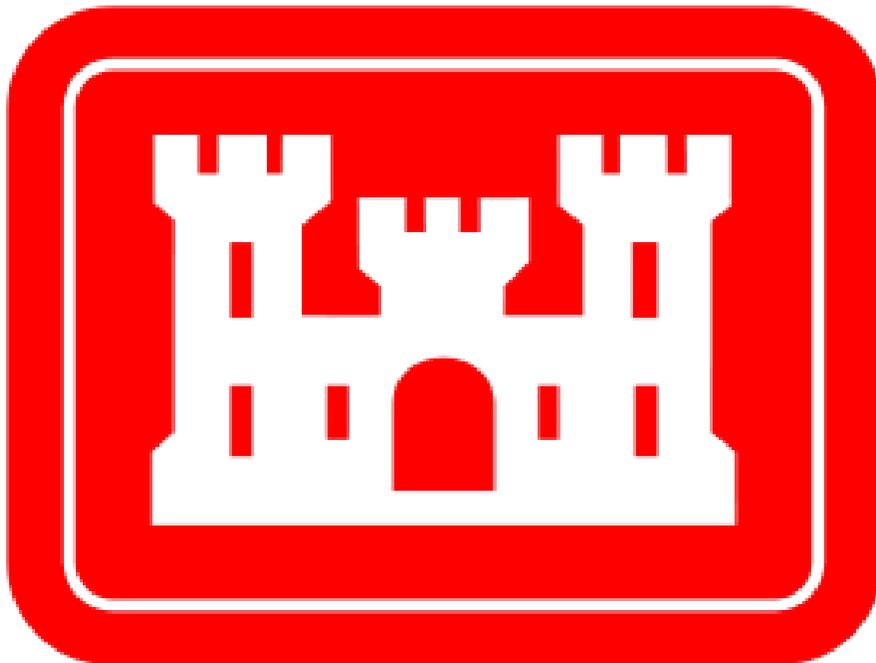


Draft Environmental Assessment
Pleasant Hill Dam
Easement Acquisition
Ashland County, Ohio



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Huntington District
Huntington, West Virginia
May 2012

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
PLEASANT HILL DAM
PROPOSED TRAIL EASEMENT
ASHLAND COUNTY, OHIO

1. Members of my staff have conducted an environmental assessment, in the overall public interest, concerning the implementation of acquiring an easement for a trail owned by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Mohican State Park to access the downstream area of Pleasant Hill Dam. The proposed easement is needed to facilitate the operation and maintenance of the dam and its appurtenances. The construction of the Pleasant Hill Dam was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1939 (Public Law 76-396). The ability to move vehicles, supplies, and equipment to the downstream areas of the dam, which would be made possible by this easement, has been determined necessary for the maintenance of the dam.
2. The possible consequences of the proposed action have been studied for its effects on environmental, cultural and social well-being.
3. The Proposed Action Alternative (PAA) and the No Action Alternative (NAA) were the only alternatives carried forward for detailed evaluation. The PAA is the most effective and is both environmentally and socially acceptable. The NAA would not be in the best interest of all parties involved and could lead to maintenance issues with the dam.
4. An evaluation of the PAA and the NAA produced the following pertinent conclusions:
 - a. Environmental Considerations. The Huntington District has taken reasonable measures to assemble and present the known or foreseeable environmental impacts of the project in the Environmental Assessment (EA). All adverse effects of the proposed action are considered insignificant and temporary.
 - b. Social Well-Being Considerations. The proposed project will ensure operation and maintenance of the dam and its appurtenances. No significant economic or social well-being impacts that are both adverse and/or unavoidable are foreseen as a result of the proposed action. The project will not have any impact on sites of known significant archeological or historic importance. Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) will not be impacted on the site.
 - c. Coordination with Resource Agencies. Pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) of 1958, coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), ODNR, and the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD) has been maintained throughout the study. Appropriate measures and best management practices will be identified and incorporated into the PAA.

