

THE REMOVAL OF THE NEW KERNSVILLE DAM

GREGG ADAMS

At the Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet on January 25th, Mark Malach and Shane Erdman of PA DEP presented information regarding the removal of the New Kernsville Dam. The presentation is being presented here in almost its entirety. The slides have been cropped to remove "dead" space so that they may be displayed at the largest size possible. Two of the slides have been repeated, but cropped and the remaining portions enlarged to show the pertinent portions in greater detail.

During the question and answer period, Mark and Shane explained that the contract to remove the dam has not yet been awarded. This means that, while the method shown in the presentation is a typical method of removing dams similar in size and construction to that of the New Kernsville Dam, the actual method of removing the dam has not yet been reviewed and approved. They opined that the contract could be awarded in the next few months and that work could begin as early as April, with the bulk of the

work to remove the dam completed this year. They suggested that those interested in the removal process should search the internet for the removal of the Ballville Dam in Fremont, Ohio. They stated that the Ballville Dam removal was extensively documented in video and is available for viewing for free on YouTube. They also explained that a number of approvals must be secured before the work can commence.

More recently, Blue Mountain Wildlife has learned that the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission issued a negative review for the plan, due to concerns with the removal of many historic features as proposed by the project. As a result, the Army Corps of Engineers is meeting on April 9th with at least fourteen local organizations, including BMW, to ascertain their views of the features impacted by the project.

As the project proceeds and more is learned, Blue Mountain Wildlife will post news-worthy items on our website and Facebook page, as well as provide articles in future newsletters.



New Kernsville Dam Removal

Tilden and Windsor Townships
Berks County, PA

January 25, 2019

Background

- Trespassing and inappropriate activities in the area have occurred resulting in numerous fatalities.
- New Kernsville Dam is no longer needed due to mine reclamation activities that have been completed over the past 30 years.
- DEP – Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR) currently operates and maintains dam.
- DEP – Bureau of Waterways Engineering & Wetlands (BWEW) will develop plans, obtain permits, and oversee removal of the dam.
- Once removed, the dam property will be transferred to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR - Bureau of Forestry).
- DCNR ultimately would like to return the area to public use in the future.

Dam History

- Dam was built as part of the Schuylkill River Desilting Project.
- Purpose was to create an impounding reservoir to capture and prevent the downstream advancement of coal-rich silt.
- Construction started in June of 1948.
- Completed in November of 1949.

