



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Cuyahoga Valley
National Park

15610 Vaughn Road
Brecksville OH 44141

www.nps.gov/cuva
www.dayinthevalley.com

Cuyahoga Valley National Park News Release

For Immediate Release – Monday, October 5, 2009

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Seeking Public Input On Proposed Canal Diversion Dam Modification/Removal

Brecksville, Ohio - The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) has initiated an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will analyze the potential impacts of the modification and/or removal of the Canal Diversion Dam on the Cuyahoga River at Station Road Bridge Trailhead in Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP). The EIS will include discussions of the proposed project's potential impacts to environmental, cultural, and recreational resources.

The Canal Diversion Dam (alternatively known as the Brecksville Dam, Station Road Dam, or the SR 82 Dam) on the Cuyahoga River is owned by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The dam (183 feet long and nearly 8 feet high) feeds water into the Ohio & Erie Canal that then drains north through CVNP and into Cleveland Metroparks' Ohio & Erie Canal Reservation. The watered portion of the canal and its historic features are a National Historic Landmark.

The OEPA has concluded that the dam negatively impacts water quality, alters habitat, is a barrier to fish movements, and presents a recreational hazard. The NPS has concluded that maintaining the water in the canal is also critical because of the important natural, cultural, and educational values associated with the watered portion of the canal. Alternatives that seek to improve river water quality and habitat values while maintaining a watered canal segment will be evaluated in this EIS process.

The public is invited to a Public Meeting on **Wednesday, October 28, 2009** from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Happy Days Lodge, located on State Route 303 in Boston Heights. The objective of this meeting is to provide an update on the current status of the project and gather any additional comments, which may be of concern to stakeholders.

The public is invited to comment on the impact topics, alternatives, and the scope of this EIS using the NPS's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) web site

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/cuva>.

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Additional background information about the project is available for download at this site. Comments can be submitted via PEPC through **November 28, 2009**. Comments submitted in previous scoping meetings are being considered. Comments can also be submitted in writing to: Superintendent, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, 15610 Vaughn Road, Brecksville, OH 44141.

For further information, please contact Bill Zawiski, OEPA, at (330) 963-1134; or Meg Plona, CVNP, at (330)342-0764 ext. 2

CVNP encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting. For more information visit www.nps.gov/cuva/ or www.dayinthevalley.com or call (216) 524-1497 or (800) 445-9667.

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