



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NASHVILLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1070
NASHVILLE TN 37202-1070

MAY 02 2013

Project Planning Branch

To All Interested Parties:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District (Corps) is initiating scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the impacts of proposed reallocation of additional storage for water supply in J. Percy Priest Dam and Reservoir (JPP), Tennessee (Figure 1). This study is being conducted under the authority of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1958, Title III; Water Supply Act of 1958, as amended.

Three of the current Municipal and Industrial (M&I) water supply users at JPP have requested that the Corps further reallocate storage from this reservoir to provide additional water supply to meet immediate and future needs. These users were, City of Murfreesboro, Consolidated Utility District, and the Town of Smyrna, all located in Rutherford County, Tennessee. A previous water supply reallocation study was approved in 2003 for reallocation of 17,433 acre-feet from the conservation pool for M&I use. Most of this reallocated storage is currently under contract. Accordingly, a new water supply reallocation study is being conducted. Impacts to originally authorized project purposes (hydropower, recreation, and flood control) and to additional authorized purposes (water quality and fish and wildlife) will be evaluated. In drought years impacts to recreation could include low water levels, while impacts to hydropower could include decreased generation. A new report on hydropower benefits and revenues foregone due to proposed new water supply withdrawals at JPP will be produced. If impacts are determined to seriously affect authorized purposes or involve major structural or operational changes, then Congressional approval of additional reallocation of storage will be required.

Along with the "No Action" alternative (original reallocation of 17,433 acre-feet), reallocation from the conservation pool is being considered to meet the M&I users' 2020 demand, 2025 demand, and 2030 demand (up to approximately 12,000 acre-feet). The winter conservation hydropower pool consists of 34,000 acre-feet and summer conservation recreation pool consists of 124,000 acre feet. Reallocation from the flood control pool and reallocation from the inactive pool are also being considered.

In accordance with the NEPA, and associated implementing regulations, an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be prepared to evaluate viable alternatives for this proposal as an integral part of this planning study. We are soliciting public and agency comments concerning environmental issues that should be addressed in the course of the NEPA process. We encourage comments not only about the immediate project area, but also of plans and proposals for any other development that may impact or influence the project or surrounding watershed. This EA will provide the basis for a decision whether to proceed with an Environmental Impact Statement or a Finding of No Significant Impact.

This letter also serves to initiate public involvement requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. Section 106, implemented by regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations 800, requires the Corps to consider the effects of its undertakings on historic properties. Appropriate architectural and archaeological investigations will be conducted if deemed necessary within areas affected by the proposed activity. Results will be coordinated with the Tennessee State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Nations, and other consulting parties.

Please provide any comments concerning issues to be addressed in the EA prior to June 7th, 2013. Responses should be mailed to the address listed above or emailed to the addressor listed below. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Tipton, Biologist, at (615)736-7845 or email at mary.e.tipton@usace.army.mil. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line and another large, stylized 'R'.

Russ L. Rote, P.E., PMP, CFM
Chief, Project Planning Branch

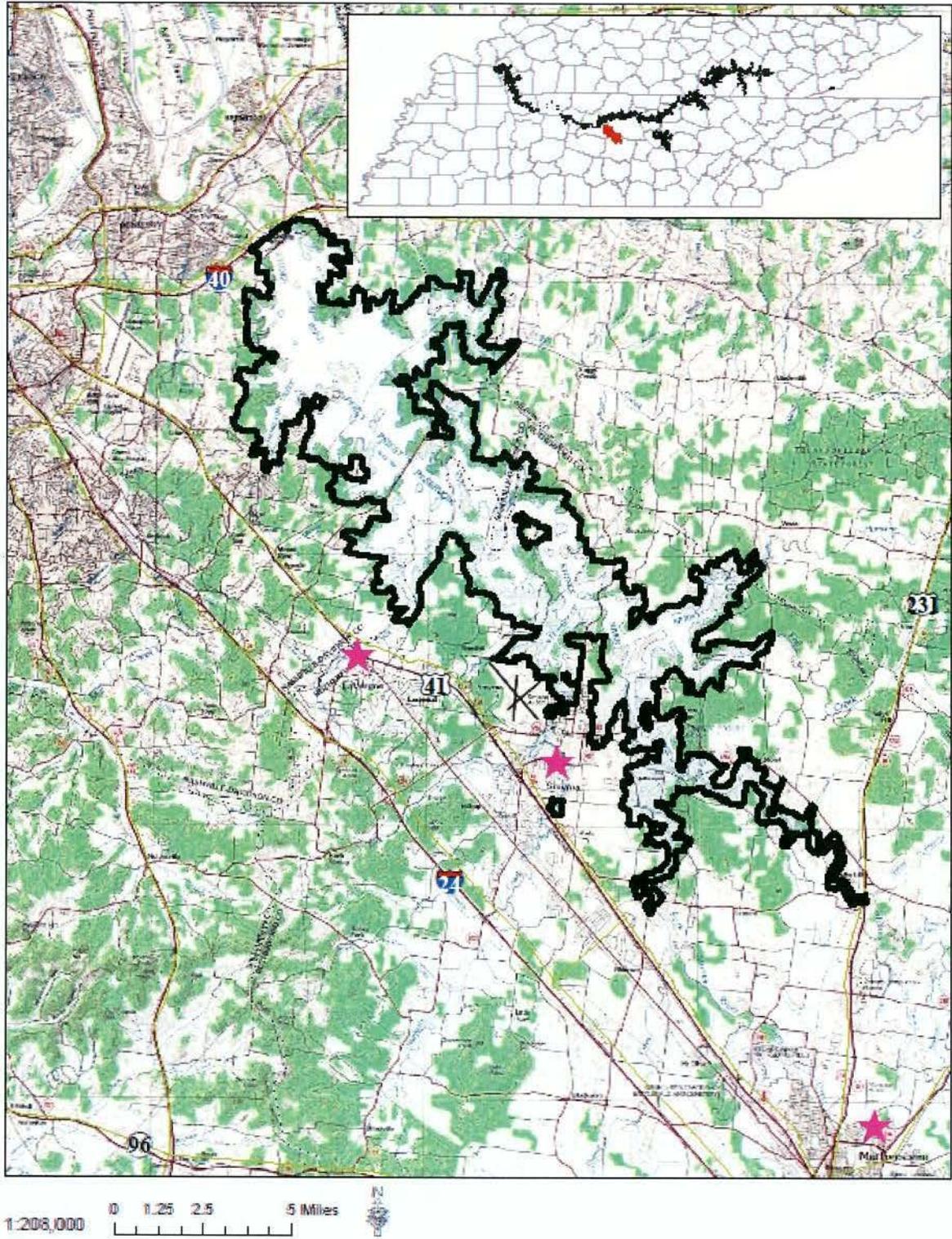


Figure 1 – Location Map