

townsouth/mon valley

Duquesne

Dock donated for dam construction

By Debra Holz
Tri-State Sports & News Service

Duquesne officials are excited the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to donate a 500-foot dock to the city at the city's former USX mill site. But they'll have to wait eight years to get it.

The dock will be used until then to unload silt, sand and gravel dredged from the Monongahela River bottom during removal of the Braddock Dam and construction of a replacement. The city's planning commission has approved the Corps' final construction plans.

Regional Industrial Development Corp. will use the dredged material as ground cover on the 270-acre site as required by the state Department of Environmental Protection.

RIDC is renovating and developing the site to subdivide then sell and lease parcels to manufacturing, industrial and commercial

firms, RIDC President Frank Brooks Robinson said.

Construction and site preparation is under way at the brown field for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's new 95,000-square-foot warehouse scheduled to open in October.

RIDC also is renovating the former Heat Treat building and its surrounding 11 acres, a two-acre Stores Building parcel and the Open Hearth Building.

"Our city's long-term revitalization plans include making that entire 270-acre property marketable as a viable industrial park," Mayor George Matta said.

"The byproduct is that the docking facility will provide river access and recreation. It's a \$4 million project that the city would not be able to undertake on its own."

It will also be an advantage to the city if riverboat gambling eventually occurs, Matta said.

"Since Day One when the mill left, we've wanted some type of landing area on the site so we

could have access to the river," he said. "It'll bring additional jobs and quality of life to our residents."

The Corps of Engineers must move about 390,000 cubic yards of earth to build the new gated Braddock Dam.

The dock also will be used to outfit two large floating dam segments before they are towed down to the dam site and submerged onto the new foundation.

"When city officials, RIDC, Congressman Mike Doyle and Allegheny County initially approached us about transporting the material to the Duquesne site, it made sense," project Manager Hank Edwardo said.

"To move it further would have cost more. Since the Duquesne site is closest, there will be no additional cost to do it this way."

Construction on the dock will begin in fall. Council will vote at its 7 p.m. April 14 meeting to approve site plans.