



Project Update

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers October 2003

**High usage,
Austere budget,
Failing infrastructure**

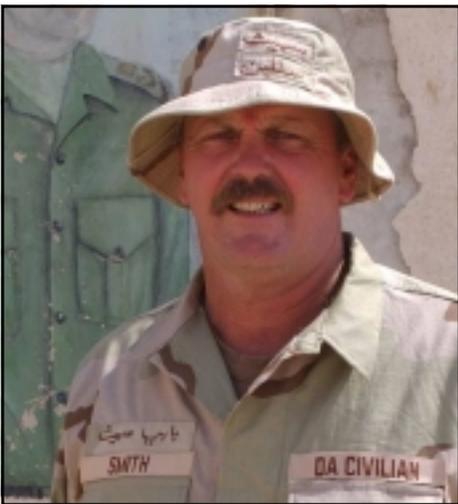
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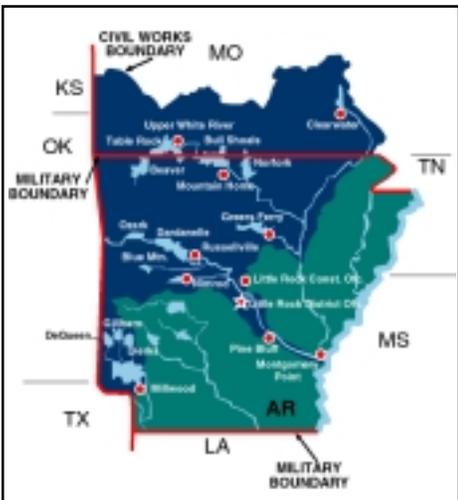
Flat operations and maintenance funding, coupled with more than a decade of inflation, is putting a strain on all Little Rock District business functions. Most of the district's direct contact with the general public is in the parks. That's where dissatisfied customers are likely to be heard from first.....**Page 3**



Bobby Smith in Iraq

District tackles national priorities

Little Rock District is involved in all three of the nation's priorities, and the organization is producing tremendous benefits while safeguarding the environment. It is not without challenges though..... **Pages 4- 5**



Little Rock District map

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O&M funding presents challenges

1/3 loss of buying power means the district can no longer do what it did in the past

Little Rock District's backlog of maintenance is growing, and the level of service is decreasing because of funding constraints. This is of critical importance because the district operates and maintains public infrastructure worth \$6.5 billion that generates tremendous annual benefits.

The infrastructure spans two states and six congressional districts and includes seven powerhouses, 12 locks and dams along the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (with a thirteenth, Montgomery Point Lock & Dam, under construction), 308 miles of navigation channel, 12 flood damage reduction lakes, and about 186 public parks and recreation areas.

From FY90 through FY99, the Operations & Maintenance budget was relatively flat, and a downward trend is developing — \$66.3 million was available in FY00, \$64.4 million in FY01, \$64.3 million in FY02, and \$63.4 million for FY03.

When inflation is factored in, the district has lost nearly one-third of its buying power. We can no longer adequately operate and maintain our projects.

Exacerbating the situation, the district has been forced to reprogram funds earmarked for scheduled maintenance in response to emergency and evolving situations. Although reprogramming during a fiscal year is routine to cover emergency operations, these actions are increasing as our maintenance backlog grows. Reprogramming funds earmarked for preventative maintenance puts a devastating strain on the O&M program.

Whenever money is reprogrammed from the current year budget, scheduled maintenance on other projects is deferred, which results in unscheduled breakdowns, thus increasing our backlog of maintenance.

As an example, the current FY04 President's Budget contains \$70,051,000 for O&M funding at Little Rock District. However, it has become necessary to reprogram money for the emergency repairs at Clearwater Lake, specifically the construction of a barrier wall for interim seepage remediation and sinkhole repair.

All told, the amount available for operations and maintenance again may decrease. This may require the District to take such drastic measures as reducing operations hours of the Carl Garner Visitor Center, reducing the recreation season by two months, possibly closing about 36 parks (though not the boat ramps), and taking other cost-cutting measures across all our business functions. District officials are apprehensive about closing parks.

Why is the recreation program so important? It is important because Little Rock District's recreation program is among the leading districts in the nation in terms of the annual number of visitors. An estimated 30.4 million visits were paid to district parks last year. These visitors spend money, which results in tens of thousands of jobs and economic security.

In Arkansas, visitors spent \$460 million last year within a 30-mile radius of Little Rock District projects. The Missouri Division of Tourism reports visitor spending reached \$567.5 million in counties where Little Rock District has projects. That is a whopping total of about **\$1 billion** spent last year by visitors in the vicinity of Little Rock District water projects.



Crowded recreation areas are common in Little Rock District parks, which drew more than 30 million visits last year.

District tackles national priorities, provides tremendous benefits

Little Rock District has people “in the fight”

With all eyes on the Middle East these days, now is an appropriate time to discuss the roles of the Little Rock District of the US Army Corps of Engineers in supporting the President’s three national priorities: the war on terrorism, homeland security and economic security. Some things have been well publicized, but it may not be clear how these actions fit into the national priorities.

War On Terrorism

Little Rock District is actively engaged in the War on Terrorism by providing engineering solutions, real estate and construction support for our Army, Air Force and Reserve installations as part of our ongoing military construction mission.

In addition, the call up of Reserve and National Guard forces has affected Little Rock District, like it has many employers. Several employees were called to active duty, and have served both stateside and overseas. More may follow.

Also, 21 district workers (19 civilian employees and two military officers) have assisted the efforts in the Middle East. They volunteered to serve their country in far off lands. Some have returned and others are still overseas. Col. Ben Butler, district engineer, recounted a trip he made to Little Rock Airport to see five of his employees off.

“As they left I felt a sincere sense of pride in being a part of an organization with such superb and patriotic people that they would gladly volunteer for this assignment,” he said.

