

Upper Deckers Creek Watershed Dam No. 1 Rehabilitation Project Preston County, West Virginia

Fact Sheet
August 2020

History of the Dam:

Upper Deckers Creek Dam No. 1 is located on the West Virginia University JW Ruby Research Farm in Reedsville, West Virginia.

The dam provides multiple benefits to the community including flood control, improved water quality through sediment and erosion control, improved wildlife habitat and a dedicated rural raw water supply.

The dam was constructed in 1969 by the Monongahela Conservation District with the assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program.



A roller compacted concrete spillway was constructed over the top of the dam during rehabilitation.

Why Rehabilitate the Dam?

The dam was constructed as a significant hazard potential dam in 1969, but was reclassified as a high hazard potential dam due to risks located downstream in the event of dam failure.

The hazard potential class change was one reason the dam no longer met current state or Federal design criteria and performance standards. The dam was rehabilitated to maintain flood protection and to add a dedicated raw water supply volume for local communities

Rehabilitation Details:

Rehabilitation included installing a new principal spillway intake structure, extension of the principal spillway conduit and modification of the dam embankment to serve as an auxiliary spillway with the addition of an over-the-top roller compacted concrete (RCC) armored, stepped structural spillway.

A filtered drainage system was added, the downstream embankment slope was flattened for stability, and the existing auxiliary spillway was filled and abandoned. These structural repairs increased the integrity of the dam and significantly lowered any risks to public safety and health.

Project Cost:

The project cost \$8 million. NRCS provided technical assistance and 65 percent of the cost and project sponsors provided easements and land rights for the project and 35 percent of the cost.

Benefits:

The rehabilitation project will ensure the continued and improved flood control protection, improved water quality through sediment and erosion control, improved wildlife habitat and will provide an increased water supply.

The rehabilitation project provides direct benefits to the immediate area and also provides resource conservation, economic benefits and public safety benefits that extend well beyond that area. Rehabilitation extended the dam's life and its benefits for another 50 years.

Project Partners:

Monongahela Conservation District
Preston County Public Service District
West Virginia University
West Virginia Conservation Agency
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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