



# Ohio River Main Stem Study

<i>Location</i>	The study area spans the 981 mile length of the Ohio River from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to the river's mouth near Cairo, Illinois.
<i>Existing Structures</i>	The Ohio River system includes 20 lock and dam structures, which will be reduced to 19 upon completion of Olmsted Locks and Dam and the removal of Locks and Dams 52 and 53. Most structures have a 110' x 1200' main chamber and a 110' x 600' auxiliary chamber. Structures of this type were completed after 1960. The exceptions are the three uppermost structures: Emsworth, Dashields and Montgomery, which are between 64 and 79 years old and have 110' x 600' main chambers and 56' x 360' auxiliary chambers.
<i>Annual Tonnage and Projected Traffic Growth</i>	In 2008, total tonnage on the Ohio River Mainstem was 259 million tons of commerce worth over \$30 billion. 57.7% of this amount was coal. Other important commodities included aggregates, petroleum products, grain, iron/steel and chemicals. Projected tonnage is 370 million tons by 2030.
<i>Summary of Problems</i>	Structural concerns related to heavy use and age, coupled with inadequate auxiliary lock capacity are most acute between Robert C. Byrd and Smithland Locks and Dams and at the three uppermost projects. The river's ecosystem has been degraded over the last two centuries.
<i>Corps of Engineers Actions</i>	The Water Resources Development Act of 2000 has authorized projects which were identified in the Ohio River Mainstem Systems Study. 600' extensions of the auxiliary chambers and other improvements were authorized at Greenup and John T. Myers Locks and Dams. Also authorized was the \$300 million Ohio River Ecosystem Restoration, which is an effort to restore and protect lost or degraded aquatic wetland and terrestrial habitat along the Ohio River corridor

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