Also, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended, the recommended plan should not impact listed species.

d. Other Pertinent Compliance. No prime or unique farmland under the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) will be involved. The PAA is also in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA Section 106, 36 CFR 800), Executive Order (EO) 11988 (Floodplain Management), and EO 11990 (Protection of Wetlands).

e. Other Public Interest Considerations. There has been no significant opposition to the PAA. Comments received during the public review period will be included in the EA.

f. Section 176(c) Clean Air Act. The PAA has been analyzed for conformity and applicability pursuant to regulations implementing Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act (CAA). The PAA will not exceed *de minimis* levels or direct emissions of a criteria pollutant or its precursors and is exempted by 40 CFR Part 93.153. Any later indirect emissions are generally not within the District's continuing program responsibility and generally cannot be practicably controlled by the District. For these reasons a conformity determination is not required for the action.

5. I find the proposed easement for Pleasant Hill Dam trail has been planned in accordance with current authorization as described in the EA. The PAA is consistent with national policy, statutes and administrative directives. This determination is based on thorough analysis and evaluation of the PAA and alternative courses of action. In conclusion, I find the proposed trail easement will have No Significant Adverse Impact on the quality of the human environment.

Date

Robert D. Peterson
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
PLEASANT HILL DAM
PROPOSED TRAIL EASEMENT
ASHLAND COUNTY, OHIO

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, West Virginia

ABSTRACT: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Huntington District has prepared this Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to document evaluation of potential environmental impacts of a proposed trail easement to access the downstream area of Pleasant Hill Dam located in Ashland County, Ohio. The trail is owned by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Mohican State Park. The Huntington District's review and analyses of economic, human and natural environments have determined that the Proposed Action Alternative (PAA) would address the purpose and need for the proposed easement and would have minimal adverse impact on the human environment.

The PAA is the most economical and environmentally sound action that meets the purpose and need. The proposed road easement is approximately 3,450 linear feet long and 50 feet wide, and would be located downstream of the dam along the left descending bank to the covered bridge maintained by the ODNR. The Draft EA presents the results of the evaluation of the Proposed Action's potential impacts, positive and negative. Positive impacts are associated with enhanced ability for the district to provide for operation and maintenance of the dam and its appurtenances. Adverse impacts include those associated with periodic maintenance of the road, including effects on recreation, air quality, and noise. These are expected to be minor and temporary.

The proposed action is authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1939 (Public Law 76-396).

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PLEASANT HILL DAM
PROPOSED TRAIL EASEMENT
ASHLAND COUNTY, OHIO

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The brief and concise nature of this document is consistent with Council of Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to reduce paperwork and delay by eliminating duplication with existing environmental documentation, incorporating pertinent material by reference and by emphasizing interagency cooperation (40 CFR 1500.4).

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 Project Background

Pleasant Hill Dam is located in Ashland County, Ohio. The easement area is centered near latitude 40.617379° and longitude -82.320640° (WGS 84). The USACE's Pleasant Hill Dam is located in the middle of two major recreation areas. Mohican State Park and Mohican Memorial State Forest lies below the dam. The Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District's (MWCD) Pleasant Hill Lake Park, created by the dam, lies above it. The Pleasant Hill Dam and lake are located on the Clear Fork branch of the Mohican River, 6 miles west of Loudonville and 20 miles southeast of Mansfield, Ohio, in Ashland County. Pleasant Hill Dam was constructed for flood reduction, recreation and fish and wildlife management and became operational in 1936. The USACE is proposing acquisition of an easement for a trail owned by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Mohican State Park to access the downstream area of Pleasant Hill Dam. The proposed action would provide for access of Corps maintenance vehicles and equipment necessary for operation and maintenance of the dam and its appurtenances. Though the Corps has been permitted by the State to utilize the state-owned trail system since the Dam was constructed, the Corps does not formally possess sufficient real estate interests to use and periodically perform maintenance/repair of the trail as necessitated by Corps use. The road easement is approximately 3,450 feet long and 50 feet wide descending from the dam along the left descending bank to the covered bridge.



Figure 1 (above)-Location of Ashland



Figure 2 (right) -Location of proposed easement Ashland County, Ohio

1.2 Purpose, Need and Authorization

The purpose of the action is to provide access to the downstream area of the dam. The proposed easement is needed to facilitate the operation and maintenance of the dam and its appurtenances. The movement of vehicles, supplies, and equipment are necessary to maintain the gage downstream of the dam, perform routine mowing, and bring in necessary equipment to periodically clean out the stilling basin. No improvements or upgrades to the trail would be necessary to accommodate the USACE use. The USACE would periodically perform trail maintenance on the easement area as necessary in the form of placement of gravel, removal of debris, etc.

