



Afterword

Both in New Jersey and in the U.S. Congress, the current debate is over whether it is better to defer the Tocks Island Dam or to deauthorize it. A third course—building the dam now—is not in favor. We draw this book to a close with selections from a list of options New Jersey, in particular, was judged to have available, in an artful report submitted to the governor by his Environmental Commissioner.^a The Commissioner's list will remind the reader of the multiplicity of substantive questions related to the future of the Tocks Island region still to be resolved. The readers who started our book *here* may assume that essentially all the technical issues raised within the list of options below are discussed in more detail in some essay of this volume.

Alternative Courses That the Governor Could Support

- Option 1. Support early construction of the project as now designed without any conditions.
- Option 2. The same as 1, but on condition that the project not include the park. It would become a water supply and flood control project surrounded by an undeveloped environmental preserve having very low levels of visitation.

^aThese points were contained in a discussion paper given to the governor by David Bardin on the day before the DRBC meeting in July 1975 in which the fate of the Tocks Island Dam was, for the time, decided.

Option 3. Support early construction of the project subject to a set of preconditions which can, in fact, be fulfilled. The preconditions would include:

- a. The consent of the Basin states to a formal, legally binding entitlement for New Jersey to withdraw an extra 300 mgd from the Delaware for export to the northeast part of the state.
- b. Creation of a New Jersey mechanism for paying for the water supply and for exploiting it.
- c. Reform of federal land acquisition procedures.
- d. The completion of a design for the park acceptable to New Jersey, which includes overnight family camping facilities and a comprehensive program to limit visitation to the level necessary to control adverse impacts in the park and in the surrounding region.
- e. Federal assistance to the state and local governments for land use planning and impact relief.
- f. Provision of a temporary fish ladder to allow shad to migrate during the construction period.

Option 4. Support construction of the project, but only after fulfillment of a set of preconditions that will be very difficult to meet. The preconditions could include, in addition to those listed under Option 3, the following:

- a. The federal government funds Corps of Engineers construction of the intrastate transmission facilities necessary for New Jersey to divert water from the Delaware.
- b. The federal government funds 90 percent of the costs of the highway improvements required by visitor traffic connected with the DWGNRA.
- c. New York State commits itself to the construction of facilities for tertiary treatment at Port Jervis and the facilities necessary to treat runoff and other nonpoint pollution sources in the upper basin to the levels required to maintain the Tocks Island reservoir in a noneutrophic condition.
- d. The federal government funds construction of public transit to the project area from New York and Philadelphia metropolitan areas (including Camden, Trenton, and Newark).
- e. Aeration system to be installed in the reservoir to maintain 5 ppm of dissolved oxygen for the sake of fish at the cost of the electric utilities or the federal government.

- Option 5. Support the dam project in concept and continued authority for its construction, but build it at a later (specified or uncertain) date sometime near or after the year 2000. During the interim period, land acquisition would be completed, and a river-based park would be put into full operation with a two million visitor per year capacity. Either allow pumped storage to be judged on its own or insist on its delay.
- Option 6. Deauthorize the dam project but acquire the remainder of the land and continue with the park.
- Option 7. Deauthorize the entire project: the dam, the park, and the pumped-storage project.
- Option 8. Same as 7 but directing the Corps of Engineers to get on with the search for alternatives.

