

**OFFICE OF THE  
CARBON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**Commissioner  
Rocky C. Ahner, Vice-Chairman  
Telephone (570-325-3611  
3/18/2021**



**Carbon County  
Administration Building  
P.O. Box 129  
Jim Thorpe, PA 18229**

As a Carbon County Commissioner, I'm writing this letter with my opposition to the proposed Francis E Walters Dam Project to supply water to New York.

I was raised in Franklin Township when the Beltzville Dam was built. The purpose was for flood control and to stop saltwater from encroaching into fresh water downstream. One of the benefits was recreation. But that was not the end, there were many programs put in place over the last 50 years such as tree planting for erosion to the clean-up of pollutants to enhance the quality of aquatic life and fishing.


Pennsylvania has been very diligent in managing the Delaware Water Basin. The waterways and its tributaries are the strength of Economic Development, Recreation and a solid source of drinking water not only in Carbon but our surrounding counties also.

Sometimes in the Lehigh Gap by Palmerton when there are drought conditions you can almost walk across the Lehigh River. If 15% of the water is taken we just might be able to walk across the Lehigh and what adverse consequences will it have on all the hard work and projects put into protecting and improving our area.

In the 60's the Pennsylvania dams (which there are two in Carbon County) were sold as a benefit to the public. Many may not know; the end of the line for our water is the Delaware River Port the largest fresh water port in the world, that provides docking facilities to Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.

My question is when are others going to take responsibility for their existence instead of looking to encroach on Pennsylvania Assets.

Thank you,

  
Rocky C. Ahner, Vice Chair  
Carbon County Commissioners