



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
CIVIL WORKS  
108 ARMY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0108

FEB 08 2011

Honorable Tim Murphy  
United States House of Representatives  
322 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Murphy:

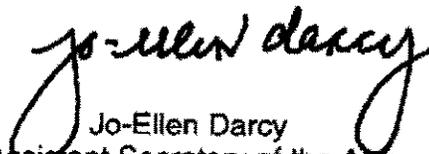
This is in response to your letter dated January 21, 2011, cosigned with seven other Representatives, requesting that funds be included in the Fiscal Year 2012 President's Budget for projects of importance to the Port of Pittsburgh, especially the aging system of locks and dams operated by the Army Corps of Engineers.

I appreciate the contribution of these projects to the inland waterways transportation system and the economy. They will be considered for funding in the Fiscal Year 2012 budget, along with many other programs, projects and activities across the country in competition for limited Federal resources.

With respect to the Lower Monongahela Improvement Project for Locks and Dams 2, 3 and 4, I understand your concern about the delay in completing it and the commensurate escalation in cost. Over the past several years, limited receipts from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund have been a contributing factor in the delay. Almost \$50 million has been appropriated for this project that has not yet been allocated due to insufficient revenue generated by the Trust Fund that is required to pay half the cost. The Army is aware of the shortages in the Trust Fund and will continue to work with Congress and stakeholders to explore alternative financing mechanisms that would allow capital improvements on the inland waterways to proceed in a more efficient manner. The Army also is striving to improve planning, design and construction processes in order to more efficiently use available funds to achieve navigation benefits on the inland waterways.

Thank you for your interest in the Army Civil Works program. I am sending an identical letter to the other signatories to your letter.

Very truly yours,

  
Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary of the Army  
(Civil Works)