



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

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

Project Planning Branch

**OCT 24 2013**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District (Corps) has prepared an Environmental Assessment, Supplement 3 (EA3) and unsigned Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to address major rehabilitation and seepage repairs at the Center Hill Dam and Lake Project (Project) located in DeKalb County, Tennessee (Figure 1). The purpose and need for federal action is to reduce the risk of dam failure at the Project. The Project has a long history of seepage problems since construction in the 1940's. The main and saddle dams were built on karst geology using accepted engineering practices of the day. Since the 1960's, seepage flows through the limestone formations under the main and saddle dams have been monitored. Seepage had increased to cause a concern for the stability of the main and saddle dams. Several repair alternatives have been considered in previous EA's. Selected alternatives were documented in a 2006 Major Rehabilitation Evaluation Report (MRER). The previously approved 2006 MRER plan addressing seepage repairs was implemented, and construction began in 2008 on Center Hill Dam (main dam).

Since 2008, new information resulted in revisions to the 2006 MRER plan and development of additional changes to project features (left rim, right rim and abutment, saddle dam embankment, and maintenance grouting for the entire project). Revisions are documented in a draft revised 2013 MRER plan that includes consideration of a new seepage repair alternative for the saddle dam embankment not considered in previous EAs. The new alternative is a proposed Roller Compacted Concrete (RCC Berm) Berm to be constructed below the saddle dam. The draft revised 2013 MRER plan also considered added measures to address safety and improved monitoring for future seepage problems as part of on-going dam safety program.

The EA describes existing conditions, and evaluates potential impacts associated with the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives. The No Action alternative is to implement seepage repairs without revision as described in the previously approved 2006 MRER plan. The Proposed Action alternative is to implement revised repairs to project features as described in the draft revised 2013 MRER plan, and to consider the RCC Berm repair and added safety and monitoring measures as described in the draft 2013 MRER Supplement. The EA would provide the basis for a decision on whether to proceed with preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, sign a FONSI, or No Action. The EA3 was completed under the original authority of the Center Hill Dam and Lake Project as authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1938 (Public Law (PL) 761, 75th Congress, 3rd Session) and the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1946 (PL 525, 79th Congress, 2nd Session). A scoping letter was circulated on February 13, 2012, and a Notice of Availability was previously circulated on August 27, 2012. Both letters described the proposed project and comments previously received have been incorporated in the EA.

This letter serves as a Notice of Availability for reviewing the EA and unsigned FONSI. The EA is prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Corps of Engineers implementing regulation, ER 200-2-2, 1988, Policies and Procedures for Implementing NEPA. The EA revealed no significant direct or indirect impacts on Cultural Resources listed in or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. There would be minor impacts to wetlands, and potentially minor but temporary effects on endangered species, water quality, vegetation/habitat, wildlife, traffic, hazardous, toxic, and radiological wastes and aesthetics.

Hard copies may be requested or viewed at the Nashville District Office, 801 Broadway in Nashville, Tennessee 370202. Electronic copies are found at: <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/Missions/CurrentProjects/Construction/CenterHillDamSafetyRehabilitationProject.aspx>. Please submit comments **no later than November 29, 2013**, to ensure evaluation and inclusion in the EA3. Please send your written comments to the address above, Attn: CELRN-PM-P (Joy Broach), or email your comments to [joy.i.broach@usace.army.mil](mailto:joy.i.broach@usace.army.mil).

Your participation is valued and appreciated.

Sincerely,



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

Figure 1. Center Hill Dam, DeKalb County, Tennessee