The proposed action is authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1939 (Public Law 76-396). Authorized purposes include flood control, water conservation, and recreation.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) is prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1517), and USACE implementing regulation, ER 200-2-2, 1988.

2.0 ALTERNATIVES ELIMINATED

2.1 Alternative considered but eliminated – Alternate Access Road

Under Alternative 2, a road would be constructed down the face of the dam to provide operation and maintenance to this portion of the facility. This alternative was dismissed from further consideration due to the topography of the area. The grade of the road would be too steep to allow for equipment and vehicles to safely enter the downstream area of Pleasant Hill Dam.

3.0 PROPOSED ACTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES

3.1 Alternative 1 - Proposed Action Alternative

The Proposed Action Alternative (PAA) would involve easement acquisition of a trail owned by ODNR and Mohican State Park to access the downstream area of Pleasant Hill Dam. The trail easement is approximately 3,450 feet long and 50 feet wide descending from the dam along the left downward bank to the covered bridge. The easement would facilitate movement of vehicles, supplies, and equipment which are necessary for the maintenance of the dam. No immediate improvements or upgrades to the trail would be necessary to accommodate USACE use. The USACE would utilize the trail for mowing purposes approximately six times from May to October and six other times on average throughout the year to perform maintenance purposes.

3.2 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative (NAA), the aforementioned easement would not be acquired. The NAA would result in continued use of the trail as long as permission to use the trail is granted by the ODNR. The NAA would result in discontinued use of the trail. This alternative

was considered unacceptable due to the loss of the use of the trail and ultimately the inability to effectively fulfill Dam Operation and Maintenance (O&M) requirements.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND CONSEQUENCES

4.1 Location

The affected area of this easement location is in a primarily undeveloped area with the exception of the trail used for recreational purposes by the Mohican State Park. The easement area is located in the Glaciated Allegheny Plateau which consists of generally lower relief and gentle slopes compared to the Unglaciated Allegheny Plateaus.

4.2 Terrestrial Habitat

The easement area is rural in nature with the trail being utilized primarily for recreation purposes. The area has been used as a recreational opportunity at Mohican State Park for hiking and as access to the dam by the USACE. Considering the easement location and scope, the impacts to land use are not expected to change as a result of the PAA. The NAA would have no affect on land use.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA) requires Federal agencies to take action to prevent loss or damage to wildlife resources and provide for the measures taken to mitigate such impacts. Wildlife and wildlife resources are defined by the FWCA to include birds, fish, mammals and all other classes of wild animals and all types of aquatic and land vegetation upon which wildlife is dependent. The PAA would occur in previously disturbed areas and no open space or undisturbed areas would be negatively impacted by the trail easement. The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) was contacted to determine if the PAA would impact wildlife resources. The FWS found no Federal wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, or Critical Habitat within the vicinity of this site. The USACE has determined that the PAA is in accordance with provisions of the FWCA and no impacts to fish and wildlife are anticipated to occur from the NAA or PAA, due to the previously disturbed nature of the proposed easement area.

Executive Order (EO) 11988 requires Federal agencies to consider the potential effects of their proposed actions to floodplains. In order to determine the PAA's potential floodplain impact, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) was reviewed by the USACE. It was determine that the project is located within the 100-year floodplain; however, the proposed trail easement will not negatively affect the floodplain as only periodic maintenance would occur to maintain trail surface. No impacts to floodplains are anticipated to occur from the PAA or NAA.

The PAA will occur in previously disturbed areas. The majority of the trail is wide and clear of overhanging vegetation, allowing equipment or trucks to safely pass. No long-term adverse impacts are anticipated to occur from the PAA. No impacts to vegetation are anticipated to occur from the PAA or NAA.

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) requires Federal agencies to minimize the conversion of prime and unique farmland to non-agricultural uses. There is no construction associated with the trail easement; therefore, neither the PAA nor NAA would result in impacts to prime or unique farmlands.

4.3 Aquatic Habitat

The PAA will occur on a previously disturbed trail. The trail is adjacent to the Mohican River. Culverts along the trail have already been installed by ODNR. The proposed trail easement involves no construction or upgrades that would occur within the stream corridor. Any trail maintenance necessary will be in the form of placement of gravel, removal of debris, etc. and will not impact aquatic habitat. Therefore, no impacts to aquatic habitat are anticipated to occur from the PAA or NAA.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) regulates discharges into special aquatic sites, including wetlands, and EO 11990 requires Federal agencies to take action to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands in carrying out their respective responsibilities. A review of the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps as well as an on-site survey revealed no wetlands in the project area.

