

Yankee Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Volume 50, No. 4 February 2017

Building Strong

®

USACE proposes rule for use of reservoirs
for domestic, municipal and industrial water supply

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Yankee Voices

Mike Russo, Susan MacDonald and Anne Kosef



February Observances

American Heart Month.

Heart disease kills an estimated 630,000 Americans each year. February has been celebrated as American Heart Month since 1963 as part of the effort to urge Americans to join the battle against heart disease.

Black History Month. An annual observance in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom to commemorate the history and contributions of black people. Black History Month was officially recognized by the U.S. government in 1976 by President Gerald R. Ford.

National Engineers Week, Feb. 19-25. Dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers.

Presidents' Day, Feb. 20. Celebrated in February to coincide with the birthdays of two of our greatest presidents, Abraham Lincoln (Feb. 12) and George Washington (Feb. 22).

(First Draft Magazine)

Message to the Department of Defense from Secretary of Defense James Mattis



It's good to be back and I'm grateful to serve alongside you as Secretary of Defense.

Together with the Intelligence Community we are the sentinels and guardians of our nation. We need only look to you, the uniformed and civilian members of the Department and your families, to see the fundamental unity of our country. You represent an America committed to the common good; an America that is never

complacent about defending its freedoms; and an America that remains a steady beacon of hope for all mankind.

Every action we take will be designed to ensure our military is ready to fight today and in the future. Recognizing that no nation is secure without friends, we will work with the State Department to strengthen our alliances. Further, we are devoted to gaining full value from every taxpayer dollar spent on defense, thereby earning the trust of Congress and the American people.

I am confident you will do your part. I pledge to you I'll do my best as your Secretary.

Annual Weingarten Notice 2017

In accordance with the requirements of 5 USC 7114(a)(3), this is to advise bargaining unit employees that:

An exclusive representative of an appropriate unit in an agency shall be given the opportunity to be represented at any examination of an employee in the unit by a representative of the agency in connection with an investigation if - (a) the employee reasonably believes that the examination may result in disciplinary action against the employee; and (b) the employee requests representation.

Any questions may be directed to Dan Purple, HR Specialist, LMER, in the NAE CPAC, 978-318-8294 or email: daniel.c.purple@usace.army.mil.



Employee Spotlight

Ron Woodall, Operations Division

Ron Woodall is a Park Ranger at West Hill Dam and has been a New England District Team member for the past 10 months. "As a Park Ranger I work on a variety of operations and recreation aspects of the dam and park," he said. "I have the responsibility of conducting monthly tests on the flood gates and backup generator here at West Hill."

According to Woodall, his primary responsibility is the stewardship of public lands. "My personal favorite aspect of my job is to talk to the public about the recreation opportunities that the Corps provides as well as our Water Safety mission," he said. "I have the pleasure of presenting interpretive programs both onsite and in the community."

Although in New England for less than a year, Woodall is no stranger to the Corps of Engineers, having worked as a summer ranger in 2013 in the St. Paul District. From there he worked at the Portland District, Savannah District and then arrived in New England.

Aside from his regular duties as a Park Ranger at West Hill Dam, Woodall serves on the New England District Ranger Color Guard. He is also the North Atlantic Division representative for the National Partnership Advisory Committee (PAC). "The PAC is responsible for coordinating and expanding the Corps recreation and environmental stewardship missions," he said. "It was established to promote partnerships and cooperative agreements with government and private organizations so we can accomplish multiple tasks and provide for expanded program funding to support project purposes."

Woodall holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Humanities and Art History and a Masters in Arts Administration from Florida State University. When asked what he enjoyed most about working for the District, Woodall couldn't pick just one thing. "This is my fourth District and duty station with the Corps and I intend it to be my final location," he said. "Working at a smaller project, I really enjoy the unprecedented amount of hands-on operations and flood risk management opportunities and working with



Park Ranger Ron Woodall, West Hill Dam

the public."

