U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
BALTIMORE DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE
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Corps Will Release Water From Whitney Point Today

Baltimore, Md.- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin releasing water from Whitney Point Lake today at about 2 p.m. Whitney Point Lake is located on the Otselic River near Whitney Point Village in Broome County, New York. The project was constructed and is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District. The project was completed in 1942 and its primary purpose is to reduce flood damage along the Tioughnioga, Chenango, and Susquehanna Rivers in south central New York.

The outlet gates at Whitney Point were previously closed at mid-day on Saturday, April 2, to store flood runoff, which was occurring as a result recent heavy rainfall and snowmelt. At 1 p.m. today, the water level in the lake was about 40 feet above its normal elevation, occupying almost 80 percent of the lake's flood control capacity.

River levels in the Binghamton area crested late Sunday, and are now receding slowly. Water releases from Whitney Point Lake will be made very gradually over the next several days and in small increments so river levels downstream from the dam continue to fall. It is important to release the flood waters stored in the Lake in order to regain the project's full flood control capability.

The project performed very well during this recent flood event, according to Corps engineers. Engineers estimate that the project reduced peak river stages by nearly 1.8 feet along the Chenango River in Binghamton and by about 2.3 feet along the Susquehanna River in Endicott and Vestal. The project experienced no structural or seepage problems, despite the high water level behind the dam. Engineers and dam operators will continue to monitor and inspect the project during the drawdown.

For additional information, contact Bob Nelson at (443) 386-5763 or (410) 962-2809.

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