No designated State Wild or Scenic Rivers are present within the Project Area. Since no State Wild or Scenic Rivers are located within the Project Area, no impacts to these resources are anticipated from the PAA or NAA.

4.4 Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW)

Although the movement of vehicles, supplies, and equipment are necessary for the maintenance of the dam, no improvements or upgrades to the trail would be necessary to accommodate use by the USACE. The USACE would periodically perform trail maintenance as necessary in the form of placement of gravel, removal of debris, etc. The PAA and NAA would not result in substantive ground disturbing activities and would not have potential to disturb areas of HTRW contamination. Therefore, HTRW will not be impacted on the site.

4.5 Cultural Resources

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects Federal undertakings will have on districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects (Cultural Resources) listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). As mandated under Section 106, a Phase I literature review and reconnaissance survey was conducted by USACE cultural resource staff. The literature review was completed by examining the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) online mapping system, followed by a field reconnaissance survey to identify any significant architectural, historical, cultural or archaeological sites within the project area.

The literature review indicated one archaeological survey has been completed immediately adjacent to the project area. Survey 14627 was conducted on Federal land north of the project area on either side of Clear Creek. No cultural resources were recorded as part of the survey. The literature review also indicated two prehistoric archaeological sites that are located adjacent to the project area. No cultural resources have been previously recorded within the project area footprint.

A reconnaissance survey was conducted on November 3, 2011. The reconnaissance survey was limited to a visual inspection of the project area. Noted throughout the project area are disturbances related to a series of push piles and heavily compacted soils associated with the construction and use of the existing recreational trail. The trail averages approximately 10 feet wide and is bordered by mature hardwoods. The proposed USACE use will be confined to the existing trail width. No subsurface impacts are anticipated from the proposed undertaking. The USACE will be utilizing the trail at the existing grade and only anticipate adding gravel in limited areas of the existing surface.

Based upon the Phase I literature review and reconnaissance survey, and in accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), it is the USACE's opinion that no historic properties will be affected by the PAA. There will be no impacts associated with the NAA

4.6 Threatened and Endangered Species

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of actions on Federally listed endangered, threatened, and/or candidate species. The USFWS published list of endangered and threatened species in Ohio was reviewed for the project. According to USFWS and ODNR, the proposed project lies within the range of the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), a state and Federally endangered species. USFWS recommends that maintenance activities along the trail easement be designed to avoid impacts to trees and branches exhibiting any of the characteristics listed below:

- dead or live trees and snags with peeling or exfoliating bark, split tree trunk and/or branches, or cavities, which may be used as maternity roost areas;
- live trees (such as shagbark hickory and oak) which have exfoliating bark;
- stream corridors, riparian areas, and upland woodlots which provide forage sites.

No tree removal along the trail easement is planned. The USACE has determined that the PAA will have no effect on the Indiana bat.

The proposed trail easement also lies within the range of the Eastern Hellbender (*Cryptobranchus a. alleganiensis*), a Federal amphibian species of concern. The Eastern Hellbender is a salamander that inhabits perennial streams with large, flat rocks. According to the USFWS, Clear Fork of the Mohican River is known to support Eastern Hellbenders and maintenance activities on the trail easement should be designed to minimize sediment runoff and direct impacts to the stream. No maintenance of the road is necessary at this time. However, the possibility of future maintenance may consist of laying gravel on the existing trail. The USACE has determined that the PAA would have no effect on the Eastern Hellbender since no in-water work is proposed.

The Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), a species protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, also occurs within the range of the trail easement. The USFWS has determined that no impact to the Bald Eagle is expected to occur due to the project type, location, and availability of onsite habitat. Additionally, USFWS and ODNR have no records of this species within vicinity of the trail easement location. The USFWS finds that this information precludes the need for further action on this project as required by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The USACE has determined that the PAA will have no effect on the Bald Eagle.

The proposed trail easement is also within the range of the Trumpeter Swan (*Cygnus buccinators*), a state endangered bird. Due to the location of the project and the type of work proposed, ODNR finds that the project is not likely to impact this species.

No impacts to threatened or endangered species are anticipated to occur from the NAA or PAA.

