



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Kansas City District

News Release

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Kansas City, Mo. -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, is currently making releases from Milford, Tuttle Creek, and Perry Lakes to support water supply and water quality flow standards on the Kansas River. Under an agreement initiated by the State of Kansas in 1986 and fully implemented in 1995, the corps is committed to supporting water quality flow targets of 750 cubic feet per second (cfs) at Topeka and 1,000 cfs at DeSoto through October. The flow targets are necessary to meet state and Federal water quality standards and to supply water to towns and industrial users along the river.

On August 2, the releases from the Kansas lakes included 400 cfs from Milford Lake, 350 cfs from Tuttle Creek Lake and 200 cfs from Perry Lake. The corps expects, that if it stays dry, total releases from Milford, Tuttle Creek, and Perry lakes could range up to 1,000 cfs. Without the releases from the three lakes, the flow in the Kansas River would shrink to a trickle during dry periods, according to Steve Spaulding, real time water control team leader for the Kansas City District.

From July 1 to July 20, the corps also made releases from Milford, Tuttle Creek, and Perry lakes to support navigation traffic on the Missouri River. Congress authorized these releases when the lakes were constructed. The July releases from the three Kansas lakes were part of a coordinated operation with the six large lakes on the Missouri River upstream of Omaha, Nebraska. The navigation releases from the Kansas lakes have occurred in most drought years, or about a third of the years since the dams were built.

The corps is no longer making releases from Kansas lakes for navigation flow support. Due to the drought conditions, the pool elevations at all lakes in Kansas continue to fall because of low inflows and high evaporation rates. Milford, Tuttle Creek, and Perry lakes are now three to four feet lower than their normal summer levels. During periods of maximum drawdowns for water quality and water supply, the lakes will fall an additional one to two inches per day.

The Kansas City District will continue to consult with the State of Kansas and related public agencies regarding water release plans. The Kansas City District will continue to inform the public of its ongoing water control efforts while drought conditions exist throughout the greater Kansas area.