



# News Release

**US Army Corps of Engineers**

**Kansas City District**

601 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2896

**Contact:** Alicia Embrey 816-389-3486

**Internet Address:** <http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil>

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*For immediate release*

## **Bridge Closed at Harlan County Lake**

**HARLAN COUNTY, NEBR.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Harlan County Lake announced that Prairie Dog Creek Bridge will be closed due to structural deficiencies that make it unsafe for use. The closure will impact several of the lessees who farm on Corps of Engineers lands in the area. It is not expected to impact the recreation areas.

Determined by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), 1999 criteria, the rating of four tons for Prairie Dog Creek Bridge has changed to less than three tons with new 2005 criteria. All bridges with a load rating under three tons on Corps property are determined to be too dangerous for public use and these bridges will be closed without delay.

According to Sue Gehrt, Chief of Maintenance Engineering for the Corps of Engineers Kansas City District, the Corps is working to get the proper barricades and signage ordered to let people in the area know the bridge will be closed within the next 2-3 weeks. Gehrt said, “As soon as we get a handle on how quickly we can get the signs made to close it safely, we will announce when the closure date will be”.

“The bridge will be closed indefinitely”, said John Connor of the Corps of Engineers. Connor continued, “It may not be economically feasible to repair the bridge compared to a complete replacement of the bridge. Repairs would require significant retrofitting of the deck stringers and steel truss. The timber piles which support the abutment walls require replacement as well”.

For more information, contact the Corps of Engineers at (308) 799-2105

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For the past 100 years, the Kansas City District has been providing flood damage reduction and related support to the heartland. For more information, call the Kansas City District Public Affairs Office at (816) 389-3486. [www.nwk.usace.army.mil](http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil)

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