

Pine Mountain Dam Reevaluation Study Public Meetings

26-27 October 2009



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Purpose of the Public Scoping Meetings

- Update the public on the study status.
- Collect comments for development of alternatives.
- Identify public issues and concerns to be addressed in the study.



What is the Pine Mountain Dam Reevaluation Study?

- A study to look at alternatives, including Pine Mountain Dam, for a clean and sustainable source of drinking water for the municipalities that comprise the River Valley Regional Water District (RVRWD).
- Pine Mountain Dam is one alternative that will be examined. The other alternatives are still being formulated.



Who is the River Valley Regional Water District?

- City of Van Buren
- City of Alma
- City of Kibler
- City of Mountainburg
- Cedarville Waterworks Facilities Board of Crawford County
- Concord Waterworks Facilities Board of Crawford County
- Highway 71 Water Users Association



Study Background/History

- Pine Mountain Dam was authorized in 1965 (PL 89-298)
- Authorized Purposes
 - ▶ Flood Control
 - ▶ Water Supply
 - ▶ Recreation



Study Background/History

- Activities Thru 1980
 - ▶ Draft General Design Memorandum (GDM) and Preliminary Draft EIS, Feb 80
 - ▶ Sponsor Terminated Project prior to Public Review and Report Approval



Study Background/History

- Activities 1980-2006
 - ▶ RVRWD was formed and became sponsor in 2000
 - ▶ Reconnaissance Level Analysis Completed December 2003



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Study Background/History

- Activities 1980-2006
 - ▶ Public and Agency scoping meetings were held in 2006
 - ▶ The reevaluation study was put on hold pending Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission Regulation 2 update and Federal Legislation to clarify project authorities.



What has been done since 2006?

- In 2007, State Regulation 2 was modified to outline the procedure for the removal of the Extraordinary Resource Waters (ERW) designation for domestic water supply.



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What has been done since 2006?

- Cultural resources survey conducted, awaiting draft report.
- A water needs analysis initiated to determine RVRWD water supply requirements.
- Began gathering information for the existing conditions relative to the alternatives.
- The water yield analysis of the Lee Creek basin has been initiated.



What will happen next?

- Determination of the water needs for the area.
- Yield analysis of Lake Fort Smith to determine if the projected yield will meet the water needs for the area.
- Finalize list of alternatives that comply with NEPA, State Regulations, and USACE Policy.



Alternatives

- Alternatives from past reports will be considered.
- Suggestions from the 2006 meetings are included in the alternative list.



Concerns and issues raised at the 2006 Agency Scoping Meetings

- There are considerable cultural resources located in the proposed Pine Mountain Lake Area
- Federally-listed endangered Ozark big-eared bat is known to inhabit the area
- Arkansas' Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy list of species having the greatest conservation needs should be considered in the analysis
- Lee Creek is classified as a "Scenic River" and an "Outstanding Resource Water" in Oklahoma



Concerns and issues raised at the 2006 Agency Scoping Meetings

- The Long Nose Darter is an endangered species in Oklahoma and is known to inhabit Lee Creek in Oklahoma
- Smallmouth bass fisheries on Lee Creek could be harmed if Pine Mountain Dam is constructed
- If Pine Mountain Dam is constructed the effect on hydropower generation at the Ozark and Dardanelle Powerhouses should be examined.
- Lee Creek has been included in the National Park Service's Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI).



Time Line

- Public Scoping - Fall 2009
- Agency coordination - Winter 2009-2010
- Draft Report and Public Comment—
Summer 2013
- Final Report and Public Comment—
Summer 2014
- Report Finalized - 2017



Meeting Procedures

- Speak with any of the representatives
- Leave a scoping Comment suggesting alternatives or concerns with impacts



How to Comment

- Fill out a comment sheet and return it to us today.
- Speak with the available court reporter.
- Prepare comments and return them to
Laura Cameron (CESWL- PE)
USACE - Little Rock District
P.O. Box 867
Little Rock, AR 72203-0867
- Email a comment to
CESWL-PineMountainGRR@usace.army.mil



How to Learn More

- Go to our website

<http://www.swl.usace.army.mil/planning/pinemountain.html>

- Check the box to be added to the email list.



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