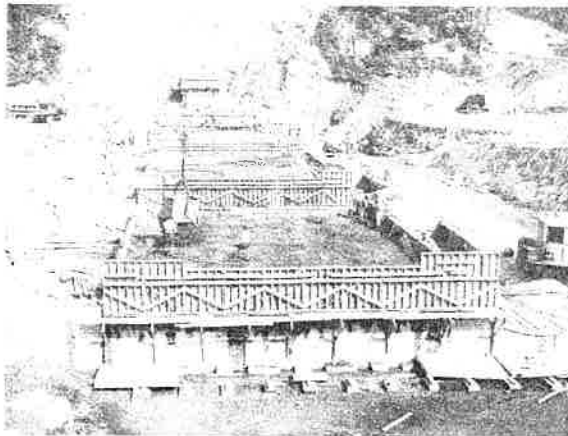


PLATE 14—NEW KERNSVILLE DAM DURING CONSTRUCTION

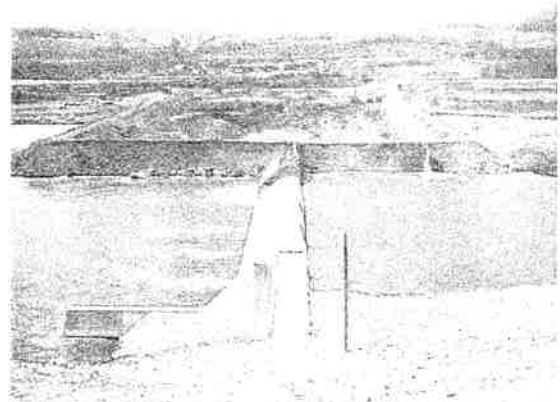
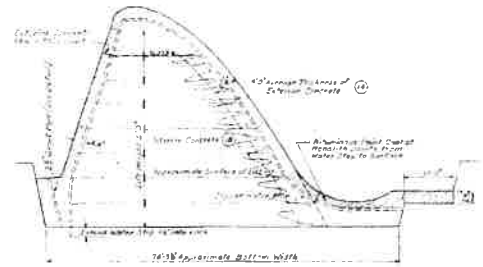
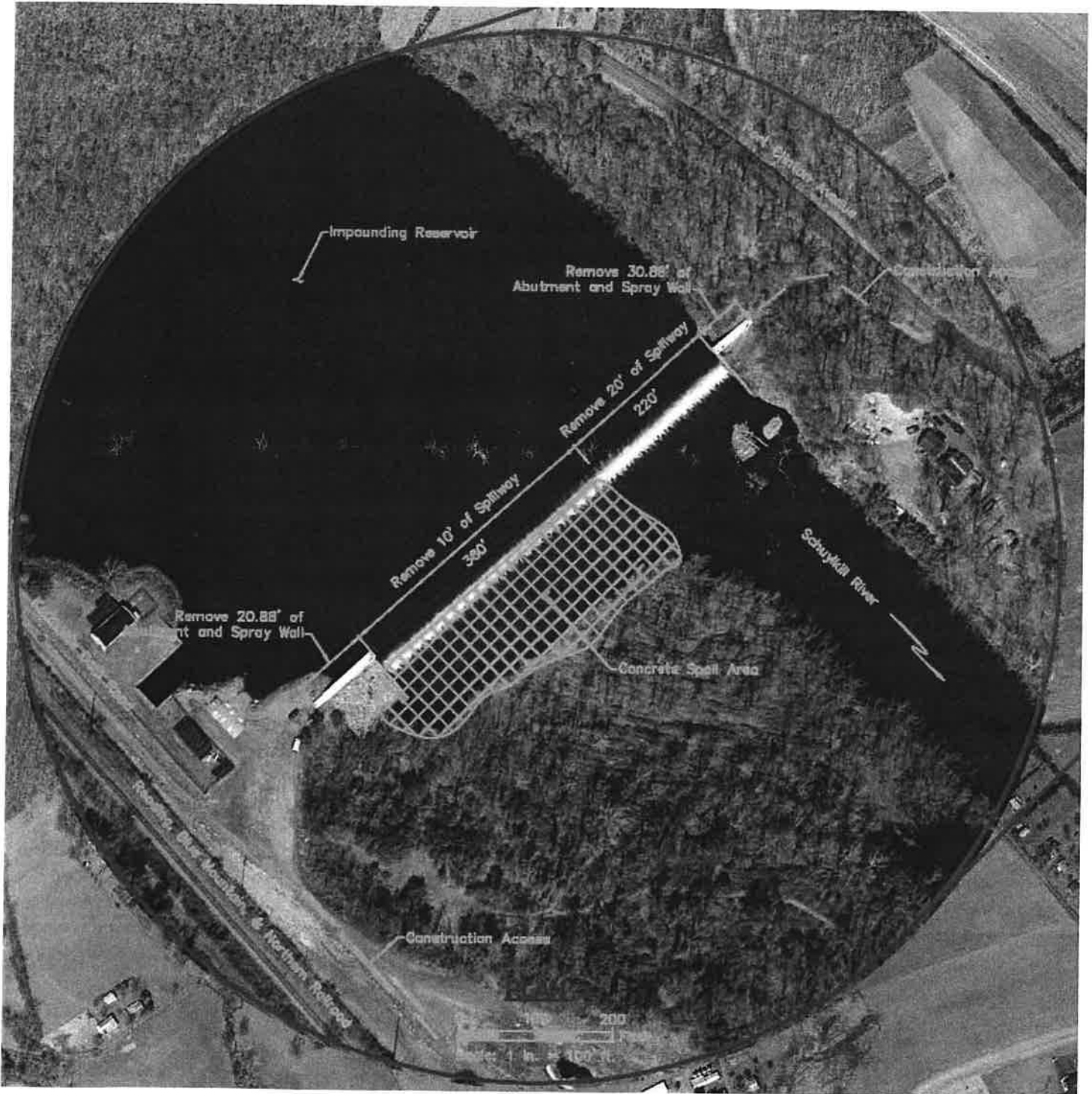