There is a need for the expertise of Corps people. Their skills, which were developed building and managing civil works projects here, are necessary in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have been assisting the military, helping restore oil

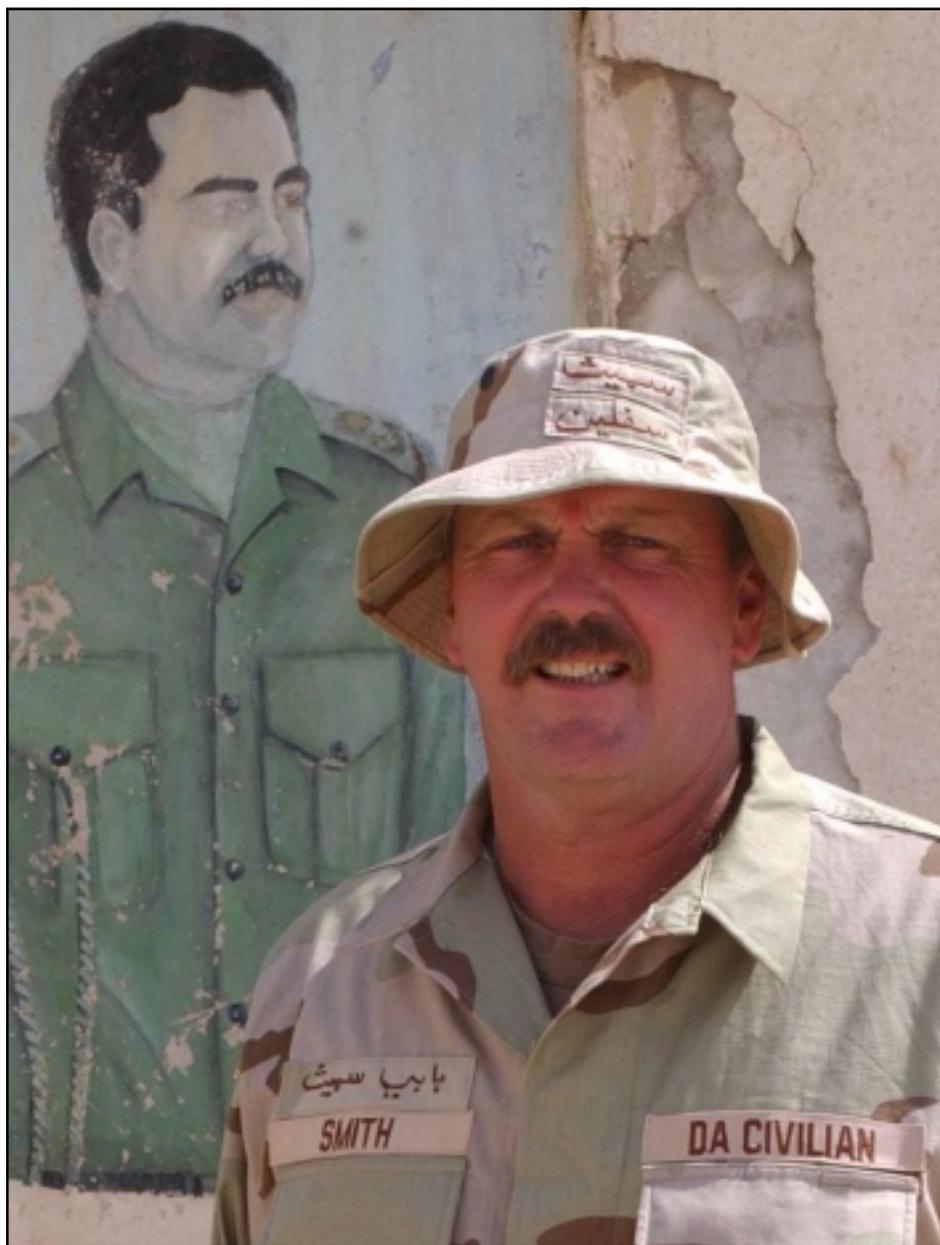
fields and helping rebuild key infrastructure to assist the Iraqi people in establishing democracy.

Homeland Security

As part of its homeland security efforts, the district has assessed its infrastructure and is making security improvements where needed.

Following 9/11, more than 160 Corps

personnel converged on New York from around the country, including Little Rock District. The district also assists in the wake of natural disasters by removing debris and assessing damaged infrastructure. The district worked for FEMA to help overwhelmed local governments with debris and ruined buildings after killer tornadoes in 1997 and 1999.



Bobby Smith, a civilian employee with the Little Rock District, pauses beside a mural of Saddam Hussein in Iraq where Smith is working to help restore Iraqi oil.



Tornado Recovery efforts

Economic Security

Economic Security equals National Security. Little Rock District's 24 dams, seven hydroelectric power plants and 186 parks and recreation areas are generating tremendous benefits for this region and the nation. On average, Little Rock District's seven hydropower plants generate 2.5 billion kilowatt hours of electricity each year, enough to power 200,000 homes.

On the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, 12.4 million tons of commerce worth \$2.6 billion was shipped last year.

District projects prevent an average of \$54.8 million in flood damages each year. Since they were built, they have prevented \$1.6 billion in damages. There's no way to put a price tag on the human misery that has been spared.

District projects are contracted to provide up to 136 million gallons a day in drinking water supply.

In its recreation program, Little Rock District is among the top three or four most visited districts in the nation. These visitors spend money. Visitors spent about \$1 billion last year in the vicinity of Little Rock District water projects in Missouri and Arkansas.

Enhancing the Environment

An environment maintained in a healthy, diverse, and sustainable condition is necessary to support life.

The district has active environmental restoration and regulatory programs. Also, the Corps has established seven Environmental Operating Principles under which it is building sustainability into project planning, construction and operation.

The district works closely with state resource and regulatory agencies, as well as highway departments, in Arkansas and Missouri in carrying out these efforts.

Corps infrastructure helps reduce pollution. For instance, district hydropower plants meant 2 million barrels of oil were not used. About 1.5 million tons of carbon dioxide, 4,680 tons of

sulfur dioxide, and 3,720 tons of nitrogen oxide greenhouse gas emissions were prevented.

Barge traffic on the Arkansas River kept 27 million pounds of pollutants from being emitted by trucks. This saved about 28 million gallons of fuel and was the equivalent of 475,000 trucks not on our highways.

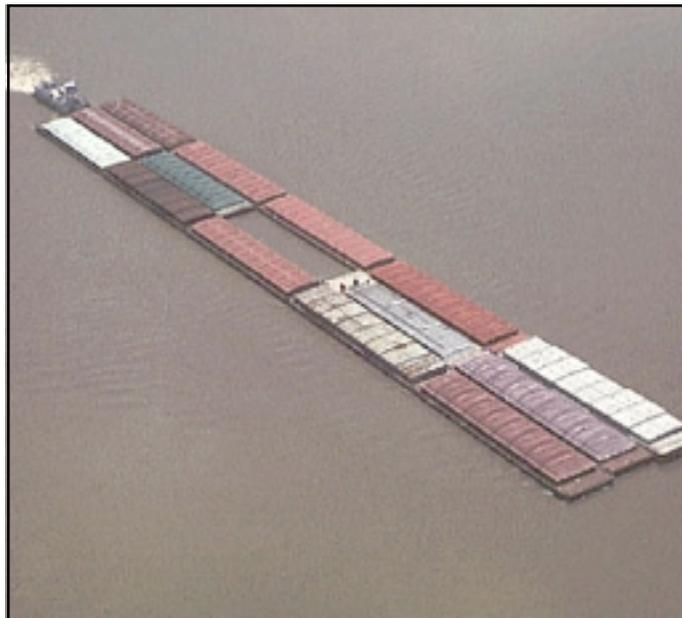
In September at the National Waterways Conference in Houston, Texas, Scott Faber, a water resources specialist with the Environmental Defense Fund in Washington, D.C., commented on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System.