Woodall said he appreciated the team and managers he works with. "I feel I have a great relationship and support system with them, especially since my wife and I have no family members who live close," he said.

In his personal time, Woodall is a history buff. "I am a certified arts and antiques appraiser with a museum studies and curatorial background, so I really enjoy the history of the area and the opportunity to visit major museums and historical locations that built our country," he said. "I am also a Freemason and I am excited to live in the state with the oldest Masonic lodges in the United States."

Woodall and his wife, who is a doctor of Naturopathic

Medicine, are the proud parents of a young son and daughter. He said his family are FSU Seminole and Seattle Seahawks fans, but also said the Patriots are also a good team.



Andrew Labonte, Brig. Gen. William Graham, Ron Woodall, John MacPherson, Sean McDonald and Geoffrey Steuerwald during the general's recent visit.



Littleville Lake in Huntington, Massachusetts

Photo by Brian Murphy

Public comments sought on Proposed Rule for Use of USACE Reservoir Projects for Domestic, Municipal and Industrial Water Supply

The Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), released and is seeking comment on a proposed rule to update and clarify its policies governing the use of USACE reservoir projects for domestic, municipal and industrial water supply pursuant to Section 6 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, 33 U.S.C. § 708 (Section 6), and the Water Supply Act of 1958, 43 U.S.C. § 390b (WSA). Many of the Corps of Engineers Flood Risk Assessment Projects have reservoirs behind them.

Specifically, USACE proposes to define key terms under both statutes and to respond to issues that have arisen in exercising these authorities, in order to take into account court decisions, legislative provisions and other developments. The proposed

rule is intended to enhance USACE's ability to cooperate with state and local interests in the development of water supplies in connection with the operation of its reservoirs for federal purposes as authorized by Congress, to facilitate water supply uses of USACE reservoirs by others as contemplated under applicable law, and to avoid interfering with lawful uses of water by any entity when USACE exercises its discretionary authority under either Section 6 or the WSA.

USACE intends by this rule making proposal to initiate a positive dialogue with stakeholders on these important issues, and to promote program certainty and efficiency by ultimately establishing a uniform understanding of Section 6 and the WSA, and the range of activity authorized thereunder. The

release of the proposed rule follows through on USACE's commitment to establish clearer and more consistent policies in this area, in cooperation with the public.

Purpose of Proposed Rule

The proposed rule seeks to clarify USACE understanding of the congressional intent behind Section 6 and the WSA; define key statutory terms; more clearly delineate the authority conferred under each statute; and establish policies that would improve efficiency and coordination with states, federal agencies and other stakeholders regarding water supply uses of USACE reservoirs. The proposed rule would also explain the USACE approach to important policy questions that have arisen nationwide, including the pricing of surplus water

agreements under Section 6, the reallocation of storage under the WSA, and accounting of storage usage and return flows under WSA agreements, and would solicit public input and comments on those subjects.

The rule would also clarify and simplify processes for approving and entering into water supply agreements at USACE reservoirs, and includes procedures for coordinating with states, tribes and other federal agencies to ensure that water rights are protected and the views, expertise and prerogatives of others are taken into account.

The overall intent of the proposed rule is to enhance USACE's ability to cooperate with interested parties by facilitating water supply uses of USACE reservoirs in a manner that is consistent with the authorized purposes of those reservoirs, and does not interfere with lawful uses of water under state law or other federal law. The proposed rule would apply only to reservoir projects operated by USACE, not to projects operated by other federal or non-federal entities.

The proposed rule is intended to ensure that USACE carries out its authority under Section 6 and the WSA in a manner that does not interfere with state, tribal or other water rights, and that recognizes related responsibilities and authorities under the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and other federal laws.