4.7 Air Quality

The Clean Air Act (CAA) allows the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to set air quality standards for pollutants considered harmful to public health and welfare. The National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) set limits to protect public health, including the health of sensitive populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. These standards have been established for six criteria pollutants including Carbon monoxide (CO), Lead (Pb), Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), Ozone (O₃), Particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), and Sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and each state is required to develop implementation plans for each pollutant. Areas are generally in “attainment” of the standards for the pollutants listed above or in “nonattainment”. Nonattainment areas are required by the CAA to comply with the NAAQS standards through the evaluation and development of a maintenance plan.

According to the Ohio EPA, Ashland County, Ohio is classified as “attainment for all standards”. The PAA would not result in significant impacts to air quality. However, vehicles and equipment utilizing the trail would have the potential to cause periodic localized and temporary, nuisance air quality impacts. Potential sources of these impacts include emissions from vehicles and equipment which include diesel fuel fumes and exhaust. The PAA would not require constant daily use of the trail; therefore, limited usage would allow for dispersion of the nuisance fumes generated during operation. The proposed action is therefore exempt from making a conformity determination since estimated emissions from maintenance equipment would be far below the *de minimis* standards of 100 tons/year, which are the minimum threshold for which a conformity determination must be performed. No long term impacts will result from the PAA.

The NAA would not generate construction-related air emissions.

4.8 Noise

4.8.1 Background

Noise is measured as Day Night average noise levels (DNL) in "A-weighted" decibels that the human ear is most sensitive to (dBA). There is no Federal standard for allowable noise levels; however, the USACE and other Federal agencies have adopted provide guidance for evaluating noise level impacts.

The USACE Safety and Health Requirements Manual (September 2008) provides criteria for permissible noise exposure levels, as well as thresholds for the consideration of hearing protection and/or the implementation of sound reduction controls. Table 1 presents the minimum duration and noise level thresholds outlined in the USACE Safety and Health Requirements Manual.

Table 1
Permissible Non-Department of Defense Noise Exposures

Duration/day (hours)	Noise level (dBA)
8	90
6	92
4	95
3	97
2	100
1.5	102
1	105

Source: USACE Safety and Health Requirements Manual, 2008

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Guidelines denote DNLs below 65 dBA as normally acceptable levels of exterior noise in residential areas. Several other agencies, including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, use a DNL criterion of 55 dBA as the threshold for defining noise impacts in sparse suburban and rural residential areas (Schomer et al 2001). According to Dr. Paul Schomer in his 2001 Whitepaper, while there are numerous thresholds for acceptable noise in residential areas, research suggests that an area's current noise environment, which has experienced noise in the past, may reasonably expect to tolerate a level of noise about 5 dBA higher than the general guidelines. Down and Stock (1978) conducted a study to determine the human reaction to progressive sound increases. The results of the study indicate that increases in ambient noise levels below 5 dB go unnoticed, while every 5 dB increase above that level becomes increasing noticeable and increases over 20 dB are intolerable (Table 2).

Table 2
Human Reaction to Increases in Sound Pressure Level

Increase in Sound Pressure (dB)	Human Reaction
Under 5	Unnoticed to tolerable
5 – 10	Intrusive
10 – 15	Very noticeable
15 – 20	Objectionable
Over 20	Very objectionable to intolerable

Source: Down and Stocks, 1978

4.8.2 Analysis

Noise associated with utilization of the trail would be similar to vehicle noise and small machinery used in the local area. Trucks and mowers are the vehicle and equipment expected to utilize the trail.

Usage of the trail would be periodic, generating noise for limited amounts of time during the day. There are no residential locations near the trail. Visitors using the trail or adjacent trail for recreational purposes would be exposed to short-term noise levels. Noise generated would be considered acceptable according to HUD standards. These limited exposures and time intervals are within allowable USACE safety levels (USACE 2003). Further, they are similar to typical noise generated from local traffic on the adjacent Park Road and noise generated by gas powered lawnmowers utilized at the state park, which could range from 90-95 dBA at three feet and 70-75 dBA at 100 feet. Noise would be localized, temporary and should not approach nuisance levels. Due to daytime trail usage and the short and limited duration of elevated noise levels associated with the PAA, impacts from noise should be minor and temporary.

No impacts to noise would be anticipated to occur from the NAA.

