



**US Army Corps  
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New England District**

# **News release**

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Contact Tim Dugan 978-318-8264  
timothy.j.dugan@usace.army.mil  
696 Virginia Road, Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751

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Public meeting set for Nov. 12 in Thetford

## **Corps of Engineers to update master plan for Union Village Dam flood control project**

**CONCORD, Mass.** – The Master Plan for the Union Village Dam flood control project in east-central Vermont along the Ompompanoosuc River is being updated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The dam and reservoir area are located in the community of Thetford, Vermont. The project, located on the Ompompanoosuc River, is an element of the Connecticut River Basin comprehensive flood control plan.

“The purpose of the study is to assess the natural and manmade resources of the project, determine regional needs and public desires, and develop an overall land and water management plan for the project,” said Study Manager Richard Heidebrecht, of the Corps of Engineers New England District Planning Branch.

A public meeting to discuss initiation of the master planning process, and to provide public officials and concerned individuals the opportunity to provide input will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2002 at 7 p.m. at the Thetford Academy Library, on Academy Road, in Thetford, Vermont.

Union Village Dam provides flood protection to the Union Village section of Thetford, Norwich, and the White River Junction and Wilder Village sections of Hartford. It also reduces flood damage in the New Hampshire communities of Hanover and West Lebanon. In conjunction with other Corps dams and reservoirs in the Connecticut River Basin, Union Village Dam reduces flood damages in communities situated downstream on the Connecticut River.

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## **Union Village Dam Master Plan Study/2-2-2-2-2**

The Master Plan will cover the management of 991 acres of land and water surface area at the project. “To assist in developing an updated Master Plan, the Corps’ New England District is requesting input from public officials, concerned citizens, and others who may be able to provide information or assistance in updating the Master Plan,” Heidebrecht said.

There is no lake at Union Village Dam except during the winter, when a 50-acre lake with a depth of 20 feet is maintained to keep the floodgates from freezing. The flood storage area of the project totals 740 acres and extends 3.5 miles upstream.

More than six miles of river are available for fishing for stocked brown and rainbow trout and some natural brook trout. The project offers a small swimming area, beach volleyball court, and a picnic area. Restrooms, picnic tables, grills, and drinking water are available in the area. A picnic shelter can be reserved for a small fee. Hunting, fishing, trapping, and snowmobiling are permitted with the applicable licenses and permits and in accordance with state and federal regulations.

Union Village Dam is a 1,100-foot-long, 170-foot-high earthen structure capable of storing 12.3 billion gallons of water in a 740-acre lake. Construction on the \$4 million dam was completed in 1950, and since that time the facility has prevented damages of more than \$30.3 million.

More than 19,000 visitors annually enjoy the picnicking, swimming, hiking, fishing, hunting and snowmobiling available on Union Village’s 983 acres of land and water. The dam is located 11 miles north of White River Junction. From White River Junction, the dam can be reached by traveling U.S. Route 5 north to Route 132 west, and then following the signs to the project.

If you are unable to attend the public meeting, information or assistance in updating the Union Village Dam Master Plan Study can be provided to the Study Manager Richard Heidebrecht at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, Planning Branch, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, MA 01742-2751, telephone (978) 318-8513, or E-mail [richard.w.heidebrecht@usace.army.mil](mailto:richard.w.heidebrecht@usace.army.mil).

Also, Gary Pelton, the Environmental Resource Specialist for this project, can be reached at (802) 886-8111 or at E-mail [gary.w.pelton@usace.army.mil](mailto:gary.w.pelton@usace.army.mil).