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of Engineers  
Kansas City District

# News Release

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Kansas Water Office  
The State's Water Planning Agency  
Tracy Streeter, Director  
901 S. Kansas Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66612-1210  
Phone 785-296-3185

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Kansas City District  
601 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2896  
Contact: Public Affairs  
Phone 816-389-3486

## **Kansas Water Office and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announce new Wilson Lake Water Supply Planning Study**

**Topeka, Kansas**—Officials from the Kansas Water Office (KWO) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Kansas City District today announced the start of a water supply planning study for Wilson Lake in Russell County, Kansas. As part of the study, the agencies will evaluate the potential to use reservoir water to supply public entities in counties surrounding Wilson Lake in central Kansas. The study will consider engineering, socioeconomic, and environmental aspects of water supply in the region.

The Kansas Water Office coordinates the management, conservation and development of the water resources of the State of Kansas in concert with the Kansas Water Authority (Authority). The Authority's 24 members include representatives from diverse water use interest groups and leaders of the state's natural resource agencies. The Authority advises the Governor and Legislature on water issues to be considered for policy enactment.

Wilson Lake, built and managed by the USACE, was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944 for flood control, irrigation, navigation, recreation, fish and wildlife, and water quality purposes. USACE may add another water use if it is considered feasible by the State of Kansas and the Corps of Engineers, Water in Wilson Lake has not been considered suitable for drinking water because of a high chloride and sulfate content. However, new technologies are making the treatment of this water for municipal use more economical to produce potable water that meets or exceeds federal and state drinking water standards. The environmental component of the study will consider the resource impacts of removing water from Wilson Lake compared to the impacts of using other water sources. Lake levels, downstream flow, recreation, cultural resources, and fisheries and wildlife are a few of the resources that will be considered.

Individuals, organizations, and agencies are encouraged to participate by mailing or e-mailing comments on issues or water supply alternatives to the USACE by February 28, 2008. The findings and recommendations of the study are planned to be presented to the public for comment at a meeting in late 2008 in central Kansas.

Please send your comments to Christina Ostrander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, 601 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 843, Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2896, e-mail [christina.ostrander@usace.army.mil](mailto:christina.ostrander@usace.army.mil). Media inquiries may be addressed to the Kansas Water Office at (785) 296-3185 or (888) KAN-WATER (526-9283) or the USACE Kansas City District Public Affairs Office at (816) 389-3486.