



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Huntington District

# Marmet Locks and Dam Replacement Project

March 2004 Issue No. 5

Because the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers wants to keep the citizens of Belle, W.Va. up-to-date on activities during construction of the replacement lock at Marmet locks and dam, the Marmet Newsletter will now be published monthly. This newsletter will provide information on current and future activities throughout the construction of the replacement lock to those who expressed an interest in receiving the newsletter from previous editions.

If you know someone who would like to receive future copies, complete the form on the back page and return to Mike Keathley, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 502 Eighth Street, Huntington, WV 25701-2070 OR send the information by email to [Michael.Keathley@lrh01.usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.Keathley@lrh01.usace.army.mil).

## *Information Meeting*

The Corps of Engineers and Marmet lock replacement contractor Kokosing Fru-Con will conduct an information workshop regarding the Marmet Lock replacement project, Thursday, March 25, 2004, at the office of Kokosing Fru-Con, located at 1901 West Dupont Avenue. The public is invited to stop by anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The workshop will provide information about the ongoing construction activities. With blasting scheduled to begin this spring, Kokosing Fru-Con will have blasting and vibration expert Doug Bartlett available at the workshop. Mr. Bartlett will give a 30-minute presentation beginning at 6:00 p.m, followed by a question and answer period.

Representatives from the Corps and Kokosing Fru-Con will also be available to answer questions. As in the past, tours of the construction site will be offered.

For more information, contact Mike Keathley at 304-399-5864 or email [Michael.Keathley@lrh01.usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.Keathley@lrh01.usace.army.mil).

## *Construction Activities*

*by Kokosing Fru-Con*

Early February saw the restart of the upstream guide wall work between West 17th Street and West 19th Street. Specialty crews from as far away as Germany continue to construct concrete shafts which extend 15 feet into the bedrock. These shafts, when complete, will form the foundation for the upstream guide wall which will guide barges into and out of the new lock. Work is proceeding well and the Contractor anticipates continuing to work day shift only.

March 5th marked a milestone at the Project. Concrete crews placed the last concrete necessary to complete the upstream arm of the cofferdam. The remainder of the cofferdam is scheduled for completion in March. The cofferdam, when complete, will form a temporary barrier behind which construction crews can safely work in all but the highest river levels.

Improved weather has allowed the Contractor to resume excavation activities. The dirt covering the rock foundations for the new lock is being excavated with backhoes and hauled to the disposal embankment at the north end of the Project. Although excavation and embankment can be performed day and night, the lime stabilization of the disposal embankment has been restricted to the night time hours when winds are less likely to move dust off the Project site.

Removal of the dirt overlaying the rock foundation will permit the rock excavation necessary to key the new lock into the rock. Much of the rock excavation will require the use of very controlled drilling and blasting. The drilling and blasting will occur immediately adjacent to the existing lock only during daylight hours. The amount of blast induced vibration is strictly controlled by contract so as to eliminate the possibility of damage to the existing lock, neighboring homes and businesses. Makes plans to attend the March 25, 2004 Open House where you can tour the Project and talk with our blasting and vibrations expert.

While the Contractor continues to aggressively pursue the completion of the Project, the Government is actively pursuing the necessary funding to ensure the completion of the Project.



*This photo shows a close-up view of the connection of the cofferdam to the lower landward lockwall. When complete, the cofferdam will provide a temporary barrier behind which construction workers can safely work.*

Visit our new Marmet Lock Replacement Project website to keep up-to-date on current construction activities.  
<http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/projects/Marmet/>

### *Community Relations*

A catch basin across from the what was formerly 20th Street is not draining properly, causing water to pond in that area. The Corps contacted the West Virginia Department of Highways and asked them to look at the area. Upon investigation, we discovered an old and buried pipe coming from the catch basin that did not connect to a discharge pipe. In order to remedy the problem before spring rains, the Corps will temporarily connect the pipe to our discharge system while the West Virginia Department of Highways develops a permanent solution. This should help with the water ponding problems that have affected residents and business owners in that particular area.

Who to contact for information:

Mike Keathley, Project Manager.....304-399-5864  
 Dennis Hughes, Resident Engineer.....304-949-1934  
 Peggy Noel, Public Affairs.....304-399-5551

If you know someone who would like to receive future copies of the Marmet Newsletter, complete the form below and return to Mike Keathley, US Army Corps of Engineers, 502 8th Street, Huntington, WV 25701-2070 or send us an email requesting to be added to the mailing list.

Yes, I would like to receive the Marmet Lock Replacement Project Newsletter.

Remove my name from your mailing list

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ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



*This photo shows the contractor's batch plant and conveyor system. Batch materials are delivered to the construction site by barges. The contractor uses the conveyor system to transport material from river barges to the batch plant. By using this conveyor system, the contractor helps reduce truck traffic on neighboring roads and highways.*