



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

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Project Planning Branch

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The Corps of Engineers, Nashville District, is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) relating to proposed dam powerhouse rehabilitations and possible operational changes at the Wolf Creek, Center Hill, and Dale Hollow Dams, in Kentucky and Tennessee. This process is necessary to provide National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance for proposed changes to the features of the project from that described in previous NEPA documents, which include the Continued Operation and Maintenance Environmental Assessments for each of the named projects and the January 1989 Wolf Creek Hydropower Draft Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment.

The Corps of Engineers is studying the possible impacts of modifying existing equipment. All three dams are of a similar age, and the turbines and related equipment are well beyond their projected life, and have similar proposed rehabilitation and operational changes. Due to improvements in technology, rehabilitating the equipment would make it possible to produce significantly more power from the same amount of water discharged. Changes in equipment and operational procedures could also cause higher tailwater heights and velocities, but as there is a limited amount of water they would be for shorter duration. Operating and equipment changes that will be studied could potentially affect more than a combined total 60 miles of tailwaters. This would primarily be a result of efforts to raise dissolved oxygen levels to at least meet the minimum state water quality standards, although flows and elevations could also be altered for a significant distance. In addition, alterations to flow regimes are being considered to provide minimum flows when hydropower releases are shut off. If improvements are successful, other dams may eventually be considered for similar changes. The Corps, therefore, proposes to evaluate these dams programmatically.

This letter serves to solicit scoping comments from the public; federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments

received during the comment period will be considered in the NEPA process. Comments are used to assess impacts on fish and wildlife, endangered species, historic properties, water quality, water supply and conservation, economics, aesthetics, wetlands, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, general environmental effects, cumulative effects, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Public meetings may be held, however, times, dates, or locations have not been determined.

The public is invited to submit written comments no later than November 28, 2003. You may send your comments to the Nashville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, ATTN: CELRN-PM-P (Wayne Easterling), P.O. Box 1070, Nashville, TN 37202-1070. Further information may be obtained by writing to the same address or by telephoning Mr. Easterling at (615) 736-7847.

Sincerely,

Douglas L. Radley, A.I.C.P  
Chief, Project Planning Branch