"The Arkansas River is a huge bass fishery," he said. He went on to say there is a need to increase the Corps budget to assure these resources are viable 50 years from now.

Working Together

Little Rock District provides value to the nation and this region in many ways. It is directly involved in the nation's top priorities. It has people "in the fight" so to speak.

The biggest challenge, as is the case with many government agencies, is the severe shortfall in appropriations that will force some tough choices in the near future. Nonetheless, district officials value the partnerships that have been formed with elected officials and other agencies and pledge to continue working to ensure our way of life in America remains secure from aggression.



12.4 million tons of cargo moved on the Arkansas River last year -- Equivalent of 475,000 trucks not on our highways, and 27 million pounds of pollution not in our air.

Arkansas River Basin

Arkansas River Navigation Study

Little Rock and Tulsa Districts are jointly conducting the two-phase Arkansas River Navigation Study. Phase I of the \$7.55 million study was initiated in FY00 and focuses on reducing the number of days with high flows on the Arkansas River to obtain significant navigation benefits (more efficient evacuation of floodwaters from Oklahoma reservoirs). The draft feasibility report is complete and is being submitted for public review and comment this month. The recommended plan is within the division commander's authority to implement.

Phase II is directed at increasing the channel depth of the Arkansas River up to 12 feet and widening the Verdigris River. Phase II includes measures required to maintain the deeper channel and environmental enhancement features such as least tern islands. The Notice of Intent for the Environmental Impact Statement on Phase II was published in the Federal Register on May 31, 2002. A contract for the preparation of the EIS for Phase II was awarded in March 2003. Contracts with Tennessee Valley Authority and Huntington District for the economic analysis were awarded in June 03. Channel surveys were completed in June 2003.

Funding — The \$ 1,995,000 allocated in FY03 was used to continue both phases of the feasibility report. The Corps' capability in FY04 is \$1.5 million. In order to expedite Phase II as directed in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, capability funding is needed. The \$1,070,000 in the President's FY04 budget request will be used to complete Phase I of the study in March 2004 and to continue the Phase II feasibility report. FY04 capability funding will be needed to complete phase II in March 2005. A draft Phase II report and EIS is scheduled for public release in August 2004. Public meetings will follow the release of the draft report.

Ark-White Cutoff Containment Structure

The Arkansas-White Cutoff Containment Structure is located between the Arkansas and White rivers in Arkansas County. The structure is comprised of about 17,300 feet of containment levee, a controlled overflow section, and one headcut structure known as the Melinda Headcut Structure.



Arkansas/White Cutoff Containment Structure

A natural cutoff has historically existed between the lower White and Arkansas rivers, but was closed during the development of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System in the mid 1960's. During the 1970's and 1980's, a new cutoff began to develop upstream in the Melinda Channel-Owens Lake corridor. If cutoff development is allowed to continue, the cutoff would prevent navigation between the McClellan-Kerr system and Mississippi River System, and flow diversions from the Mississippi River could impede navigation on the Mississippi River system. High flows during the spring of 2002 caused extensive erosion of the left bank of the Arkansas River near the Melinda Channel and in the Jim Smith Lake area. Minor damage to the containment structure also resulted. Although a feasibility study is ongoing to determine a long-term comprehensive solution to cutoff development, short-term solutions must be implemented immediately in the Jim Smith Lake area and on the Arkansas River. A \$1.7 million contract to install environmentally compatible bank stabilization structures in Jim Smith Lake was awarded in August 2003. The Ark-White Cutoff project and study are funded through the McClellan-Kerr Construction General appropriation, which also funds the Arkansas River Additional Land Acquisition project. At this time, it appears that most of the FY04 funds available in this project will be used for this project rather than land acquisition. With adequate funding, the feasibility study is scheduled for completion in FY05.

As much as \$3.1 million will be required in FY04 to finish the Jim Smith Lake project and continue work on the feasibility study, Environmental Impact Statement, and hydraulic modeling. The amount available in the President's Budget is \$3.3 million. Funding shortfalls could push the schedule for the feasibility study into FY06. Environmental concerns remain a critical factor, and several environmental agencies are cooperating with the Corps on this study.

Central Arkansas Water (Mid-Arkansas Water Alliance)

The Central Arkansas region will outgrow the current sources of municipal and industrial water supply by the year 2015. The region currently obtains its raw water from Lake Brewer, Lake Maumelle, Lake Winona, and several smaller impoundments. A Planning Assistance to States study was cost shared 50-50 with Central Arkansas Water in FY02.

The study identified Greers Ferry Lake and Lake Ouachita as the most feasible sources of water to meet needs through the year 2050. The Mid-Arkansas Water Alliance was formed in 2003 and requested the remaining discretionary storage at Greers Ferry Lake and Lake Ouachita.

Water Supply reallocation studies are funded through operations & maintenance appropriations using local reprogramming authority if specific funds for the effort are not included in the annual budget request. Little Rock District reprogrammed \$24,000 in order to initiate a water supply reallocation study for Greers Ferry Lake.

Lake Ouachita is in Vicksburg District, which provided an additional \$24,000 to Little Rock District in order to start the water supply reallocation study for Lake Ouachita. The studies will be completed in FY04.

Fourche Bayou Basin

The Army Corps of Engineers partnered with the City of Little Rock to construct a flood reduction project in the city's Fourche Bayou Basin, which was the scene of repeated urban flooding and loss of life. Project features include channel clearing and enlargement on segments of Grassy Flat, Rock and Fourche creeks, as well as road and railroad bridge alterations and recreation features. Construction is complete, and the flood reduction project has been transferred to the city.

The project authorization (Water Resources Development Act of 1996) also included acquiring 1,750 acres of bottomland hardwood forest for environmental preservation and constructing nature appreciation facilities. The bottomland forest provides natural flood control storage.

A limited reevaluation report (estimated cost \$480,000) is being prepared as the decision document for Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to determine whether to budget for the acquisition and nature facilities. This report is scheduled for completion in April 2004. The remaining project work has an estimated total cost of \$4.2 million.

This summer, the Corps and the Environmental Protection Agency announced Fourche Creek was selected as one of eight projects nationwide for the Urban Rivers program. Under this program, the city will be eligible for various EPA programs aimed at clean up and restoration. In addition, the Corps and city are proceeding with work that may be implemented under our continuing authorities program. The Urban River designation has elevated the visibility of these efforts and, hopefully, will allow us to move forward with a variety of assistance.



Montgomery Point Lock and Dam

Montgomery Point

Montgomery Point Lock and Dam is being constructed one-half mile upstream from the Mississippi River in the White River Entrance Channel, which is the first reach of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System. Construction of the lock and dam will allow control of the water level in the entrance channel to maintain the reliability of the navigation system during periods of low water. Projected funding needs in FY04 are \$29 million. The President's FY04 budget includes \$20 million that will be used to continue construction. Additional

Construction General funds in the amount of \$9 million are needed for support facilities and for a crane and barge need for maintenance. The project will require continued Congressional adds to be completed as scheduled. Construction is approximately 92 percent complete. The contractor's current schedule indicates re-watering the cofferdam this month. The current project completion date is July 2004.