4.9 Socioeconomic Conditions

Under EO 12898 “Federal Action to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low Income Populations,” Federal agencies are directed to identify, address, and avoid disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low income populations.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the 2010 population estimate for Ashland County, Ohio was 53,139 and does not contain significant minority populations. The 2010 census indicates that Ashland County, Ohio is 97.3% white and has a median household income of \$44,542, compared with \$47,358 for the state of Ohio. Individuals residing in the county below the poverty level is 15.6% compared to 14.2% statewide.

Recreation availability for the existing trail is open to the public. As periodic maintenance would affect all users of the trail, there would be no disproportionate effects to a particular demographic. The project meets the directive of EO 12898 by avoiding any disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effects on minority or low income populations.

No impacts to minority and low income populations are anticipated to occur from the NAA.

4.10 Aesthetics

No disturbance of the local aesthetics is anticipated with the PAA. Recreational fishing and hiking is common along the trail. Utilization of the trail will have no effect on its aesthetics. The proposed location is rural and will be located within previously disturbed areas.

No impacts to aesthetics are anticipated to occur from the NAA.

4.11 Recreation Resources

Mohican State Park and the adjacent State Forest are used for recreational fishing, hiking, and picnicking. The proposed trail easement is accessible to the public for fishing and hiking purposes. During a site visit to the proposed easement location, the public was seen utilizing the trail for hiking and to visit Pleasant Hill Dam.

Under the PAA, recreational fishing and hiking could be affected by this proposed action when O&M of the dam requires utilization of the trail with equipment or vehicles. However, recreational impacts would be minor and short-term. Vehicle and equipment noise along the trail may pose a minor nuisance to some recreational fishermen. The effects would be brief and would not directly impose on the recreational resource. Utilization of the trail may pose a minor disturbance to hikers. The affects would be brief and once equipment and/or vehicles pass pedestrians on the trail, hikers can resume with recreational activities.

The NAA would have the same effects on recreation as the PAA. However, if permission of utilization of trail is ever denied under the NAA, no impacts to recreation would occur.

4.12 Transportation and Traffic

Existing traffic patterns in the area consist of recreational users using Park Road to access portions of Mohican State Park. The PAA should not involve delays in the normal traffic flow. Traffic along Park Road is low in volume and utilization of the trail would cause minimal disruption to existing traffic patterns. Impacts anticipated to occur from the PAA would be minimal and temporary.

No impacts to transportation and traffic are anticipated to occur from the NAA.

4.13 Health and Safety

The PAA and NAA have the potential to cause temporary and minimal health concerns with the remittance of gas and diesel fuel by equipment and trucks. The movement of vehicles, supplies, and equipment will be relatively infrequent. Therefore, the risks to health by air emissions is nominal and short in duration, as mentioned in the above air quality section.

4.14 Cumulative Effects

Analysis of the PAA and its potential impacts, both direct and indirect, has been performed for each resource within the project area and the results of the respective analyses have been presented in this report. The PAA will result in direct impacts to the following resources: air quality, noise, and recreation. None of these impacts were determined to be significant. Impacts associated with the PAA will be minor and temporary. In the absence of significant cumulative effects issues, further analysis for the resources listed above is unnecessary according to the Council of Environmental Quality Guidance.

5.0 REQUIRED COORDINATION

5.1 Public Involvement

This Draft EA, along with the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), will be circulated to the local community and local, state and Federal governmental agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise for a 30-day review/comment period. A copy will be made available at the local Ashland County Public Library and a public notice published in the Ashland Times-Gazette. A mailing list of parties that received notice of this draft EA has been included in Appendix C.

5.2 Required Agency Coordination

Coordination with Federal, state, and local agencies has been conducted throughout the preparation of this report. All correspondence letters can be found in Appendix B. The USFWS, ODNR, and the MWCD have all been asked to review the project for potential negative resource impacts. The current trail owner, ODNR Division of Parks and Recreation, does not oppose a trail easement with the USACE.

6.0 CONCLUSION

No significant adverse impacts have been identified with the proposed easement acquisition. Utilization of the trail for movement of vehicles, supplies, and equipment necessary for O&M of the dam and its appurtenances will occur on previously disturbed land. Short term impacts associated with the utilization of the trail would be localized and minor. Some possible localized and minor impacts on the human environment could include noise, air quality, and recreation. However, these impacts would be insignificant and short in duration when compared to the positive impact of maintaining the dam and its appurtenances.