



WEST PENN TRAIL at RESERVOIR BOUNDARY MARKER



Daylight is visible between the top of each crest gate and the service bridge on the dam.

This sign post is positioned on the boundary line of the Conemaugh floodcontrol reservoir. That line marks more than the edge of government-owned (public) land. This boundary is also the highest possible water level attainable in the reservoir – the " high water" shore line for the lake.

The location of this boundary line – that is, its elevation (above sea level) – is fixed by the elevation of the top of the Conemaugh Dam, which is to say, the highest possible height of water behind Conemaugh Dam, before water would begin to spill over the tops of the crest gates on the dam. Before that would be allowed to happen, the crest gates would be lifted, to allow water to discharge over the concrete spillway under each gate.

When the crest gates are closed, the top of the dam (top of each gate) is at elevation 970 feet. That would be the highest level of quiet water in the lake, but if a strong wind were to blow across the reservoir, a " storm surge" as high as five feet might be pushed onto the lake shore somewhere. For that reason, the elevation of the reservoir boundary line was fixed at 970 plus 5 feet.

This boundary elevation (fixed by the height of the dam) was limited to 975 feet so that Blairsville could never be flooded by water impounded behind the dam. The flat ground south of this sign post is the same river terrace on which Blairsville sits. The campus at the dam is also at that same elevation (about 980 feet above sea level).