



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

Notice to Navigation Interests

Notice No.

Date: September 24, 2008

CELRN-OP-N 08-39

In Reply Refer To:

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

SUBJECT: Low Water Conditions Barkley Pool and the Lower Cumberland River

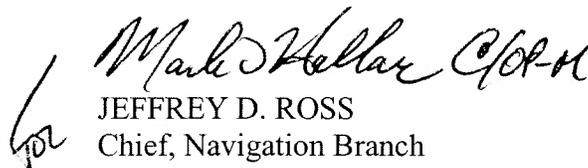
The Cumberland River Basin is experiencing record low rainfall and drought conditions. Forecasts indicate this pattern will continue for some time. In previous drought periods, the water stored in Lake Cumberland and Center Hill reservoirs were utilized to minimize the impact of rainfall shortages throughout the basin. With the recent drawdowns for emergency repairs the needed storage is not available. Barkley Pool is currently below guide curve and falling faster than normal drawdown even at minimum flows and could go below normal winter pool elevation. The only known areas of concern at present are Cumberland City By-Pass at CRM 104.0 and the lower approach to Cheatham Lock CRM 148.7.

Also affected by the drought conditions will be the lower Cumberland which could fall below elevation 300.0. The lower miter sill at Barkley Lock is elevation 289.0. If minimum generation at Barkley can not be maintained then mariners could see lower tail water elevations.

With the fore-mentioned conditions shippers are urged to reduce drafts to a maximum of 9 feet and proceed with caution through these reaches.

Subsequent notices will be issued as conditions warrant.

FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:


JEFFREY D. ROSS
Chief, Navigation Branch
Operations Division

BWL