North Little Rock Dark Hollow

This proposed flood reduction project for the Dark Hollow area of North Little Rock is a channel project including replacement of the existing tunnel under Redwood Street.

Project formulation was originally described in a 1977 survey report. The project was economically feasible, but the majority of project related benefits were for land enhancement. The project was determined to be in conflict with Executive Order 11988, which discourages development of floodplains where there are practicable alternatives, therefore, federal participation was not recommended at that time.

The city of North Little Rock, the local sponsor, worked to find a solution to the flooding problems. Accordingly, Section 576 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 directed the Corps to review the plans developed by the city and to determine if the project is economically justified, technically sound, and environmentally acceptable. A cost-sharing agreement was executed with the City of North Little Rock in May 2000, and a Limited Reevaluation Study was initiated June 2000. Completion of the study has been delayed because the Corps is investigating additional options to find an economic solution that meets the sponsor's desires. A feasibility level report for a 12-foot diameter tunnel will be available by May 2004. Upon completion of the Limited Reevaluation Study and pending report approval, plans and specifications for the project will be initiated. The President's FY04 budget does not include funds for this project; however, the Senate budget includes \$200,000. We could use \$460,000 to continue into the pre-construction, engineering and design phase of the project.

Ozark Powerhouse

The project is located on the Arkansas River at Ozark, Arkansas. The Ozark powerhouse was constructed from 1972-74. The five, 20-megawatt, slant-axis turbines have experienced numerous failures and require repair and replacement to maintain hydropower generation. Rehabilitation is vital to the region's power customers and important in maintaining reliable electrical supplies. Northeast Arkansas is one of the regions served by power produced at the Ozark Powerhouse. This \$58.9 million project consists of redesigning and replacing the turbines as well as rehabilitation of the speed increaser gearboxes, rehabilitation of the powerhouse cranes, provision of additional closure bulkheads, replacement of the generator excitation systems, and rehabilitation of the powerhouse piping systems. Although the turbines are being replaced with state of the art turbines, there will be no increase in rating capacity. Additionally the contract will include the option for replacement of the three Webbers Falls units, which are identical to Ozark.

In the meantime, a power customer for the Ozark Powerhouse, Jonesboro's City Water and Light, has stepped



Turbine engine at Ozark Powerhouse

forward and agreed to fund interim repairs of other items that took units 4 & 5 off line. Under the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement between Jonesboro, Southwestern Power Administration (which markets power produced at federal dams in this region) and the Corps of Engineers, contracts have been awarded, and the repairs are underway. Unit 4 has been repaired, and unit 5 is expected to return to service in first quarter FY04. The repair agreement among the three entities is a first-of-its-kind partnership under which the Corps does the repair work, and SWPA credits Jonesboro's account for the money the city pays towards the repairs. This enables the Corps to get the units back on line, enables SWPA to better meet its contractual obligations, and ultimately reduces the cost that Jonesboro pays for power, a win-win situation all around.

A total of \$500,000 was appropriated by congress in FY03 to initiate design and construction on the Ozark major rehabilitation project. With these funds we have completed design, initiated solicitation of the turbine replacement contract, solicited and opened proposals for the crane rehabilitation contract, and solicited a proposal for powerhouse access modifications to accommodate contractor deliveries.

FY04 plans are to conduct a detailed design competition for replacement of the turbines. Proposals will be solicited, and those making offers will be reimbursed \$100,000 each for their design efforts. The Corps anticipates three to five offers for a total of \$300,000 to \$500,000 expended in the design competition phase. The turbine replacement contract will be awarded in FY04. The Corps will have capability to award contracts for all major rehabilitation project features in FY04, and \$7 million would be used to keep the project on track.

Pine Mountain Dam

The project was authorized in the Flood Control Act of 1965, for a dam site at mile 35.7 on Lee Creek 12 miles north of Van Buren, Arkansas, in Crawford County. Existing authorization provides for construction of a lake for flood control, water supply, recreation and fish and wildlife enhancement. The lake would control runoff from 168 square miles. Capacity would be 261,000 acre-feet, of which 93,100 would be for flood control and 168,000 for water supply, fish and wildlife, and recreation. Activities were previously suspended in 1980 because the city

of Fort Smith did not assure local cooperation. Much design was complete, and a preliminary Environmental Impact Statement was near completion when work was suspended. The city's share of construction costs at that time was 70 percent. District personnel have met with River Valley Regional Water District, the local sponsor. The local sponsor is expressing strong support, and is willing to cost share construction. FY03 funds were used to initiate general reevaluations under the pre-construction engineering and design phase. Studies under this phase include plan formulation, environmental impact statement, development of sponsor requirements, and scoping for design. FY04 funds will continue general reevaluation studies.

Russellville Slack Water Harbor

The recommended plan in the Detailed Project Report, dated May 2001, consisted of a slack water harbor on the left descending bank of the Arkansas River at navigation mile 202.5 downstream of Dardanelle Dam in Pope County. The report was approved in November 2001. A supplement to the report was approved in an Aug. 26, 2002, memo from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. That memo also provided approval to proceed with the project within funds provided by Congress (currently \$2.5 million). The local sponsor is the River Valley Regional Inter-Modal Facility Authority. The plans and specifications were put on hold in September 2003 at the 50 percent design-complete stage. The sponsor requested the plans and specs be put on hold until the Environmental Impact Statement for the inter-modal facility is completed, which is expected to be about 2 years.

Little River Basin

Southwest Arkansas Study

The study area includes parts or all of four counties in Southwest Arkansas in the Red River and Little River basins. Four Corps lakes (Millwood, Dierks, DeQueen, and Gillham) provide flood control and are the primary drinking water supplies for the region. Construction of the four projects resulted in the loss of 25,000 acres of bottomland wildlife habitat. About 9,000 acres of wetlands were lost due to reservoir operations. There is a significant opportunity to reallocate storage to increase flood reduction benefits and to restore fish and wildlife habitat. Water releases from the four lakes could aid navigation on the Red River, which has been extended to Shreveport/Bossier City. Important economic factors are agriculture, poultry, and livestock operations, but water supply and water quality are primary environmental concerns.

Water supply storage could be used to make releases, especially out of Dierks and Gillham lakes, for kayaking with a resulting growth in recreational businesses. The watershed study would evaluate flooding, irrigation, restoration of fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, recreation and water releases for navigation. There was no money included in the FY03 President's budget request for continuing studies. The State of Arkansas has expressed interest in cost sharing in the feasibility study and project implementation. FY03 funds in the amount of \$68,000 were used for the 905(b) Reconnaissance study (determine potential solutions and further Federal participation,

identify non-federal sponsors). \$300,000 could be used in FY04 to continue the feasibility study.

