

Project Title: Bens Creek dam removal and habitat restoration
Project Location Bens Creek, near Portage, PA; Cambria Co.
Latitude 40.395503 Longitude -78.613997

Dam removed Bens Creek Intake dam, DEP No. 11-075
Date of removal Summer 2005
Linear feet restored 845 feet riparian habitat; 422 feet instream habitat
Stream miles opened 1.8 miles
Species to benefit coldwater species

Project Costs:

Growing Greener contribution \$8,050 toward design/engineering
Federal contribution \$0
State contribution \$4,000
Private contribution \$40,000 toward implementation

Project Overview:

Built around 1900 to 1905, the Ben's Creek Intake was approximately 6 feet high by 60 feet wide. The dam was originally constructed to provide a water source to the steam locomotives along the mainline of the Pennsylvania Rail Road in the Portage and Wilmore areas. Removal reduces liability concerns and eliminates the financial burden of maintaining the dam. The removal, which occurred in 2005, allows for habitat restoration on Bens Creek and the Little Conemaugh River.



Photo 1. Bens Creek dam removal. Summer 2005.



Photo 2. Bens Creek impoundment, full of sediment. Summer 2005.



Photo 3. Bens Creek former impoundment immediately following removal. Summer 2005.



Photo 4. Bens Creek dam site following dam & coffer dam removal. Summer 2005.

January 8, 2004

Edward J. Englehart
Highland Sewer and Water Authority
120 Tank Drive
Johnstown, PA
15904

Dear Ed,

I am writing to outline our respective partnership roles in the proposed removal of four dams within your authority; Bear Run water supply dam #1, Bear Run water supply dam #2, Bens Creek dam, and Lower Lloydell dam. Through funding awarded to American Rivers under a three-year DEP Growing Greener watershed restoration grant, in conjunction with matching funds and/or in-kind services from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), we would like to offer funding to cover the engineering designs required for the permits to remove all four dams.

In addition to this funding, American Rivers will take the lead in bidding the dam removal contracts for these four dams to reputable engineering firms, and overseeing these contracts once they have been awarded. We have been contacted by three firms that we identified to do design work under our Growing Greener program who are interested in bidding on the projects; Kleinschmidt Engineering, Rettew Associates, and URS Corp, who have each expressed an interest in designing these four dam removals. They will or have already been in contact with you to see the project sites and prepare their bids. We anticipate receiving bids from all three firms and hope to award a single or multiple contracts by mid-February. The contractor(s) awarded this work will be responsible for completing an engineering design for each of the four dams and assisting the owner, Highland Sewer and Water Authority, through the permitting process. American Rivers and PFBC will also provide guidance in this phase of the process.

It is our understanding that Highland Sewer and Water Authority will be responsible for funding and overseeing the removal phase of this project once the permits are in hand. We would encourage you to retain the services of the contractor(s) who did the designs as an on-site project manager during this phase, or at minimum as a final reviewer to ensure that the removals are done according to the plans and permits. American Rivers and PFBC would also provide some guidance in this effort.

Finally, American Rivers has budgeted up to \$5,000 per dam removal under our Growing Greener program to cover post-removal activities such as monitoring and restoration. Ideally we would like to fund the involvement of a local watershed group, fishing club or other interested parties to do citizen-led restoration or monitoring activities or other removal-related enhancements at these sites. We can discuss these possibilities further as the projects proceed. Please let me know if this outline mirrors your understanding of the process and partner roles. We look forward to working with you on these exciting projects.

Sincerely,

Sara Nicholas
American Rivers

cc: R. Scott Carney, PFBC
E. Maclin, American Rivers

HIGHLAND
Sewer and Water Authority

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March 23, 2004

Sara Nicholas
American Rivers Mid-Atlantic Office
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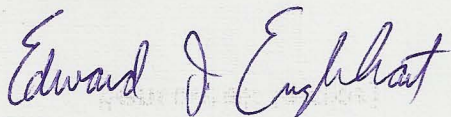
**Re: Dams Removal
(Bear Rock #1, Bear Rock #2,
Lower Lloydell Intake,
Benscreek Intake)**

Dear Sara,

Your letter dated February 11th was read and discussed during Highland's Regular Meeting held March 2, 2004. The Highland Board does agree with the concept and the roles as described in your letter.

We look forward to working with you on these projects and are anxious to finally see them concluded. Please advise what, if anything, you need from us to see these Projects (Demolitions) move forward.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Englehart, Manager

c.c.: Craig Rolish, Chair.
Dick Boxler, P&C Chair.
Atty. Rodkey