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Pittsburgh District

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Corps approves permit for Wild Escape Amusement Park

PITTSBURGH, September 15, 2008 – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District has approved Department of the Army Permit No. 2001-145 for Phase V of the Highlands Development for the Ohio County Development Authority (OCDA). Phase V of the Highlands includes construction of the Wild Escape Amusement Park. The project is located near Wheeling, in Ohio County, West Virginia.

This large scale development will facilitate multiple commercial and recreational outlets. The proposed activities have been thoroughly reviewed and evaluated in consideration of the overall public interest. Environmental impacts and specifically the aquatic resources on the site have also been reviewed and evaluated. As part of the project, OCDA will be responsible for enhancing more than 6,000 linear feet of Middle Wheeling Creek.

The project as proposed complies with Section 404(b)(1) of The Clean Water Act and is not contrary to the overall public interest. Public comments were collected and considered throughout the Corps' permitting process.

Once the permit is accepted by OCDA, the agency must obtain a WV Department of Environmental Protection Section 401 Water Quality Certification, a Section 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit and provide financial assurances for the Middle Wheeling Creek restoration areas before this phase of construction can begin.

For more information, contact Scott Hans, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (412) 395-7154.