



Feasibility Study for the F.J. Sayers Dam and Reservoir

Overview

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission (Commission) in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is undertaking a feasibility study to explore potential alternatives for managing the existing fall drawdown at F.J. Sayers Dam and Reservoir for the benefit of both in-lake and downstream aquatic life and resources.

In particular, the Commission and USACE will be studying if the existing fall drawdown could be spread out over several months during the late summer and fall during years when the region is experiencing significantly low rainfall totals, which happens infrequently. Smaller amounts of water released over an extended period of time could provide environmental benefits and enhanced recreation opportunities when water levels in streams are at their lowest.

Alternatives to existing fall drawdown of the reservoir will be evaluated based on the benefit any potential alternative provides. Preferred alternatives must show improvement to environmental resources and avoid impacts to recreation and flood control functions of the reservoir. A *no action* alternative represents a continuation of the current plan where the existing fall drawdown occurs during two weeks beginning on November 15 of each year.

The study is consistent with the Commission's Low Flow Protection Policy. This policy is based on conclusions contained in a report prepared jointly by the Commission, The Nature Conservancy, and USACE. The 2010 report, titled *Ecosystem Flow Recommendations for the Susquehanna River*, which concluded that variable (or seasonal) water flows are preferred to constant, year-round flow because water flows are naturally seasonal. For a full copy of the report, please visit srbc.net.

Project Schedule

It is anticipated that the feasibility study will take approximately 18 to 24 months to complete. If a change is deemed feasible as a result of the study, then the recommended plan will be considered for implementation and carried forward based on available funding.

Upcoming Public Meeting

A public meeting to explain the feasibility study has been scheduled for August 30, 2017, 7-8:30pm at the Howard Elementary School Auditorium, 255 Howard School Street, Howard, PA 16841.