



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®
Kansas City District

News Release

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For immediate release

Kansas City District reservoir to make minimal releases

KANSAS CITY, Mo - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Kansas City District operates eighteen multipurpose lakes throughout Kansas, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska. During large rain events area lakes reduce water output or store water to minimize flooding along downstream rivers. Releases from the lakes are also needed to maintain minimum water quality standards downstream and, for some communities, a source for municipal water supply.

These lakes serve a number of purposes, including water supply, recreation, fish and wildlife. During times of high water and flooding, they capture excessive run off and hold it until flood waters recede. All of the lakes were created by damming rivers and impounding their water.

Each lake is operated throughout the year in accordance with seasonal lake elevation targets and downstream flood control limits described in the project's operation manual. This is done to balance the needs for flood control against the multipurpose requirements for municipal water supply and downstream water quality, adequate water for safe summer boating, fish habitat and wildlife propagation, and other uses. As winter approaches, water levels are allowed to drop gradually until a "winter pool" is reached. This reduced level provides an expanded buffer for spring flood control needs.

The operating manuals for the lakes take into account both the purposes of the lakes and current situations. For example, while it may be desirable to hold large quantities of water to keep farm fields downstream dry for planting or crop growth, this may not be possible if adequate flood control space is to be maintained for possible future rainstorm events.

At other times, such as during a dry summer, holding lakes at adequate levels for recreation and to support wildlife may be difficult, and doing so may cause low water levels downstream. On hot, particularly sunny and windy days, evaporation may be greater than inflow rates and lake levels will drop even with minimal releases.

"The flood pools need to be evacuated as soon as possible, after flooding conditions have lessened, to prepare for another potential rain event," Corps Hydraulic Engineer Stephen Spaulding said. "We carefully monitor river conditions and release water only when it will not cause additional flood damage." All Kansas City District lakes eventually drain into the Missouri River through the tributaries on which they are located.

Public Safety is top priority

Operating these lakes to meet their multiple purposes is frequently a careful balancing act that seeks to best ensure all interests; public safety is always the number one priority. However that may at times dictate increased discharges from the lakes to maintain flood capacity and continued stability and safety for the dams.

The current lake elevations and releases may be found at: http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/water_reports/lakepool.fct. The website is updated each day, normally before noon, and contains the district's best estimate for releases during the next three days.

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT LAKE THREE DAY FORECAST (EC-HC)

	MPP	18 Jun 2008		Day 1		Day 2		Day 3	
		Elevation	Outflow	Elevation	Outflow	Elevation	Outflow	Elevation	Outflow
Gavins Pt.			10000		10200		13000		10200
Kanopolis	1463.0	1469.30	1547	1468.81	1513	1468.32	978	1468.03	707
Wilson	1516.0	1515.34	15	1515.35	15	1515.36	15	1515.37	15
Harlan Co	1945.7	1948.34	750	1948.28	750	1948.22	750	1948.16	750
Milford	1144.4	1151.81	7000	1151.26	7000	1150.70	7000	1150.11	7000
Tuttle Creek	1075.0	1096.23	20000	1094.84	20000	1093.37	20000	1091.81	20000
Perry	891.5	900.39	2500	900.12	2500	899.84	2500	899.56	2500
Clinton	875.5	881.38	800	881.23	800	881.07	800	880.90	800
Smithville	864.2	866.24	100	866.21	700	866.02	750	865.83	750
Longview	891.0	891.68	52	891.61	44	891.57	38	891.53	35
Blue Springs	802.0	803.04	81	802.94	65	802.87	55	802.81	50
Melvern	1036.0	1039.85	500	1039.74	500	1039.63	500	1039.51	500
Pomona	974.0	981.26	500	981.10	500	980.93	500	980.75	500
Hillsdale	917.0	923.63	500	923.46	500	923.30	500	923.13	500
Stockton	867.0	881.44	6500	881.22	6500	880.98	6500	880.70	6500
Pomme de Terre	839.0	847.48	500	847.57	500	847.63	500	847.68	500
Harry Truman	706.0	726.60	500	727.27	9000	727.68	20000	727.80	25000
Rathbun	904.0	915.79	807	915.71	807	915.63	807	915.55	807
Long Branch	791.0	793.49	256	793.32	233	793.17	215	793.03	198

cfs = cubic feet per second - 1 cfs is approximately 7.5 gallons per second - 1 cfs is approximately 650,000 gallons per day

“These estimates are subject to change as forecasted downstream conditions become more certain,” said Spaulding.

Corps staff at all 18 lakes and the Missouri River Area Office will continue to address flood impacts at their facilities during this flood event.

For more information, call the Kansas City District Public Affairs office at (816) 389-3486. www.nwk.usace.army.mil