

DUTCH FORK LAKE DAM FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

- Dutch Fork Lake is a 91-acre impoundment owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and located approximately two miles northwest of Claysville in Donegal Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania.
- In 1959, a dam was constructed on Dutch Fork Creek (a tributary of Buffalo Creek) to create the lake.
- The Dutch Fork Dam consists of an earth embankment approximately 460 feet long with a maximum height of 42 feet from the downstream toe and a crest width of 12 feet.
- The dam and lake are currently managed by the Fish and Boat Commission for public recreation.
- Fishing and boating annually generate more than \$2 billion in economic impact in Pennsylvania.
- Recreation opportunities created by water resources in the Commonwealth, like Dutch Fork Lake, are crucial to Pennsylvania's fishing "industry" and the economic benefits derived from it.

ISSUE

- Precipitation and the resultant flooding that occurred during Tropical Storm Ivan (September 17-19, 2004) did serious damage to the spillway and stilling basin structures of Dutch Fork Lake dam. The dam structure as a whole was seriously compromised by this flooding event.
- On September 20, 2004, DEP staff noted the damage to the dam structure. Shortly thereafter PFBC staff, in close consultation with DEP dam safety staff, determined that a drawdown of the lake and stabilization of the dam was necessary for public safety.
- The installation of rip rap and other temporary measures were taken to stabilize the eroded spillway and stilling basin.
- In January 2005 a second major storm event refilled the basin and overtopped the spillway. The water that flowed over the spillway destroyed the previously installed temporary rip rap reinforcement at the bottom of the spillway and damaged more of the remaining original concrete structure. Because of safety concerns, the dam was breached and the lake drained in February 2005.
- Federal disaster relief funding to replace the dam was requested through FEMA in the spring of 2005. This request was denied on July 25, 2005.
- The denial was appealed in September 2005 and subsequently denied by the acting FEMA regional director on January 11, 2006.
- The Commission has prepared the attached letter to serve as its second and final appeal. This appeal will be routed to the FEMA office in Washington, D.C., for a final decision.

REMEDICATION

- It is not possible to repair Dutch Fork Lake dam without upgrading it to meet current federal and state regulations.
- Compliance with these regulations dictate that significant improvements be made to both the spillway and the dam to accommodate a probable maximum flood.
- It is the position of the PFBC that the dam as a whole was damaged during Tropical Storm Ivan and that disaster relief funding is warranted to address the entire estimated repair and upgrade cost of approximately \$5.2 million.
- Disaster relief funding to address the dam repair needs as a whole is critical to the future of Dutch Fork Lake.