US Army Corps of Engineers®
St. Louis District

# News Release

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## Corps of Engineers announces high water preparations at three St. Louis District lakes

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in St. Louis is making advance preparations to be ready for possible heavy rain affecting levels at three of its District Lakes: Carlyle and Rend Lakes in Illinois. and Wappapello Lake in southeastern Missouri. District officials emphasize that these are precautionary steps at this time, made prudent by current lake levels after heavy rains two weeks ago. The measures are being taken with public safety uppermost in mind.

If these rains materialize, the public living and working downstream from these lakes is urged to exercise caution by monitoring media, paying attention to local and regional emergency planners and maintaining individual awareness if they live or work in areas prone to previous flooding. Fishermen who may fish downstream of these dams are likewise cautioned to watch for increasing water levels and flows and to be mindful of their departure routes from their locations.

These three lakes are in a band of predicted rainfalls that may range from 1" north of St. Louis to as much as 5" southward toward Steelville and Farmington during the day on Thursday and that night. Additional precipitation is also possible projected next week.

Carlyle Lake yesterday experienced an inflow of 15,490 cubic feet of water per second (cfs.) Controlled outflow there is currently set at 8,250 cfs. The lake at this time still has nearly 60 percent of its planned flood storage capacity. That outflow goes into the Kaskaskia River and eventually into the Mississippi.

Wappapello Lake has an inflow of 22,440 cfs and is discharging 10,000 cfs, and has about 45 percent of its flood storage planned capacity remaining. Wappapello discharges through the St. Francis River, en route to the Mississippi.

Rend Lake's inflow yesterday was 3,540 cfs with a discharge of 4,000 cfs. All of its planned flood storage is currently filled. Rend empties into the Big Muddy River before it reaches the Mississippi north of Cape Girardeau.

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Corps water control experts are monitoring lake levels and following preset plans in published operation manuals to adjust discharges if water levels rise. They do this in close coordination with local and regional emergency planners to best ensure public safety and minimize damage to property.

They note that at certain elevation levels, the designs of the dams at Rend and Wappapello Lakes call for the water to start to flow over spillways into downstream rivers. This is not a failure of the dam or the reservoir, but simply recognizes that the level of protection for which the dam was built has been exceeded by the rainfall.

Corps officials emphasize that the National Weather Service is the official agency for making weather and stream flow predictions and that the Corps is working carefully to respond to the combination of those predictions and our operating procedures.

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**Note to editors: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts are organized along watershed boundaries and three districts are currently impacted by possible rainfalls:**

- For areas around Carlyle or Rend Lakes, contact St. Louis Public Affairs at 314-331-8002 or the Carlyle Lake Project Office at 618-594-2484, or at Rend Lake at 618-724-2493.
- For Wappapello Lake and the St. Francis River upstream, contact St. Louis PAO at 314-331-8002 or the Wappapello Lake Project Office at 573-222-8562.
- For areas on the St. Francis River downstream of Wappapello Lake, call the Memphis District PAO at: 901-544-3360.
- For areas near Clearwater Lake or the Black River, contact the Little Rock PAO at 501-324-5551 or the Clearwater Lake Project Office at 573-223-7777.