PLATE 15—NEW KERNSVILLE DAM SHOWING COMPLETION OF FIRST STAGE AND CONSTRUCTION CENTER DAM FOR SECOND STAGE

Dam Features

- Spillway Length = 600'
- Founded on Shale and Limestone
- Max. Height of Dam = 45' (28' below riverbed)
- Spillway base width = 58'-7"
- Concrete gravity walls at both ends of spillway

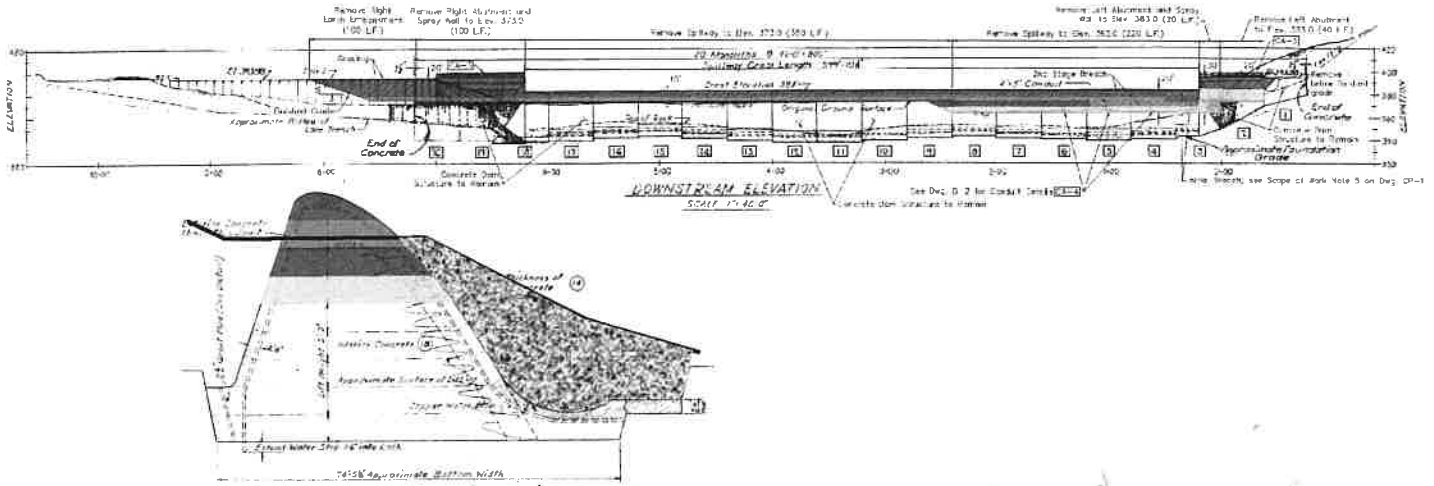




The image above is a portion of the graphic to the left, enlarged to show more detail.

Removal of the Dam

- Plan is to partially remove dam and spoil concrete material below dam.
- Completely cover spoiled concrete.