White River Basin

Clearwater Lake Water Control Plan

Little Rock District has worked closely with resource agencies and other interests in Arkansas and Missouri to develop a consensus for a new water control plan for the 52-year-old Clearwater Lake that more closely matches the needs of today's basin users. In 1998, the group developed a proposed new operating plan. Under the new plan, the flow rate from Clearwater Dam would have been reduced in the summer months. Little Rock District verified the plan's technical soundness and received approval from Southwestern Division to temporarily implement it. In late 1999, a draft environmental assessment was completed and sent to appropriate agencies for coordination and comment. The Arkansas Game & Fish Commission furnished data that indicated the proposed plan may have significant impacts to bottomland hardwoods, and the agency requested we return to the originally authorized water control plan. River conditions in 2001 allowed the Corps to investigate this claim. The results gave credence to AGFC's concerns, thus the Corps was unable to issue a Finding of No Significant Impacts and returned to the authorized plan of 10.5 feet at Poplar Bluff. Public workshops were conducted in April 2001 at Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and Pochahontas, Arkansas, to explain the situation. In FY01, Operations & Maintenance funds of \$528,000 were obligated to obtain survey data to quantify the impacts; that survey data has been completed. In FY03 funds were provided to collect additional data. The President's FY04 budget does not include any funds for this project; however, the House Budget under Operations & Maintenance includes "\$675,000 to prepare a new Water Control Plan for this reservoir project." FY04 effort will depend on, any funding provided. Once funding becomes available and the impacts are quantified, the Corps will decide whether to proceed with an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed plan, evaluate additional measures in combination with the proposed plan, or investigate other alternatives. In any event, additional funds will be needed or the district will remain tied to the old plan. High water in FY02 caused concerns in the agricultural community because we did not hold water in Clearwater as we had done in past years.

Greers Ferry SMP

In July 2002, BG Crear, Southwestern Division Commander, issued a Record of Decision on an Environmental Impact Statement and a revised Greers Ferry Lake Shoreline Management Plan. Save Greers Ferry Lake Inc. and the Arkansas Nature Alliance filed suit against the Corps July 26 in U.S. District Court seeking a permanent injunction against the new plan. A Department of Justice lawyer was assigned. Shoreline Management Plans must be reviewed at least every five years, in part to assure a quality resource for the public while maintaining a balance between permitted private uses and protection of the lake's resources. One of these reviews was begun in 1999 for Greers Ferry. After a public involvement process, a revised SMP was implemented in 2000 that allowed for permits to adjacent landowners so they could mow up to 100

feet onto public land from a habitable structure for fire protection (changed from 50 feet under the 1994 plan). In addition, 93 areas were rezoned for private boat docks. Save Greers Ferry Lake Inc. filed a lawsuit in April 2000. At a late May hearing, the court issued a temporary injunction and expressed concerns about the adequacy of portions of the Environmental Analysis. As a result, the Corps withdrew the 2000 SMP and reverted to the 1994 plan. The Court made a final ruling in August 2000, that the Corps would have to complete an Environmental Impact Statement to implement a new Shoreline Management Plan, or the agency would have to continue with the 1994 SMP. The Corps launched the EIS process that culminated in July 2002 with the Record of Decision. Save Greers Ferry Lake Inc. filed suit against the EIS and Record of Decision on the July 26, 2002 seeking a permanent injunction against the new SMP. Little Rock District filed the Administrative Record on Jan. 10, 2003. Plaintiffs filed their Motion for Summary Judgment on March 17, 2003, and the government filed their Cross Motion on Aug. 1, 2003. Plaintiff's response to our Cross Motion was due at press time.

Springfield, Mo.

The city of Springfield, Missouri, is in the process of creating an environmental beltway downtown on Jordan Creek of which portions of the creek flow through a covered conduit in the city center. The city is interested in flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, and redevelopment. During the most recent flood in July 2000, \$1.85 million in flood damages occurred, interrupting traffic on main city thoroughfares and rail lines. Corps headquarters in Washington approved the reconnaissance report on Jan. 31, 2003. Negotiations on the feasibility cost sharing agreement and project management plan are underway with the city. The feasibility study cost is estimated at \$3 million to be shared equally with the city of Springfield. The feasibility study, scheduled to begin in FY04 will take four years to complete. The flood control activities would include non-structural activities such as relocation and structural measures such as detention ponds, open channels and in congested areas, underground culverts. Ecosystem measures to consider include constructed wetlands, water quality sediment basins, and riparian enlargement.

Table Rock Dam Safety

Table Rock Dam, about eight miles upstream from Branson, Mo., does not have adequate capacity and can safely pass only 65 percent of the Probable Maximum Flood. Studies indicate the PMF would overtop the dam by more than five feet and would breach the earthen embankment portion of the dam, causing catastrophic losses in downstream areas including areas of Branson. The project includes construction of a dam, auxiliary gated spillway, bridge over the spillway, and relocation of recreational facilities destroyed by the project. The Construction General project is being constructed in three phases using three contracts to better match the project funding.

The \$6.5 million Phase I contract for excavation of the auxiliary spillway, construction of the grout curtain and construction of portions of the earthen embankment was completed in September 2000. The \$44.2 million Phase II



Table Rock Auxiliary Spillway

contract is scheduled for completion in July 2004. Phase II includes construction of the new dam, a gated spillway, spillway bridge, and completion of excavation at the channel entrance. Traffic was routed over the new bridge in September 2003.

The \$7.6 million Phase III contract is near completion. A key part of it includes relocation of the popular Moonshine Beach, which was required to make room for the new spillway. The new beach was opened to the public in August 2003, though construction was still being completed.

White River Minimum Flows

Section 374 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 and Section 304 of WRDA 2000 modify the authorization of the White River lakes to include specific amounts of project storage for the tail water trout fisheries. Prior to this change, water level management decisions were based primarily on flood control and hydropower operations. If implemented, the district would include “minimum release” of water to sustain the downstream trout fishery. The act directs the Corps to reallocate the following amounts of storage: Beaver Lake, 1.5 feet; Table Rock Lake, 2 feet; Bull Shoals Lake, 5 feet; Norfork Lake, 3.5 feet; and Greers Ferry Lake, 3 feet. The stored water would be used to make releases during periods when hydropower is not being generated. These minimum flows are intended to sustain the trout fishery. These changes cannot be carried out until this study determines that this work is technically sound, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified. Bull Shoals Dam is the only one of the affected projects that would not require modifications to make the water release. The Corps has conducted public involvement activities including several public workshops and agency meetings to notify interested parties of the study and receive their comments. The draft report is schedule for release in January 2004. The study is scheduled to be completed in FY04.

