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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Little Rock District, Corps of Engineers  
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Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-0867

LRDOM 1145-2-27

Office Memorandum  
No. 1145-2-27

10 August 1989

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Civil Regulatory Functions  
McCLELLAN-KERR ARKANSAS RIVER NAVIGATION SYSTEM  
STANDING OPERATING PROCEDURE NO. 4  
PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE PUBLIC AT LOCKS AND DAMS

1. Purpose. The purpose of this memorandum is to establish a policy for providing assistance to the public.
2. Applicability. The provisions herein are applicable to all locks and dams on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System in the Little Rock District.
3. References.
  - a. OCE Supplement 1 to AR 190-13.
  - b. LRD Supplement 1 to AR 190-13.
  - c. LRDR 1145-2-16.
  - d. EM 385-1-1.
4. General. When emergencies or other incidents occur in the lock area, the lock operator has a moral obligation to render assistance and must rely on his own judgment to determine the proper course of action to take. If possible he should render assistance from the lock and dam structure. However, it is conceivable that extreme conditions can arise that require him to furnish aid by use of the safety skiff. If only one operator is on duty when such an incident occurs, he should notify approaching tows and the nearest lock before leaving the lock in the safety skiff. The lock area is considered to be the area between the

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This memorandum replaces LRDR 1145-2-15, dated 3 December 1970.

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arrival points. Requests for assistance outside the lock area should be referred to the Resident Engineer.

5. Man Overboard.

a. Alert. When a person is observed overboard in the lock area, the danger signal (five or more short, rapid blasts) will be given on the lock horn if it is necessary to alert other lock personnel or vessels in the lock area.

b. Training. All lock and dam personnel shall be fully trained in the proper methods of rescue and the correct use of lifesaving equipment. All lock personnel shall participate in man overboard drills conducted by the lockmaster at least once every 12 months. A report of these drills shall be entered in the lock log.

6. Body Recovery.

a. Policy. When a drowning occurs or a body is observed floating at a lock and dam, District personnel will assist local law enforcement officers in recovery of the body.

b. Notification. In the event a body is observed floating or drowning is reported, it should be reported to the Resident Engineer. If any delay is encountered in notifying the Resident Engineer, employees should notify local law enforcement officials directly, then notify the Resident Engineer as soon as possible. The Resident Engineer shall notify local law enforcement officials and the Chief, Navigation and Maintenance Branch. The Chief, Navigation and Maintenance Branch, shall notify the Chief, Construction-Operations Division; District Engineer; Deputy District Engineer; Chief, Safety Office; Chief, Emergency Management Division; other appropriate District Staff Officers; and the Marine Safety Office, U.S. Coast Guard, Memphis, Tennessee.

c. Recovery operations. Recovery of bodies is the responsibility of local law enforcement officials. Normally, Corps personnel should not attempt to secure or remove bodies from the water until these officials arrive at the site. If there is danger of a floating body disappearing because of current or other adverse conditions, Corps personnel may secure it, but they should not remove it from the water. All recovery operations shall be under the direction of local officials. The responsibilities of District personnel in furnishing assistance to local authorities are given below:

(1) Resident Engineer.

(a) Furnish emergency onsite assistance considered to be necessary and within the capability of the Resident Office.

(b) When local officials request outside Federal assistance, such as a Navy diving team, advise them to channel their requests through the State of Arkansas Office of Emergency Services, telephone (501) 374-1201. If recovery operations are beyond the State's capabilities, the Governor may request additional Federal assistance from the District.

(c) Serve as liaison with onsite personnel of other Federal offices when they are assisting in recovery operations.

(2) Chief, Construction-Operations Division.

(a) Serve as liaison with the office of the Governor of Arkansas.

(b) Screen requests from the Governor to insure that the State does not have needed capabilities and has tried unsuccessfully to secure such capabilities from commercial sources.

(c) Forward requests from the Governor to the District Engineer with recommendations for action by the District.

d. Reports. The Resident Engineer shall furnish an ENG Form 3394, Mishap Report, within 4 days after alleged drowning occurs.

7. Lifesaving Equipment and Location. The following equipment shall be maintained in good condition at the locations shown:

a. One safety skiff shall be kept near each of the two jib cranes on the lock wall and shall be ready for quick launching at all times. These boats shall be fully equipped in accordance with the "Motorboat Operators Manual" published by the Little Rock and Tulsa Districts.

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b. Ring buoys shall be kept at not more than 200-foot intervals on the lock walls and the spillway bridge. At least one buoy and every third one thereafter shall have an approved water light attached. All ring buoys shall be provided with an adequate amount of line.

c. Work vests shall be maintained at the following locations:

(1) Three vests in each control shelter for use on the safety skiffs. If the safety skiffs are not stored near the control shelters, three work vests shall be stored in watertight cans near the skiffs.

(2) Three at the entrance to the spillway bridge.

(3) Six in the control house.

d. Four lifesaving blocks with sufficient length of line to reach from the top of the lock parapet wall to lower pool elevation shall be kept on each lock chamber wall at points approximately 200 feet from the miter gates.

8. Advertisement of Requirements. No advertisement to industry required.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:



DOUGLAS C. EATON  
LTC, Corps of Engineers  
Deputy District Engineer

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