



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Philadelphia District  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2004  
Attn: CENAP-OPR

# Public Notice

**Comment Period Begins:** February 14, 2024  
**Comment Period Ends:** March 15, 2024  
**File Number:** NAP-2021-00297-101  
**File Name:** Tamaqua Dam Mitigation Bank Site LRG-UMBI SC  
**Contact:** Mr. Justin M. Decker, Biologist  
**Email:** Justin.M.Decker@usace.army.mil

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The Philadelphia District has received a proposal to amend the LRG Aquatic Resource Umbrella Mitigation Bank Instrument by establishing a new wetland and stream compensatory mitigation site for federal and state permits. The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments and recommendations from the public concerning the work as described below.

## **SPONSOR:**

Land Reclamation Group, LLC  
Attn: Mr. Michael Barrick  
632 Hunt Valley Circle  
New Kensington, Pennsylvania 15068

## **WATERWAY AND LOCATION:**

The proposed bank site ("site") is located at the terminus of PA DEP Road in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania 18252. The site is entirely within Schuylkill County and is within Walker and West Penn townships. The site is approximately 101 acres in size and comprises rivers and streams (including the Little Schuylkill River), emergent wetlands, upland forests, a road, and fields (previous agricultural use including sod). The site is located within the Delaware River basin.

## **LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE:**

40.750935, -75.953688

## **PURPOSE AND PROPOSED WORK:**

The sponsor proposes to design, construct, establish, and operate the Tamaqua Dam Mitigation Bank ("bank"). The purpose of the bank is to provide off-site, third-party compensatory mitigation for projects that result in unavoidable impacts to waters of the United States, including wetlands and streams, within the bank's specified service areas.

Tamaqua Dam was one of several dams constructed in the 1950s on the Schuylkill and Little Schuylkill River to create desilting basins/sediment traps for coal silt. During the operational life span of the Tamaqua Dam the impoundment was routinely dredged to remove the accumulated coal silts. To address this historic watershed change, the sponsor proposes to breach the dam to drawdown the impoundment and to re-establish the Little Schuylkill River. The sponsor would re-establish the river by constructing a new riverbed and riverbanks by using cut and fill excavation, log grade control devices, and rock. The sponsor would construct a new floodplain and wetland buffers using cut and fill excavation and would plant woody and herbaceous vegetation. The sponsor would implement water diversions so that riverbed, riverbank, and floodplain construction occur in the dry. The sponsor proposes re-establishment of three tributaries on-site of the Little Schuylkill River, construction of which would occur through cut and fill excavation and the placement of log grade control devices. The sponsor proposes rehabilitation of three on-site wetlands via supplemental plantings.

The bank is within US Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 02040203, Schuylkill River. The bank's primary Geographic Service Area (GSA) is the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's 03 North Sub Water Basin. The sponsor proposes secondary GSAs within portions of service areas 01, 02, and 03 South. Refer to the enclosed service area map, *Figure 5 Service Area Map PA State Water Plan Watershed Boundaries*.

The sponsor proposes the following credit breakdown:

Wetland Credits

20.69 acre-credits will be generated through 20.69 acres of wetland re-establishment.  
1.58 acre-credits will be generated through 2.37 acres of wetland rehabilitation.

Stream Credits

79,240 square-foot-credits will be generated through 1.82 acres of stream enhancement.  
150,100 square-foot credits will be generated through 3.45 acres of stream re-establishment.

Oversight of the bank would be by the Pennsylvania Interagency Review Team (PA-IRT). This is an existing group of federal and state agency representatives. The Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Pittsburgh Districts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) co-chair the PA-IRT.

The review and use of the bank for a specific project requiring compensatory mitigation is the decision of the Corps pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or by PADEP pursuant to Chapter 105 of the Pennsylvania Code. The Corps and PADEP provide no guarantee that any individual or general permit will be granted authorization to use the bank to compensate for unavoidable wetland and stream projects associated with a proposed project.

**AUTHORITY:**

Issuance of public notices regarding proposed compensatory mitigation sites is required pursuant to *Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources; Final Rule* as published April 10, 2008, in the Federal Register, Vol. 73, No. 70, pages 19,594-19,705 (33 CFR 325 and 332 and 40 CFR 230).

**CORPS EVALUATION FACTORS:**

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Tribes; and other interested parties to consider and evaluate the proposed amendment. The Corps will consider any comments received.

Endangered Species

A preliminary review of this amendment indicates that the proposed activity would not affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The sponsor provided a Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory receipt indicating that there are no known impacts upon federally listed species associated with the proposed activity and that no further review is required. As the evaluation of this amendment continues, additional information may become available which could modify this preliminary determination.

Cultural Resources and Tribal Trust

Philadelphia District's cultural resource specialist and tribal liaison is currently reviewing the proposed activity for potential impacts to historic properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places and for potential issues concerning the Tribes. A determination of effects will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Tribes, and other consulting parties as necessary.

**SUBMITTAL OF COMMENTS:**

Any comments received will be considered by this office to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny the proposed amendment. Comments on the proposed work must be submitted, in writing (hardcopy or electronic), to the project manager and within the comment period indicated in the header above. Hardcopy comments must be sent to the following address:

USACE Pocono Area Field Office  
Attn. Mr. Justin Decker  
253 State Route 435, Suite 4  
Clifton Township, Pennsylvania 18424

You may request additional information concerning this proposed amendment by calling the above-listed project manager between the hours of 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. at (570) 960-7370.

This public notice as well as the full amendment request are available on our website:

<https://www.nap.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Public-Notices/>

Todd A. Schaible  
Chief, Regulatory Branch