

Correspondence: Coon, A. Hayden 1973
July 30

Flood Runoff

B. G. COON CONSTRUCTION CO.

LUZERNE, PA.

July 30, 1973

Mr. Robert J. Bielo, Executive Director
Susquehanna River Basin Commission
5012 Lenker Street
Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17055

Dear Mr. Bielo:

This will acknowledge receipt of the "Comprehensive Plan for Management and Development of the Water Resources of the Susquehanna River Basin" forwarded me by your office, which I have examined, and on the general subject of which I wish to make some comments.

I attended the public meeting at King's College auditorium on the evening of July 23rd and heard the various presentations and thought that in most every case the papers and the accompanying remarks were most valuable. I would however, like to make a suggestion that the Commission discover whether or not the Corps of Engineers has given any consideration to a minor deepening of the channel (4, 5 or 6 feet) for a distance of several hundred feet at the West Nanticoke downstream end of the Wyoming Valley. At this point near the location of the old Nanticoke Dam there is a ledge of rock forming the bottom of the river over which the water ripples at low levels and the ledge is easily visible.

It is my belief that since the level of the river through the Valley is established by the relative difference between the amount of water flowing into the Valley above Pittston and the amount of water flowing out of the Valley at the West Nanticoke or downstream end, the lowering of the river bottom, tapering out up and downstream within a couple of hundred feet, might well reduce the total overall flood level by a foot or so.

I believe that this existing rock ledge bottom probably has held back on the bottom of the river upstream a certain amount of silt and sand which would of course go further downstream before being deposited and that the width of any such dredging would have to be determined by conditions of the river banks up and downstream and on both sides. It might even be necessary to extend the limits of the operation several hundred feet more upstream and downstream.

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I request that the Commission bring this matter to the attention of the Corps of Engineers and realize that they already may have made a study on this subject. I have questioned this in my own mind, however, because until most recently they apparently had given no particular attention to the forests that have grown up on the islands over the past fifty years, although I now see the subject of the removal of this "vegetation" is set forth in their planning as particularly mentioned in the report submitted at the July 23rd meeting by General Frank Townend.

I will appreciate your courtesy in placing this request before the Commission.

Respectfully yours,

AHC:mh

A. Harden Coon
Member - Task Force

cc: Hon. Max Rosenn
General Frank Townend

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