Kinzua Dam & Allegheny Reservoir

Authorized by the Flood Control Acts of 1936 and 1938, Kinzua Dam and Allegheny Reservoir is one of 16 flood control projects in the Pittsburgh District. The project provides complete protection for Warren, Pa., from Allegheny River flooding, and in conjunction with other projects in the District substantially reduced flooding in the Allegheny and upper Ohio River Valleys.

The project's flood control capabilities were dramatically demonstrated during the June 1972 floods resulting from Tropical Storm Agnes when an estimated $247 million in flood damages were prevented. Since its completion in 1965, Kinzua has prevented flood damages estimated to be in excess of $1 billion.

The reservoir also provides water to be released during dry periods. These releases have the effect of reducing pollution and improving the quality and quantity of water for domestic, industrial and recreation uses. Flow regulation also helps to maintain navigable depths for commercial traffic on the Allegheny and upper Ohio Rivers.

Another benefit of the Kinzua project is hydroelectric power. A power plant is operated by the First Energy Corporation. Its peak capacity is 400,000 kilowatts per hour. The Big Bend Visitor Center contains displays which illustrate the hydroelectric process.

Lake and Dam Statistics

Location: On the Allegheny River in Warren County, Pa., approximately 198 miles above the mouth of the river at Pittsburgh, Pa. The reservoir is located in Warren and McKean Counties, Pa., and Cattaraugus County, New York.	
Project area, acres:	26,541
Drainage area above dam, square miles:	2,180
Construction cost:	$108,000,000

Dam

Type of structure: Concrete dam and earth embankment with four 24' x 45' crest gates	
Height above streambed, feet:	179
Length, feet : (concrete section – 778.5 feet; earth embankment – 1,098.5 feet)	1,877
Width at base, feet: (concrete section – 195 feet; earth embankment – 1,050 feet)	1,245
Volume of earth fill, cubic yards:	3,000,000
Volume of concrete, cubic yards:	500,000
Outlet Works through concrete section: Eight 5'-8" x 10' discharge sluices and two hydroelectric penstocks, 15' in diameter	

Lake

Length at normal pool, miles:	24.2
Area, acres:	
Maximum (reservoir full):	21,180
Normal (summer pool):	12,080
Elevation, feet above sea level:	
Maximum (reservoir full):	1,365
Normal (summer pool):	1,328
Streambed at dam:	1,198