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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Water Supply Storage Reallocation Report
Reallocation of Storage at Lake Ouachita, AR
For the Mid-Arkansas Water Alliance

REPLY TO:

ATTN: Brandon Davis

Planning Division

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg District, is issuing this notice of availability of the Water Supply Storage Reallocation report for Lake Ouachita, Arkansas. The report describes an array of alternatives and provides an overview of the selected plan.

AUTHORITY: Authority for the Corps to reallocate existing storage space to municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply is contained in Public Law 85-500, Title III, Water Supply Act of 1958, as amended. The Secretary of the Army is authorized to cooperate with local interests in providing storage space for M&I water supply in Corps projects as long as the local interests agree to pay the costs associated with the storage space. The Chief of Engineers has the discretionary authority to reallocate provided the reallocation has no significant effect on other authorized purposes and will not involve major structural or operational changes.

Executive Summary

This report presents the results of a study to reallocate storage in Lake Ouachita, Arkansas, to the Mid-Arkansas Water Alliance (MAWA) for municipal and industrial (M&I) water supply. This reallocation study comes at the request of MAWA to purchase storage in Lake Ouachita capable of yielding 30 million gallons per day (mgd). This report includes an environmental assessment, as directed by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which is included in Appendix E.

The Hydrology and Hydraulics (H&H) analysis concluded that 49,983 acre-feet of storage in the conservation pool is available and would be required to supply MAWA's 30 mgd of demand. However, reallocating water from the conservation pool would require forgoing a portion of authorized hydropower production at Lake Ouachita.

To provide the remaining discretionary storage for MAWA, a new water storage agreement between MAWA and the United States Government will be required. This report will be submitted to Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in Washington, D.C. for approval. Upon approval, the new water storage agreement will be executed, and the reallocation of the immediate need for storage will be made.

A conservation pool reallocation was determined as the best alternative due to Blakely Mountain's Dam Safety Action Classification (DSAC) rating. Blakely Mountain Dam currently has a Corps of Engineers' DSAC III rating. Corps policy prohibits reallocation of flood pool storage to other purposes if a dam has a DSAC rating of I, II, or III. Reallocation of conservation pool storage (below normal pool) is acceptable for a dam with a DSAC III rating under the policy.

The user's cost for storage will be based on the lost hydropower benefits which were determined to be the highest of the foregone benefits. Lost hydropower benefits were calculated at \$484,000 annually, compared to an annual storage cost of \$342,000. An annual power marketing agency (PMA) credit of \$174,000 will be made based on the estimated loss of power outputs and the current rates charged by Southwestern Power Administration (SWPA).

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW: The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments and information to improve this report, and inform decision-makers regarding public opinions and local issues. The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state and local agencies and officials. NEPA and Section 5 of Public Law 100-676 required public review and comment period for the NEPA documentation, and this was held beginning December 3, 2014 and ending January 5, 2015. Comments pertaining to the Environmental Assessment are included in the document.

The Reallocation Report is available at: Need to post on MVK website

NEXT STEPS: Following public review, USACE will consider all comments received modify document as needed. The report will be further evaluated through the Agency Technical Review

process (ATR) conducted by the Water Supply Planning Center of Expertise located in Little Rock, Arkansas. Final reviews will be conducted by USACE Headquarters and by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. If approved, the Vicksburg District would negotiate a water supply storage agreement with MAWA.

COMMENTS OR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: If you wish to obtain additional information or submit comments for this study, contact Brandon Davis (601/631-5961) at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Branch, 4155 East Clay Street, Room 250, Vicksburg, Mississippi 39180. **Comments should be forwarded to this office by 4 November 2016.**

Sincerely,

**Troy Constance
Chief, Regional Planning
Environment Division South**