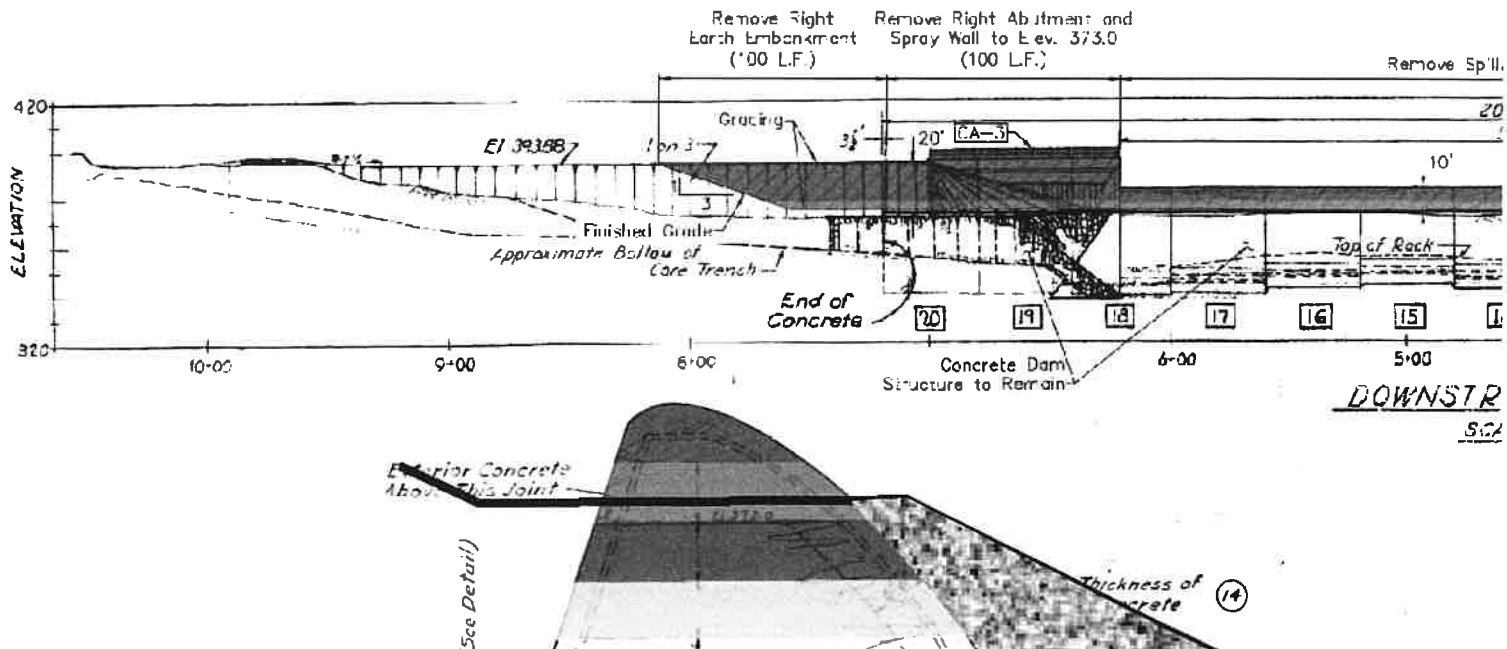


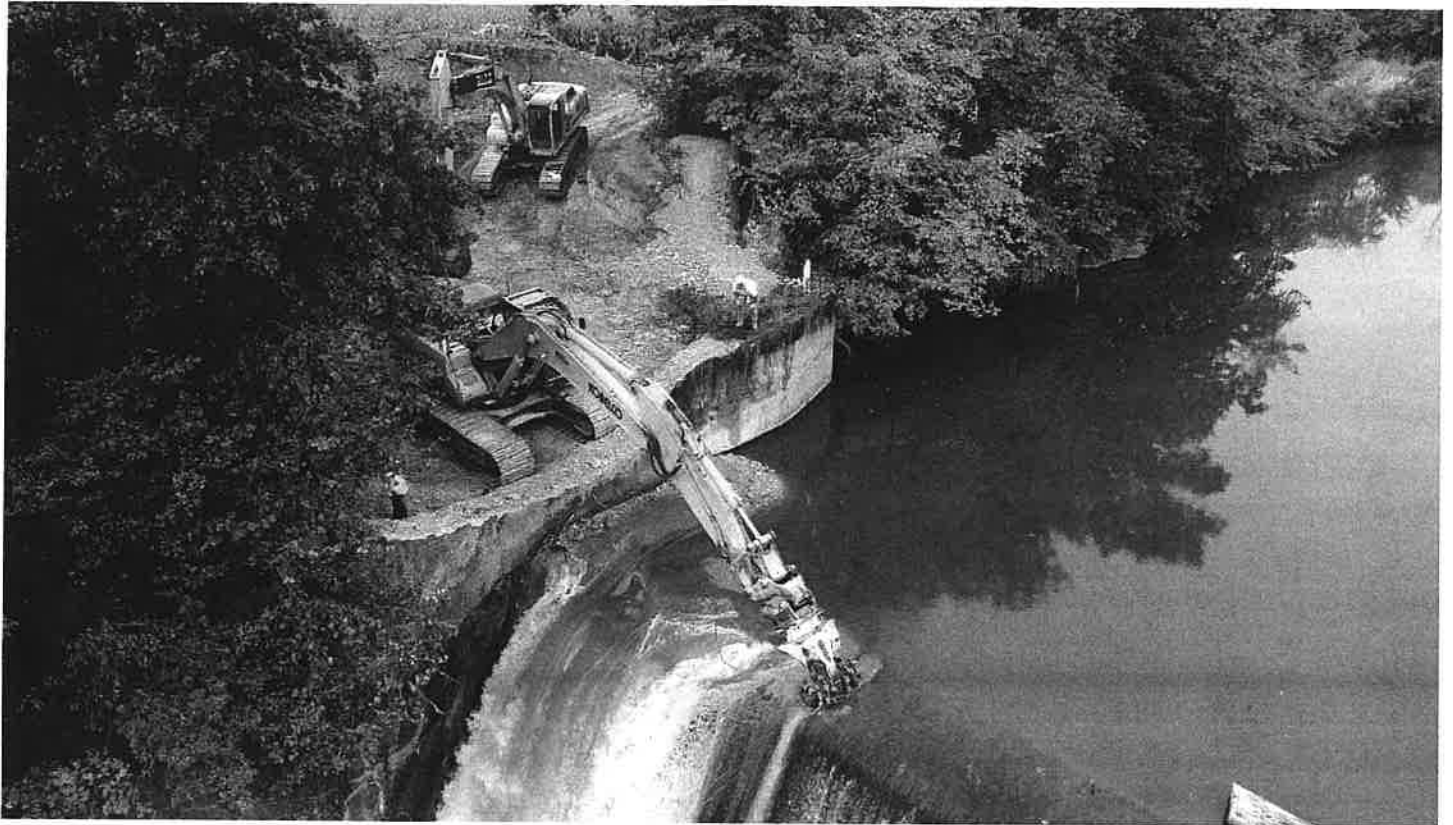
Contractor may submit a different method of removal for approval by the Department.



