



Bids sought for multi-million-dollar dam rehab in Preston County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 5, 2017

Contact Billy Wolfe
WVCA Communications Specialist
304.957.1409 | bwolfe@wvca.us

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - The Monongahela Conservation District (MCD) will award a multi-million-dollar contract for dam rehabilitation work this summer as part of an ongoing effort to rehabilitate the state's aging flood-control infrastructure.

The District began soliciting for bids on the rehabilitation of the Upper Decker's No. 1 dam in Preston County last week. The advertisement can be viewed at <http://www.wvca.us/proposedprojects/index.cfm>

The earthen dam, located on West Virginia University's JW Ruby Research Farm, supplies water to more than 1,600 customers of Public Service District 1 in Arthurdale. When work is completed, the water pool will be raised by 10 feet, thereby increasing water supply to Arthurdale and allowing for continued population growth.

The Upper Decker's No. 1 dam is one of 169 high hazard flood-control dams in West Virginia. The federal regulatory classification means that human life could be lost if the dam were to fail. It does not refer to the dam's structural integrity.

The 48-year-old dam is in no imminent danger of failure. However, this work is required to bring the structure up to modern engineering standards and to correct some minor deficiencies. The work will also ensure the dam continues to serve its intended function for at least another 50 years.

Rehabilitation plans for the dam call for the construction of a 420-foot-long roller-compacted concrete spillway, and a new 23.5-foot-tall riser structure.

Camp Hill, Pa.-based engineering firm Gannett Fleming will hold a job showing at 10 a.m. April 14 at the farm. Design plans will be discussed. Attendance is mandatory for interested contractors.

Project funding will come from the Preston PSD 1, the West Virginia Conservation Agency (WVCA) and the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

A contract should be awarded by early July, with work expected to begin this fall. Construction should be completed by late 2018.

This is the second flood-control watershed dam to be rehabilitated by WVCA and NRCS in recent years. Rehabilitation work on New Creek No. 14, which serves as a primary water supply source for the city of Keyser, was completed in 2013.

WVCA is the state government agency responsible for promoting and protecting the state's land, water and soil resources. It provides assistance to the state's 14 conservation districts and is overseen by the State Conservation Committee. For more information, please visit www.wvca.us