



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Walla Walla District

Media Advisory

News Release 07-59MA

Contact: Public Affairs Office

Date: June 22, 2007

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Corps offers media opportunity to see spillway weir; innovative juvenile fish bypass structure being built in Portland

WALLA WALLA, Wash., – On June 26 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will offer the media the opportunity to view an innovative juvenile fish bypass structure, called a removable spillway weir, which is currently being constructed by Advanced American Construction, Inc., and Oregon Iron Works, Inc. at Vigor Industrial, Swan Island, 5555 N. Channel Ave., Portland OR on June 26.

The spillway weir is a floating structure that allows juvenile salmon and steelhead to bypass the dam near the water surface, providing a more efficient and less stressful option than traditional dam passage routes. The massive, coated-steel structure is about 120-feet high, 80-feet wide and 70-feet deep, in the installed position, and weighs about 2-million pounds.

The project currently under construction is the third spillway weir built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Walla Walla District. A prototype spillway weir was installed at Lower Granite Dam on the lower Snake River in 2001 and the second was installed at Ice Harbor Dam in 2005. This third weir will be installed at Lower Monumental Dam on the lower Snake River in the fall.

The design of a spillway weir is different from existing spillways which open their gates 50 feet below the water surface at the face of the dam and pass juvenile fish under high pressure and high velocities. The spillway weir passes juvenile salmon and steelhead over a raised spillway crest, similar to a waterslide. Juvenile salmon and steelhead pass the dam near the water's surface under lower accelerations and lower pressures, providing a more efficient and less stressful route while reducing migration delays at the dam.

The media are asked to assemble at 1:00 p.m. and a briefing and tour will follow at 1:30 p.m., lasting approximately 45 minutes to an hour. Media representatives desiring to attend are asked to call and confirm their participation. The location is at a secure, industrial facility, therefore sturdy, closed toe shoes must be worn and a photo ID is required. Hard hats and safety glasses will not be required in the immediate event area.

More information on the spillway weir is available at www.nww.usace.army.mil/spillway_weir/default.html.

NOTE: PLEASE CALL AND CONFIRM YOUR PARTICIPATION WITH JOE SAXON, WALLA WALLA DISTRICT, USACE, (509) 527-7020.

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