



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
St. Louis District®

# Press Release

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## Lakes Recouping Storm Water Storage Capacity U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis Says

St. Louis, Mo – Four lakes operated by the St. Louis District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Missouri and Illinois are making strides toward being ready for whatever precipitation may come this week and coming Spring.

The lakes, which captured and held heavy rain fall and snow melts in early January are being managed to bring their elevations down to levels where they can again serve to reduce potential flood damage.

As of Monday morning, February 7:

In Missouri, Mark Twain Lake, northwest of St. Louis has been reduced in elevation from its peak of 617 feet to 606.4 feet. At this elevation, essentially a target point has been reached and the Corps is no longer requiring mandatory releases or power generation at its Clarence Cannon dam and hydroelectric plant there.

Southward at Wappapello Lake, the 364.4 foot elevation two weeks ago has been brought down to 356.2 feet and dam gates are gradually being adjusted to bring the system into an in flow-out flow equilibrium when a target elevation of 354.74 feet is reached.

In Illinois, at Lake Shelbyville, water levels which reached 618.1 feet recently have been reduced to 610.2 feet today. Discharge rates remain at the maximum planned rate of 4,500 cubic feet per second, or about 21,700 gallons per second as Corps Water managers continue to bring the lake to its ideal winter pool level of 594 feet.

Southward down the Kaskaskia River, Lake Carlyle is similarly improving, coming down from a maximum of 455.9 feet to a noon, Friday measurement of 450.9 feet. The lake is continuing to discharge 10,000 cubic feet or about 75,000 gallons per second while it is being managed toward a target elevation of 443 feet.

All elevations or levels are stated with reference to the National Geodetic Vertical Datum, or NGVD, which is a scientifically more accurate version of the popular term, mean sea level.

A fifth Corps of Engineers Lake, Rend in Illinois, has not been significantly impacted by early January precipitation and is in good shape, according to Corps officials.

The multi-purpose lakes served in early January to collect large inflows of run-off from their drainage areas, reducing potential downstream flooding. The Corps of Engineers is continuing to manage discharges to prepare them for seasonally expected spring precipitation.