



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Nashville District**

# Notice to Navigation Interests

Notice No.

Date:

CELRN-OP-N 07-27

16 July 2007

**In Reply Refer To:**

**CELRN-OP-N PO Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37072-1070 (615) 736-5607**

**SUBJECT: Low Water Conditions on the Cumberland River**

The Cumberland River Basin is experiencing record low rainfall and drought conditions. Forecasts indicate this pattern will extend through the summer and into the fall. In previous drought periods, the water stored in Lake Cumberland and Center Hill reservoirs were utilized to minimize the impact of rainfall shortages throughout the basin. The loss of a major portion of stored water supply in these two reservoirs has reduced the ability to diminish water shortages.

The Nashville District's first priorities in managing the Cumberland River are maintaining an adequate supply of water for human health and safety and maintaining the quality of the water in the system. To that end, minimum releases are being scheduled from the dams on the tributaries and the main stem. Where possible, releases are being scheduled such that they also benefit navigation traffic.

The Nashville District is also committed to maintaining the NINE-FOOT CHANNEL DEPTH as authorized by Congress in 1946. Should the drought continue as forecasted, this will become an increasingly difficult effort. Shippers are strongly urged to draft their vessels accordingly.

As water levels drop, the width of the channel is reduced as well. Therefore, dock owners are warned to maintain their fleets in accordance with their permitted width and size restrictions. Additionally, loading facilities should not have barges moored at an angle to the dock or in any manner where they encroach on the channel width. Shippers that experience problems with a facility are requested to report the facility to the nearest lock or to the Navigation Branch at the above telephone number between 7 am and 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

  
for JEFFREY D. ROSS  
Chief, Navigation Branch  
Operations Division

ARB