

#### **DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 867
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203-0867

August 30, 2022

### **Public Notice**

# Beaver Lake Real Estate Land Acquisition Study NEPA Scoping Workshop

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District is conducting a second scoping period for the proposed Beaver Lake Land Acquisition Study in response to comments received during the public review of the Draft Environmental Assessment. Additionally, USACE is proposing to narrow the focus of land acquisitions to <u>willing sellers only</u>. The second scoping period will help improve public awareness and allow USACE to collect additional public comments on both the proposed land acquisition study and the new proposed acquisition strategy.

USACE is scheduling a drop-in public workshop from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. September 13, 2022 at the Four Points by Sheraton Bentonville, 211 SE Walton Blvd., Bentonville, Arkansas. Information will be available at the workshop regarding potentially impacted properties and the proposed willing sellers only acquisition process. All interested persons are invited to attend the workshop and provide comments.

The Flood Control Act of 1954 authorized construction of Beaver Lake for flood control, power, and other purposes. A Real Estate Design Memorandum developed prior to construction identified land and interests necessary for the operation, maintenance, and control of the reservoir. The methods and technology used to identify and purchase these lands at the time left some low-lying areas unacquired by USACE. As a result, the current Federal Government boundary around Beaver Lake does not meet the full mission requirements.

USACE initiated a study in March 2021 to evaluate all areas around the reservoir, the White River, and War Eagle Creek that an acquisition could potentially affect. Analysis shows the insufficient land base has negative impacts to the Congressionally mandated missions. Currently, USACE estimates approximately 500 landowners are impacted.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other applicable laws and regulations, a 30-day public comment period will begin on **September 13, 2022 and end on October 13, 2022**. Please find information regarding the study, revised acquisition process and comment instructions available beginning September 1, 2022 at the following Little Rock District website:

## https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Real-Estate/Beaver-Lake-Land-Acquisition/

For questions, please contact the Beaver Lake Project Office at (501) 340-1230 or the Little Rock District Office at (501) 324-5551. Written questions and comments can be submitted online at <a href="https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Real-Estate/Beaver-Lake-Land-Acquisition/Public-Comment-Form-BVL/">https://www.swl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Real-Estate/Beaver-Lake-Land-Acquisition/Public-Comment-Form-BVL/</a> or e-mailed to the following address:

## CESWL-BeaverLakeAcquisitionPublicComment@usace.army.mil

Comments may also be sent through the mail to ATTN: Project Manager, PPMD 700 W Capitol Avenue, Federal Building 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203.

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