Continuing Authorities Program

Augusta, Arkansas Streambank Protection

The left descending bank of the White River is threatening a levee and sewer main in the City of Augusta. Attempts have

been made by the city to avert the erosion, but these attempts have failed.

The length of the affected area is approximately 1,000 feet. The Little Rock District expects to receive funding under Section 14 of the Continuing Authorities Program in early FY04 to initiate planning and design. Construction is expected to begin in August 2004.

Beaver Trout Production Facility

The proposed Beaver Dam Trout Production Facility would be located just below the dam in Carroll County and would consist of all features necessary to produce 150,000 pounds of trout annually. Little Rock District completed a reallocation report in June 2000 that recommended reallocating 21,972 acre-feet of storage from hydropower for trout production facilities. A Sept. 27, 2001, letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works to Corps headquarters in Washington states that the legislative intent was for the implementation of a trout production facility, including a source of water supply, at federal expense up to \$6 million. Additional costs, including operation and maintenance, would be the responsibility of the state. It also states that the “Corps should seek the cooperation of the state of Arkansas to assume responsibility for payments to compensate for hydropower revenues foregone.” The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, the potential sponsor, has stated that hydropower is not owed compensation from the state of Arkansas. It considers the 18-inch pipe installed through the dam to provide a cold-water flow for trout production to be authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1954, which provided for the addition of Beaver Reservoir.



Rep. Jo Ann Emerson tours the Missouri portion of Bull Shoals Lake, which, because of redistricting, now lies in her district. With her is Mark Milholland (left), the Corps’ Mountain Home operations manager, and Bob Legler of the Missouri Dept. of Conservation.

Bull Shoals Nursery Pond

Diamond City, Arkansas, and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission requested Little Rock District investigate the feasibility of constructing a nursery pond within the flood pool of Bull Shoals Lake. Constructing an earthen dam in the West

Sugarloaf area of Bull Shoals Lake will form the proposed multi-species fish nursery pond. The pond will be impounded on government-owned land within the flood control pool. Final plans and specifications were completed in December 2002. The project was given construction approval by Southwestern Division in April 2003; a Project Cooperation Agreement between the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the Little Rock District was signed April 28, 2003. The project is going through the construction contract acquisition process.

Water Supply Storage Reallocations

There are five water supply reallocation reports being prepared at Little Rock District or that have been sent to Southwestern Division for review and approval, and a sixth is pending at Corps headquarters in Washington. The Carroll/Boone and Beaver Water District report is pending approval at SWD. This reallocation was directed in Water Resources Development Act of 1999 and is for 31,153 acre-feet of storage. The Mountain Home water supply report is expected to be forwarded to SWD in December 2003. This reallocation is for 3,158 acre-feet. A report on a second Carroll/Boone request is in the preliminary stages. The request is for an additional 6 million gallons a day, but the corresponding storage has not yet been determined. The Benton/Washington report is being prepared at the District. This reallocation is for 15,258 acre-feet and is expected to be forwarded to SWD this month. The Outdoor Resorts of the Ozarks surplus water supply report is also being prepared. The request is for 95 additional acre-feet. Approval for reallocations less than 500 acre-feet is made at the division level. Approval for this reallocation is expected by January 2004. The sixth report, which is pending approval at Corps headquarters, is the Heber Springs report. This reallocation was directed in WRDA 1996, and the required storage was determined to be 3,538 acre-feet.

O&M Program



High water at Greers Ferry Lake caused extensive damage to campsites and other recreation facilities.

Flood Damages 2002

Little Rock District experienced severe damage to park

facilities and roads from floods in the spring of 2002 that continued in some locations throughout the summer. Recreation facilities at some parks were not opened at all this year because of accessibility and safety concerns. The district's Operations and Maintenance budget is not adequate to fund the repairs. Unless adequate funds are received to enact repairs and cleanup, the same recreational facilities will remain closed during the FY04 recreation season. An estimated \$3 million is required to repair the damaged facilities.

Critical Project Security Program

The Army Corps of Engineers has been tasked to evaluate and upgrade the security of our facilities and structures as a result of the terrorist attacks of 2001. We performed a preliminary assessment of our projects to determine which are of critical importance in terms of economic loss and loss of life, and have performed a detailed evaluation of all critical dams and locks operated by the Little Rock District. We have received funding in FY02 and FY03 for security upgrades of the critical projects. We've awarded contracts for Table Rock, Beaver, Bull Shoals, Norfolk and Dardanelle security upgrades, and we plan to award one for Greers Ferry in the first quarter of FY04. Contracts for Ozark and Clearwater will be awarded later in FY04, subject to availability of funds. Construction is ongoing, and we expect to complete four of these projects by December 2003. In addition, we are working with General Services Administration on security enhancements at the Little Rock Federal Building.

Clearwater Lake High Water Facilities

Clearwater Lake is located in Wayne County near Piedmont, Missouri, and is primarily a flood control project that also provides recreational opportunities to the public. Minimal rainfall can cause a significant rise in the flood pool, which can impact the full use of recreational facilities located along the perimeter of this lake. Since 1998, additional funding has been consistently provided to Clearwater Lake for the relocation of recreational facilities and has included new parking lots, boat ramps, camping loops and restroom facilities in various parks, as well as separation of day use and camping. However, additional funding is required in the future to complete the following tasks: construction of a high water overflow loop in River Road Park, construction of restrooms for the high water loop at Bluff View Park, rehab Black River Nature Trail, rehab the Intake Structure, pavement work in various locations, and repair of flood damages experienced in FY02. In addition to the aforementioned tasks, funding is also needed for routine backlog maintenance at the project.

Table Rock Lake Recreational Facilities

Table Rock Lake, located in Taney, Stone and Barry Counties, Missouri, received additional funding in FY02 for recreation modernization and backlog maintenance. Several projects were completed: upgrade/add electrical and water service at Old Highway 86 and Mill Creek Parks, new restroom with showers at Campbell Point and Eagle Rock Parks, and miscellaneous backlog maintenance. The additional funding received in FY03 was used for the modernization of the boat ramp at Aunts Creek Park and miscellaneous backlog maintenance, such as replacing landscape timbers, removing dead trees, paving and painting recreational facilities. If



Rep. Roy Blunt addresses the news media and others gathered at a pavilion groundbreaking in June at the new Moonshine Beach recreation area.

additional funding is received in the outlying years, it will be used to rehab the Dewey Short Visitor Center, miscellaneous backlog maintenance and the construction of a hiking and biking trail, spanning from the Dewey Short Visitor Center to the state park marina. The lack of funds in the operations and maintenance budget does not support the backlog maintenance required, therefore, additional funding is necessary to maintain the facilities to industry standards.

Greers Ferry Recreation Modernization Program

Dam Site Park at Greers Ferry Lake has the most campsites (259) in the Southwestern Division and is one of the most popular recreation areas in the Corps of Engineers’ stable of parks. It consistently ranks in the top 5 parks for visitation and fees collected.

