E. WALTER DAM PROJECT HISTORY



- Authorized under the 1946 Flood Control Act
- Construction completed in 1961
- Dam has prevented more than \$233 million in flood damages
- 1985 General Design Memorandum Completed
- Recreation added by Congress as authorized purpose in 1988 as part of Water Resources Development Act
- 2000-2014 Water Quality Modeling (USACE, PA Fish & Boat Commission & PA DCNR)
- Water Resources Development Act of 2014 - Temporary Emergency Drought Storage to the DRBC



# STUDY BACKGROUND



- 2015: Initial Appraisal Report
- Formal Study Requests: PA Fish & Boat Commission 2014, DRBC 2014, Decree Parties 2016
- 2019: Federal Study Funding
- September 2019: Multi-Sponsor Agreement with the DRBC & NYCDEP
- Study Scoping Initiated in Oct/Nov 2019



# STUDY AUTHORIZATION



## Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970

*"The Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, is authorized to review the operation of projects the construction of which has been completed and which were constructed by the Corps of Engineers in the interest of navigation, flood control, water supply, and related purposes, when found advisable due to **significantly changed physical or economic conditions**, and to report thereon to Congress with **recommendations** on the advisability of modifying the structures or their operation, and for improving the quality of the environment **in the overall public interest.**"*



# GENERAL STUDY GOALS



- Evaluate the current and future demands for services at the FE Walter dam related to flood risk management through the evaluation of storage allocations, modifications to existing features, and modifications to operations plans.
- Investigate more permanent solutions to the current annual recreational release plan and evaluate future demands for services.
- Evaluate current and future demands for drought storage and low flow augmentation to support water quality needs for regional water supply through the evaluation of storage allocations, modifications to existing features, and modifications to operations plans.



# GENERAL STUDY GOALS (CONT'D)



- Address increased demand for cold water fishery improvements through modifications to the dam's control tower.
- Give equal consideration to a combination of changes in authorization, operations, and structural modifications to maximize benefits for water quality and environmental conditions, in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958.
- Address increased demands to in-lake recreation use, and evaluate future demands for recreation services.
- Address increased demand for hydropower through modifications to the dams features.



# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Identify *Problems* and *Opportunities*

Inventory and Forecast Conditions

**Formulate** Alternative Plans

**Evaluate** Alternative Plans

**Compare** Alternative Plans

**Select** a Plan



# ESTIMATED STUDY SCHEDULE



<b>Study Milestone</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement executed/ Study Begins</b>	<b>09/25/2019</b>
<b>Kickoff meeting with partners</b>	<b>10/25/2019</b>
<b>Public meeting (Information Gathering)</b>	<b>01/9/2020</b>
<b>Alternatives Milestone Meeting (Develop and Assess Alternatives)</b>	<b>Feb. 2020</b>
<b>Public meeting (Basic Plan under Consideration)</b>	<b>Oct/Nov 2020</b>
<b>Tentatively Selected Plan Milestone Meeting (Concurrence on Basic Plan)</b>	<b>Dec. 2020</b>
<b>Draft Report Released for Public and Agency Reviews</b>	<b>Jan. 2021</b>
<b>Public Meeting (Refined Plan for Recommendation)</b>	<b>March 2021</b>
<b>Agency Decision Milestone Meeting (Concurrence on Recommended Plan)</b>	<b>June 2021</b>
<b>Final Report submitted for USACE Washington-Level Reviews</b>	<b>March 2022</b>
<b>Chief's Report &amp; Study Completed</b>	<b>Sept. 2022</b>



# PUBLIC INPUT



- Written Comments requested by January 29, 2020  
(1<sup>st</sup> Stage of Study – Alternative Identification)
- Comments and Public Input are acceptable throughout the study process
- Public Meetings will be held prior to each Decision Point  
(aka Milestones)
- Formal Reviews of Draft Report (Tentatively Selected Plan) and Final Report (Recommended Plan)
- Comments: Send to [PDPA-NAP@USACE.ARMY.MIL](mailto:PDPA-NAP@USACE.ARMY.MIL)