PROJECT FACT SHEET
Lock and Dam 4
Allegheny River

Project Description

Facility is located 24.2 miles upriver from Pittsburgh, at Natrona, PA. It was built in 1920-1927 and began operations in September 1927. It is comprised of a 876 foot long fixed crest dam and a single 360ft x 56ft lock chamber which provides an 11 foot vertical lift.

Transportation Importance to the System

L/D 4 is the third of eight navigation facilities on the Allegheny River. Each year from 2000 to 2005, Lock 4 passed over 2,180 recreation vessels, 1,333 commercial tows, and 1.1 million tons of cargo. Cargo consists of coal, petroleum, chemicals, crude materials, manufactured goods, farm products, manufactured machinery, and other commodities. The principal commodities at Lock 4 are crude materials such as stone, sand, gravel, and cement. Construction and supply companies use this facility to move raw materials throughout the region. The transportation savings associated with this facility from 2000 to 2005 averaged $10.7 million a year.

Risk of economic impacts of unscheduled lock outages

Failure to provide adequate funding to maintain this facility will have significant detrimental effects to the local and regional economy. Failure of the dam or any critical lock component will result in increased transportation costs and delays to the shipment of critical raw materials for power production, manufacturing, and other commercial activities. Failure of dam will likely stop navigation and impact municipal and commercial water supplies until an emergency repair can be achieved.

Description of Work included in Optimum Plan

The projected 5 year (FY 2008 through FY 2012) average cost to operate and maintain Lock 4 at an acceptable level of risk is $1.9M per year. Maintenance items include maintenance, repair, and/or replacement of lock operating equipment; lock valves; lock walls; and hydraulic systems. These costs are above and beyond the routine day to day maintenance of all system components.