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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces foundation repair and lake level updates for Wolf Creek Dam

NASHVILLE, TENN., May 23, 2008 – Accelerated grouting operations continue at Wolf Creek Dam as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and their contractor attempt to complete this initial phase of the rehabilitation work. .

"We know now our engineers were correct in diagnosing the problem, and we have the right solution," responded Lieutenant Colonel Bernard Lindstrom, Commander of the Nashville District. "That's the good news. And as soon as we reach the limit of at least one line of grout, we anticipate raising the lake level provided conditions at the lake remain stable and improving."

As drilling has continued, contractors have discovered additional cavities in the dam's rock foundation that require attention. Although 342 holes have been identified to close the initial grout line, this figure could increase due to the unpredictable nature of the foundation's karst geology. To date, 274 holes have been drilled and grouted. The grouting is approximately 80% complete and adequate financial resources remain available to keep the project moving ahead as scheduled.

The Nashville District Engineer also noted that while possible, a lake raise initiated this far into the spring may be difficult to accomplish, based on historical rain patterns and flows in the region. Nevertheless, the Corps fully intends to make a determination regarding the lake level upon completion of the initial grout line and an analysis verifying the project's stability.

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To Better Serve The Public

Meanwhile, Corps officials are emphasizing that despite lower lake levels, Lake Cumberland is still the third largest lake in Kentucky, and recreation opportunities for fishing, camping, and water sports are still highly accessible.

To enhance recreation opportunities, the Corps' Resource Management Office has extended ten Corps boat launching ramps, constructed an additional ramp at the Alligator I site, and extended courtesy floats at multiple locations. Additionally, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has extended or constructed more than 40 boat ramps.

The Corps also made significant improvements to the Kendall Camping Area and the Waitsboro Day Use Area, and installed a water supply line to sustain operations at the Wolf Creek Fish Hatchery.

This year's mitigation plan includes further improvements to Waitsboro and Kendall, cultural resources surveillance and protection, and drift removal along the exposed Lake Cumberland shoreline.