

Allegheny River Bridge Demolition went off on Schedule

Part of the old Turnpike Allegheny River Bridge was demolished this morning a few minutes after 10, dropping into the river and onto an island below.

It took 200lbs. of explosives set in 300 strategic parts of the truss to bring down the steel portions of the bridge.

Now approximately 2,000 tons of steel will be removed from the site. It will take 48 hours to completely clear the river; however a channel will be cleared for river traffic in 24 hours.

The cost of the demolition was about \$3.2 million including the deck, girders, truss, piers, and salvage value for the steel that is recycled.

The old bridge is being replaced by twin structures, 2,350 feet long and 120 feet high, that will accommodate three lanes of traffic and a 12-foot shoulder in each direction when complete. The eastbound structure, which opened in October of 2009, is currently carrying both east and westbound Turnpike traffic. The westbound structure, and all of its component construction projects, is scheduled for completion this November.

The Walsh Construction Company of Chicago IL, with local offices in Canonsburg, is the general construction contractor, the J.B. Fay Company of West Deer, PA is the demolition contractor and Controlled Demolition Inc.(CDI) out of Phoenix, MD is the explosive contractor.