

Office Memorandum  
No. 1130-2-23

Project Operations  
WIND WARNING SYSTEMS

1. Purpose. This memorandum establishes District policy of not providing wind warning systems at Little Rock District projects.
2. Applicability. This memorandum applies to all projects in the Little Rock District.
3. References:
  - a. Legal opinion, LRD Office of Counsel, 4 June 1987, proposal to install wind warning system.
  - b. The case of Indian Towing Company, Inc. vs. United States of America, 350 U.S. 61 (1955).
4. Policy:
  - a. Wind warning systems will not be provided at Little Rock District projects.
  - b. The public is accustomed to being informed about the weather. The news media, including television, radio, and newspapers make this information readily available, and in the case of the electronic media, instantly available. Reasonable and prudent individuals in outdoor recreation settings are aware of weather forecasts and are motivated to stay informed of weather when severe conditions develop. Individuals are also capable of making decisions based on their own skills and experiences concerning when to terminate their voyage based on weather conditions. The warning light indicates a single level of conditions which may surpass the abilities of some, while not posing a hazard to others. We want to avoid persons having a false sense of security by placing their total trust in a system which could fail and leave them vulnerable to injury. The individual's responsibility to safeguard his/her life and property does not cease when he/she is away from home. Persons in the outdoor environment are probably more acutely aware of weather conditions due to the increased exposure and vulnerability to the elements.
  - c. It is impossible for the Corps to directly protect the project visitor from all hazards. Rather than assume a responsibility and liability for a duty not now ours, this area will be left primarily to the individual.

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d. Appropriate assistance from the Corps will include existing wind warning statements on lake maps, appropriate cautions by rangers, and educational programs and interpretive activities to inform the visitor of the necessity to be informed of environmental conditions.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



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