The proposed rule would acknowledge that when USACE acts pursuant to either Section 6 or the WSA, USACE does not issue, sell, adjudicate or allocate water rights for domestic, municipal, industrial or other consumptive uses. Rather, under both statutes, USACE makes water in a USACE reservoir available for water supply use by others. These users are exercising their separately derived



Kayakers at Ball Mountain Lake in Vermont prepare to race. The current proposal would have additional uses for Corps of Engineers reservoirs.

water rights, and they bear the sole responsibility to acquire and defend any water rights necessary to make withdrawals, in accordance with state or other applicable law.

Features of Proposed Rule

Key features of the proposed rule include the following:

- Explanation of the purpose and scope of the authority conferred under Section 6 and the Water Supply Act, including the water supply uses that may be accommodated, and statutory limits on USACE's authority to include storage for water supply
- Definitions interpreting key statutory terms, including "surplus water"
- Pricing methodologies for surplus water contracts under Section 6, and for water supply storage agreements under the Water Supply Act
- Provisions to simplify and streamline USACE administrative processes for authorizing surplus water withdrawals
- Provisions to clarify the amount of water that may be withdrawn under water supply storage agreements and procedures to account for water supply uses
- Provisions to ensure

coordination of proposed water supply actions with states, tribes, federal agencies and the public

The proposed rule is administrative in nature and applies only to USACE actions pursuant to Section 6 and the Water Supply Act, not under any other authority. It would apply prospectively and only to reservoir projects operated by USACE, not to projects operated by other federal or non-federal entities. It would not impose requirements on any other entity, alter existing contractual arrangements at USACE reservoirs, or require operational changes at any USACE reservoir.

Request for Public Comments

USACE encourages all interested persons to carefully review the preamble and the proposed rule and to offer comments for consideration. USACE looks forward to a constructive dialogue with all interested stakeholders.

The public comment period on the proposed rule lasts for 60 days and ends Feb. 14. The proposed rule, along with instructions for submitting comments, is available at <http://www.regulations.gov>, Docket ID number COE-2016-0016.

(Corps of Engineers Press Release)

West Hill Dam team hosts annual Wild Winter Walk

Despite frigid January temperatures, a dozen people participated in the annual West Hill Dam Wild Winter Walk, Jan. 15.

Excitedly clutching animal tracking cards, participants set off to see what creatures were crawling around the dam during winter time. "In addition to the animal tracking cards, we went as a group to bush-whack and go off-trail and looked for clues we could find about what animals are active in winter," said West Hill Dam Park Ranger Viola Bramel.

Paw prints were not the only clues participants found about animal activity in winter. "We studied partially eaten pine cones, cone petal piles, animal scat and nesting materials," said Bramel.

Tracking animals is hard work and the younger participants got a chance to expend some energy before continuing their hunt. "We were off trail about half a mile and found trees to swing on and



Viola Bramel answers questions about tracking during the Wild Winter Walk at West Hill Dam.

Photos by Ron Woodall

huge logs to walk across," said Bramel. "Our chant similar to the Wizard of Oz, became, 'deer, skunk, humans, fox and coyotes, oh my!'"

Bramel said it was great to share information about nesting, mating and other survival habits of animals that left tracks to find. Girl Scouts were on the adventure hoping to earn badge requirements. An advanced Junior Ranger, Steven Coya, assisted with

ruler measurements while tracking animals in the mud. Younger children oohed and ahed over the animal tracks and giggled about animal scat, also known as animal "poop."

After 90 minutes of tracking and playing, the group returned to their starting location to rehydrate with water and warm up with donated cocoa. Park Ranger Ron Woodall assisted Bramel in running the event.

Surry Mountain Lake hosts anglers for New Hampshire winter fishing day

Surry Mountain Lake opened its gates to welcome all who wished to try ice fishing at the facility and take advantage of the first ever Winter Free Fishing Day, Jan. 21.

The New Hampshire Fish and Game wanted New Hampshire residents to be able to try ice fishing for the first time without having to go through the expense of purchasing a license, according to the agency's press release.

