



NEWS RELEASE

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Corps of Engineers Solicits Input on Operational Changes at the Kaskaskia River Project

Carlyle Lake— A significant reduction in Kaskaskia River Project's budget will require changes to project operations. The project's recommended Fiscal Year 2012 budget is \$1,539,000, a reduction of \$637,000, nearly 30 percent below the Fiscal Year 2011 budget. The Corps is soliciting input from stakeholders, customers, industry and the public on how to adjust operations while providing the best service to our customers.

Under Corps of Engineers budget criteria considerations, the Kaskaskia River Project is considered a low use navigation project, meaning it is an inland waterway with under one billion ton miles of commercial cargo transported annually. In development of the fiscal year 2012, the Corps of Engineers has reduced funding for all low use navigation projects, by 50 percent, a \$76 million dollar reduction from Fiscal Year 2011. Funding was either eliminated or greatly reduced for 121 navigation projects across the nation.

According to the Kaskaskia Regional Port District, contracts are in place for navigational usage at the project to reach two million tons in fiscal year 2012. The recommended funding level at Kaskaskia is marginally survivable with the current usage, but may not keep the lock and channel operational if use increases as projected.

The Corps will make every effort to keep the lock open to navigational traffic. However to operate and maintain the project at the reduced funding levels; it will require significant changes to current operations. Changes being considered include reduced hours of lock operation, remote operation of the dam and/or lock, and limited dredging and maintenance to facilities. Other project features that may be reduced or eliminated include: monitoring of project feature conditions such as stilling basin inspections, water safety efforts, recreational lockage, fish and wildlife habitat maintenance, and operation of recreation facilities including campgrounds, boat ramps, and visitor center.

The Corps of Engineers is seeking feedback concerning these potential operational changes. Comments should be sent no later than July 15th, 2011 to:

Carlyle Lake/Kaskaskia River Project Office
801 Lake Road
Carlyle , Illinois 62231
Email: carlylelake@usace.army.mil.

For additional information contact the Kaskaskia River Project Office at 618-284-7160 or the Carlyle Lake Project Office at 618-594-2484.