The infrastructure of this park and many others is inadequate to meet the needs of present users. Traffic flow problems are commonplace. Camping pads are too small. Water and electrical service are inadequate. Boat ramps and parking lots are poorly located and undersized. Campers and non-campers are frequently forced to compete for use of the same



Rep. Marion Berry describes his efforts to appropriate money for modernizing Greers Ferry’s Dam Site Park during an August news conference.

facilities. The natural features of the park are being diminished by overuse, erosion and soil compaction.

The complete modernization of Dam Site Park would include the following major actions, totaling approximately \$7,350,000:

- Redesign of the area to industry standards, including providing handicap accessible facilities.
- Separation of day use and camping.
- Campsite hardening and leveling.
- Upgrade utilities, including water and 50-amp service.
- Relocate/realign roads for better traffic flow.
- Construct a boat launching ramp for day use.
- Provide 40 additional campsites.
- Install trailer dump station.
- Repave main road and five miles of camping loop roads.
- Improve gatehouse and entrance complex.
- Provide additional parking in day use area.
- Install additional playground facilities.

Any portion of the work can be completed if funds are provided. The first priorities would be to relocate/realign the entrance roadway to effectively separate day use and camping; construct new camping loops “N” and “O” to replace campsites of loops A, B and C when those areas are converted to day use; construct a 250-space day use parking lot; and install 50-amp electrical service to 10 sites in J Area. The design for the modernization of Dam Site Park is complete and is awaiting funding. However, no funds have been provided to date.

Military Program



C-130J flight simulator building, Little Rock Air Force Base

Little Rock Air Force Base

The Little Rock District of the Army Corps of Engineers manages the Design and Construction Program at Little Rock Air Force Base. This program currently exceeds \$75 million in new construction, with nearly half dedicated to the new C-130J “bed-down.” LRAFB is the premiere C-130 training facility for the United States and its allies. The C-130 is the Air Force’s workhorse to transport the military’s vehicles, supplies and personnel. The current national crisis makes it imperative that the U.S. remains able to rapidly deploy military assets anywhere in the world. The C-130J is the next generation and will help

ensure that capability. C-130J “bed-down” projects include a new C-130J Flight Simulator facility scheduled for operation in early 2004, a new two-bay hangar on which construction will soon begin, and a new maintenance trainer where crews will be instructed on repairs of the new aircraft. Little Rock District has recently completed a new \$9 million fitness center, which serves the C-130 crews in to train from around the world. Future work at LRAFB is expected to include a new dining facility, new education center, new child development center, a new operations training facility and additions to the flight simulator.

Pine Bluff Arsenal

The Little Rock District of the Army Corps of Engineers manages the Design and Construction Program at the Pine Bluff Arsenal. This program currently exceeds \$40 million. Pine Bluff Arsenal is the Department of Defense’s premier chemical arsenal, and laboratory facilities are inadequate, overcrowded and incapable of supporting required missions. Many chemical defense items are not tested because of a lack of adequate facilities to properly sample and challenge new items to verify their effectiveness.

Child Development Center

Construction of a new 15,000-square-foot childcare facility at the Pine Bluff Arsenal is complete, and beneficial occupancy was taken on May 16, 2003. The completed facility provides space for a total of 46 infants, pre-toddlers and pre-schoolers, as well as 80 school age children. It has an administrative wing that houses the School Liaison Program, the Coordinator of Child and Youth Services and other administrative offices.

Non-Stockpile facility

This Pine Bluff Arsenal complex is required to destroy non-stockpile chemical warfare materiel in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, ratified by Congress in April 1997.

The 1,275 recovered chemical weapons, 56,600 binary weapons components, bulk binary weapons fills, and Chemical Agent Identification Sets stored at Pine Bluff Arsenal all must be destroyed by April 2007 to comply with the treaty. This facility will provide the specialized equipment, safety equipment, and controlled atmosphere necessary to safeguard the public, the operating personnel and the environment during the destruction of the non-stockpile chemical weapons.

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act permit application was delivered to the state for review on April 8, 2003. State approval of the permit application is expected in May 2004.

Phase I includes an administrative building, access road, parking lot and utilities. The approximate cost for Phase I is \$2 million. The contract was awarded Sept. 26, 2003.

Phase II Plans and Specifications are scheduled to be completed in November 2003. The approximate cost for Phase II is \$18 million. A construction contract is expected to be awarded in April 2004.

An electrical substation to support this activity is scheduled to be awarded January 2004. The estimated cost for the substation construction is \$4.5 million.

Quality Evaluation Facility

The project will provide for the construction of a Chemical Defense Quality Evaluation Facility for testing chemical and biological defense equipment (such as protective mask filters used by soldiers) to assure it is adequate to protect US forces. A construction contract was awarded in August 2001 to David Boland, Inc. of Titusville, Florida. Construction is ongoing and will be completed this fiscal year.

The completed facility will support current national military strategy by enhancing the capability of U.S. troops to operate in a chemically contaminated environment.

Vaccine Production Facility

Considering the proliferation of biological warfare capabilities, the Department of Defense has determined that the lack of biological warfare vaccines is a critical problem. This was evident most recently during Operation Desert Storm and (to a smaller extent) the anthrax attacks. For obvious reasons, DoD has also determined that a dedicated government-owned vaccine production facility is a vital component of the nation’s defense program. This production facility is expected to be government-owned and contractor-operated. This decision was reached in 1994 after a Defense Acquisition Board chaired by the Under Secretary of Defense conducted a detailed study. This same study also determined that the Pine Bluff Arsenal was the best location to construct this much-needed facility. Considering the close proximity of the National Center of Toxicological Research and the planned biotech corridor (Bioplex), it is evident that there would be significant synergy in these missions. Although the design of the facility has not yet begun, the cost for this facility is expected to be in the \$500 million range. A final decision on the site for this facility is pending. The decision as to whether this facility would fall under the jurisdiction of DoD or some other federal agency is also under discussion. A final decision on these matters has not occurred to date.

White Phosphorus Production Recapitalization

Pine Bluff Arsenal’s White Phosphorus Production Facility is the Department of Defense sole continental US capability for the fill of white phosphorus munitions used for smoke signaling, obscuring, and marking. Upgrade of this facility is required to allow the continued safe and environmentally sound production of white phosphorus-containing munitions. The existing facility is challenged to overcome continuing problems with aged equipment and infrastructure as well as being in compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (process safety management 29 CFR 1910.119) and OPA regulatory requirements. The new process and supported facilities will improve operational safety and quality of products, while reducing contaminated water waste and pollution. The overall plan to recapitalize the White Phosphorus Production Facility consists of three distinct phases. The first will be the design of the new process equipment. The remaining two phases will include fabrication and installation of process equipment, as well as interior and utility modifications to the existing building. The overall cost of the three phases is approximately \$30 million. Funds in the amount of \$1.5 million were to be appropriated for FY02 to allow for the design of the process equipment in the

renovated facility. These funds have not been released to date and all three phases are on hold at this time. In addition, a project to provide utility upgrades and minor building renovations was discussed as being placed in the FY06 Military Construction, Army, program ,but this has not yet occurred.

