



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Nashville District

Public Notice

Public Notice No.: 07-15

Date: February 14, 2007

Application No.: N/A

Please address all comments to:
Nashville District Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch
3701 Bell Road, Nashville, TN 37214-2660

SUBJECT: Emergency Processing Procedures for Extension of Boat Launching Ramps on Lake Cumberland in Clinton, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Russell, and Wayne Counties, Kentucky

TO ALL CONCERNED: In accordance with 33 CFR 325.2(e)(4), Division Engineers are authorized to approve special processing procedures in emergency situations. An emergency situation includes an immediate, unforeseen, and significant economic hardship if corrective action requiring a permit is not undertaken within a time period less than the normal time needed to process an application under standard procedures.

The Nashville District Corps of Engineers (Corps) has lowered the lake level of Lake Cumberland to approximate Elevation 680.0 as a safety measure to reduce pressure on the dam and to facilitate repairs. At this elevation, the lake's water surface is 43' below the normal summer lake elevation of 723.0 and 10' below the normal winter pool elevation of 690.0. At the 680.0 level, 40 of the 48 existing launching ramps on the lake would probably not be usable. This situation would create a significant economic hardship on existing businesses and the general public.

At this time, the Corps estimates that approximately 30 boat launching ramps would need to be extended to allow for adequate access at the lower pool elevation. The work would be performed by the Corps, state agencies, and/or private interests. A minimal amount of excavation or placement of clean fill may be necessary to obtain a suitable slope for extension of the existing ramps. Ramps would likely be extended through a combination of pouring concrete into forms in the dry and/or pushing of poured slabs into the lake.

BG Bruce A. Berwick, Commander of the Lakes and Rivers Division, has authorized use of the emergency processing procedures.

PRELIMINARY COORDINATION: In accordance with the emergency processing procedures, Corps staff contacted personnel at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, and the Kentucky Division of Water to discuss the proposed ramp extensions and use of the emergency processing procedures. No substantial concerns were voiced by any of the agency personnel.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: In accordance with 33 CFR 325 Appendix B, boat launching ramps are not considered to be major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and are therefore categorically excluded from NEPA documentation.

PROPOSAL: The Nashville District proposes to implement the following emergency processing procedures for the extension of existing boat launching ramps on Lake Cumberland:

1. Applicants proposing to extend existing ramps would submit notification, including plans, to the Resource Manager at Lake Cumberland.
2. Upon receipt of the notification, the Resource Manager would review the proposal and either approve it, request modification to the plans, or inform the applicant that the proposal does not meet the criteria for approval under the emergency processing procedures.
3. Upon receipt of the Resource Manager's approval, work could commence in accordance with the approved plans and conditions. After completion of the work, the applicant would notify the Resource Manager so that a compliance inspection could be performed.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: By copy of this public notice, the Corps requests that the Kentucky Division of Water issue certification pursuant to Section 401(a)(1) of the CWA that applicable water quality standards will not be violated. This certification would apply to boat ramp extension activities conducted by the Corps, state agencies, and/or private interests.

COMMENTS: Any questions or comments concerning these emergency processing procedures may be directed to the Regulatory Branch, Attention: William L. James, at the above address, telephone (615) 369-7508, e-mail at william.l.james@lrn02.usace.army.mil.