Although usually closed for the year, the Surry Mountain Lake team opened its gates, measured the thickness of the ice for safety and distributed informational safety material out on Social Media for residents wishing to visit the project and try their hand at ice fishing.

In keeping with the "free" theme,



This little angler caught many fish during the Winter Free Fishing.

guests were not charged a fee to visit Surry Mountain Lake. Those who took advantage of the team's invitation seemed to enjoy themselves.

"The people who attended were grateful to have the opportunity to fish an area they usually have to walk quite a distance to get to," said Project

Manager John Asseng.

New Hampshire Fish and Game and Game advised people all other rules and regulations had to be followed on free fishing day. The New Hampshire State Legislature authorized the winter free fishing day last year. The state has a free fishing day on the first Sunday in June that has been in place for many years.

Surry Mountain Lake offers hunting, trapping and snowmobiling with applicable licenses and permits in accordance with state and federal regulations. In the warmer weather, fishing and swimming are available as are picnic tables and a boat ramp. For more information on the project, go to their website: www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Recreation/SurryMountainLake.aspx.

Goodrich retires with 37 years of federal service

Dave Goodrich retired from federal service, Jan. 3 with 37 years of distinguished service. At a small ceremony, the Programs/Project Management team celebrated his career and his significance to the New England District Team, Dec. 20, 2016.

Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, presented Goodrich with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service signed by Brig. Gen. William Graham, North Atlantic Division Commander during a gathering held at Concord Park Headquarters. Goodrich received the honor for his support to the region, specifically with the workload and workforce assessments and his support to the National Water Mission.

Goodrich started his career with the Corps of Engineers, Chicago District in 1979. Shortly after, he came to New England. He spent several years in Planning learning about the Civil Works Program and giving him invaluable experience he would use when he moved to Programs in 1986. Soon after he became recognized as a regional expert in Programs and the Planning program. His expertise included non-federal cost sharing and agreements. "During his 30 years, Mr. Goodrich worked in the Programs Branch he became an expert and reliable resource regarding all matters involving civil works budgeting, programming, authorities and appropriations," said Scott Acone, Deputy District Engineer for Programs/Project Management. "Mr. Goodrich has been a main reason for the successful and robust Civil Works Program in the New England District. His efforts ensured that all program documents and submissions transmitted to higher headquarters were delivered on time, based upon sound judgement, and the highest quality."

In addition to his workload, he helped lead the National



Photo by Scott Acone

Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, presents Dave Goodrich with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service during Goodrich's retirement ceremony.

Water Mission for the Corps of Engineers for many years. "Mr. Goodrich used his broad and thorough understanding of both the contracting and emergency response processes along with his communications skills to work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and local Emergency Management agencies to oversee the program with the highest level of efficiency," said Acone.

According to Acone, as a result of his involvement on the water team, Goodrich saved the government tens of thousands of dollars while still supporting citizens affected by a disaster or tragedy.

Col. Barron awarded Goodrich with the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, "for meritorious service as a Civil Engineer, Programs Branch, Programs/Project Management Division from February 1986 to January 2017," he read. "Mr. Goodrich's knowledge and understanding of Civil Works appropriations, authorities and budgeting enabled the District to execute a robust Civil Works Program."



Paul Chansky retires... again!

Col. Christopher Barron, New England District Commander, presented Paul Chansky, Director, Civilian Personnel Advisory Center (CPAC), with a Commander's Award for Civilian Service during a goodbye reception held Dec. 21. Chansky was a reemployed annuitant who had retired as CPAC Director at the Natick Soldier Systems Center in December 2010. He filled in for current CPAC Director Kim Kaminski-Donaher while she was on temporary assignment starting August 14, 2014.

Dredging up the past



Retiree Ken Paton poses with Distinguished Civilian Gallery members Vyto Andreliunas and Richard Carlson at Bobby Byrne's retirement party in this Oct. 4, 2012 photo.

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