Fort Chaffee BRAC

Fort Chaffee is in Sebastian County, Arkansas. The BRAC Commission nominated Fort Chaffee for closure, specifically “Close Fort Chaffee, except minimum essential buildings and ranges for Reserve Component training as an enclave.” The BRAC-95 program had three major objectives: disposal of excess Department of Defense property, environmental restoration, and military construction on installations slated for disposal and reuse. Although, Fort Chaffee was slated for closure, a measure was implemented to reutilize this training installation by licensing 64,250 acres to the Arkansas Army National Guard and disposing of the remaining 7,012 acres. On Sept. 27, 1997, Fort Chaffee transitioned to the Fort Chaffee Maneuver Training Center under license to the Arkansas Army National Guard.

Little Rock District, as the geographic Army Corps of Engineers District, was assigned the project management, Environmental Impact Statement, real estate, and technical support missions. Tulsa District was the lead for environmental restoration. St. Louis District and the Huntsville Engineering Center assisted with the ordnance and explosives closure report. Omaha District provided consultation on landfill closures and the Construction Engineering Research Laboratory reviewed the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority business plan and prepared a building demolition study.

Environmental restoration is complete, with the exception of final reporting and long-term monitoring. Excess real estate, 7,012 acres, has been disposed of through Negotiated Utility Sales, Public Benefit Conveyances and Economic Development Conveyances. Public benefit recipients included the city of Fort Smith, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, and Sebastian County. The economic development recipient was the redevelopment authority. There was a fed to fed transfer to the Department of Energy. The last parcel of property was transferred in September 2003, meeting the Army goal.



Echubby Lake Hunting Club bridge

described problems about trespassing and poaching on their land.

We received numerous subsequent complaints about the attempts to restrict boating access. State Representative Lindbergh Thomas hosted a meeting in May 2002 to discuss the concerns. Approximately 200 local citizens attended the meeting.

After meeting with representatives of both the club and the citizens pushing for access, we provided the club the option to either remove the unauthorized fills and structures or to apply for an after-the-fact permit.

A complete permit application was received from the club on Sept. 23, 2002. It requested structures at three locations, which would both provide access to the Club’s property and restrict public boating access to Echubby Chute and Echubby Lake. We issued a public notice for comment on October 7, 2002. Approximately 150 comments were received, with about 27 percent for and 73 percent against approving the work. The main issue remained access to the backwater areas.

We denied the permit on March 7, 2003, based upon the fact that the work would restrict boating access to almost 150 acres of navigable waters. The Southwestern Division Engineer determined on July 3, 2003, that the club’s administrative appeal of the denial was without merit. The hunting club filed a legal challenge to the permit denial on July 29, 2003. We are currently working on a response to the lawsuit.

Regulatory Issues

Echubby Lake Hunting Club

It was noted in an October 2001 inspection that an unauthorized earthen-fill crossing had been placed in the backwaters of the Arkansas River near Pendleton, Desha County. The inspection was conducted following reports that the fill was blocking small boat access to Echubby Chute and Echubby Lake. Echubby Lake Hunting Club acknowledged responsibility for placing the fill, as well as other fills and structures in nearby backwater channels. Club contacts stated that their purposes were to provide improved access to some of their property as well as to restrict boat access into the Chute and Lake, which are surrounded by their property. Their contention is that they own the land under these backwaters and have the right to restrict access to them. They also

Landers Island

The Corps issued a Department of the Army permit in January 2001 to Ernest F. Lamb III authorizing the upgrade of an existing low water crossing to Landers Island on the White River in Stone County, Arkansas. The permit has generated concerns from the public about the restriction of navigation and maintenance of the crossing structure, as well as the impacts from developing the island.

Lamb purchased the 60-acre island on the White River for development. The island was accessible by an existing permitted low water crossing. That crossing was constructed many years ago for agricultural purposes. Lamb’s request to modify the crossing entailed installing culverts, increasing the width and raising the height 3 feet.

The 2001 permit decision was challenged in a lawsuit filed by the Arkansas Nature Alliance, Inc. on April 9, 2002. A hearing was held by in U. S. District Court in Little Rock on September 10, 2002. The Court ruled in favor of the plaintiff on February 14, 2003, ordering that the permit be revoked and the Corps put the crossing through a full public interest review, including preparation of an EIS.

The permittee responded to the Court's decision by submitting a revised permit application to replace the existing culverted crossing with a span bridge, and reducing the number of lots to be developed on the island. The Corps' filed a May 9, 2003 motion with the Court, requesting relief from the original Court order based on the revised application. It is the Corps' position that the bridge requested by the revised application meets the criteria for authorization by a nationwide permit, and that an EIS is not necessary. At press time, the Court was scheduled to hear arguments regarding the Corps motion on Oct. 6, 2003.

Searcy County Regional Water District

The Water District applied for a Department of the Army (Section 404) permit from the Corps of Engineers to construct a dam on Bear Creek, which would create a 92-acre water supply reservoir. After an extensive evaluation, the Corps issued a permit to the Water District in August 2001. Soon after issuance of the permit several conservation groups sued the Corps. Based on guidance from the Department of Justice, the Corps revoked the permit on December 9, 2002. The permit was revoked because the Department of the Interior had not determined that there would be no unreasonable impact on the Buffalo National

River prior to the issuance of the permit. The Water District may submit a new permit application if it receives a determination by the Secretary of the Interior that states granting the permit or the project will have no unreasonable impact on the values for which the Buffalo National River was established.

The Water District has met twice with the National Park Service to discuss the studies necessary to enable DOI to make a determination. The Corps monitored those meetings, and plans to monitor future meetings and provide technical assistance to the extent possible.

A copy of a letter from DOI was received on May 19, 2003. This letter stated DOI had found that a pipeline from Greers Ferry Lake was feasible and practical, and it supports such an option. DOI stated it would likely conclude that the Bear Creek dam and reservoir project would unreasonably diminish the values for which the Buffalo National River was established. This determination was based on the water district's previous project proposal and related documentation, as well as existing scientific studies. The letter goes on to state that the National Park Service would reconsider such a determination should the water district apply for a new permit for the Bear Creek project and conduct the additional scientific studies for which the technical team is currently developing scopes of work.

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Visitors spent \$1 billion last year in the vicinity of Little Rock District projects

The Army Corps of Engineers is the nation's largest provider of water recreation -- Been to a Corps park lately?



Project Update

Project Update, a publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is about top Corps issues in Arkansas. If you have questions, contact Ed Watford, Little Rock District Deputy District Engineer for Project Management, at (501)324-5053. For more information, visit our web site at www.swl.usace.army.mil.