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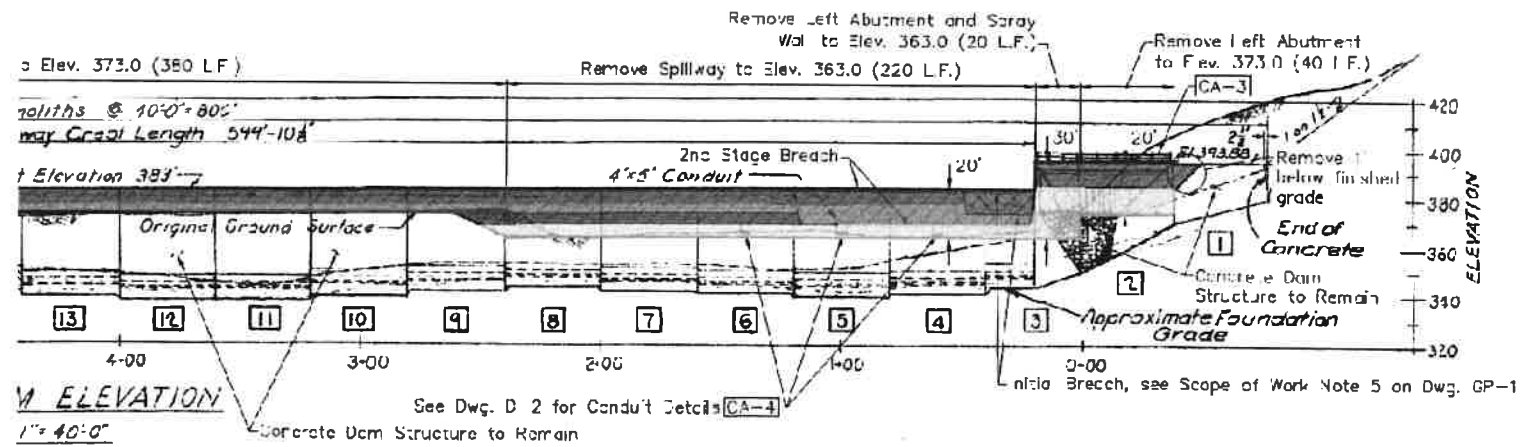
The image below is a portion of the graphic above, enlarged to show more detail.





Creating Initial Notch in Dam (Ballville Dam, Fremont, OH)

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Removal of Spillway
(Ballville Dam, Fremont, OH)

8

Regulations

- Removal of dam requires:
 - Federal Authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - DEP Dam Safety Permit Waiver
 - Pennsylvania Historic & Museum Commission Review
 - An approved Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan must be implemented



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