

PROJECT FACT SHEET
Lock and Dam 6
Allegheny River

Project Description

Facility is located 36.3 miles upriver from Pittsburgh, near Freeport, PA. It was built in 1927-1928 and began operations in October 1928. It is comprised of a 992 foot fixed crest dam, and a single 360ft x 56ft lock chamber. Its 12.2 foot vertical lift is also used to operate a 9.5MW privately owned and operated hydropower facility.



Transportation Importance to the System

L/D 6 is the fifth of eight navigation facilities on the Allegheny River. Each year from 2000 to 2005, Lock 6 passed over 1,050 recreation vessels, 140 commercial tows, and 0.1 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 6 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 \$1.2 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 manufacturing and other commercial activities. Failure of dam will likely stop navigation, halt operation of a 9.5MW hydropower facility, 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 6 at an acceptable level of risk is \$1.2M per year. Maintenance items include maintenance, repair, and/or replacement of lock operating equipment; lock valves; and hydraulic systems. These costs are above and beyond the routine day to day maintenance of all system components.