



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Kansas City District

News Release

October 1, 2002
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<http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/pa/pubafrs.htm>

Final Evaluation Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement for preferred alternative to address performance of Tuttle Creek Dam released.

Kansas City, Mo. -- On September 30, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District released a Final Evaluation Report (ER) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that present a preferred alternative to address performance of Tuttle Creek Dam during and after an extreme earthquake or flood.

The corps has determined that a major earthquake could seriously damage Tuttle Creek Dam and result in an uncontrolled release of the lake. The corps has also determined that minor modifications to the dam and spillway gates are necessary to prevent major damage during an extreme flood. Dam failure resulting from an earthquake or extreme flood event would potentially result in loss of life and substantial property damage in downstream areas including the City of Manhattan. Tuttle Creek Lake is located on the Big Blue River north of Manhattan, Kan. The lake covers approximately 12,500 acres at normal lake level and was Congressionally authorized for flood control, fish and wildlife, recreation, water supply, water quality and navigation support.

The EIS and ER define the existing conditions, identify alternatives to address the concerns, describe the environmental effects of these alternatives, and discuss the measures that would be taken to minimize or offset those effects. The preferred alternative presented ensures the safety of the lake as a regional asset and minimizes impacts to the community and the environment. The corps proposes a preferred alternative of stabilization of the soil beneath the dam to address earthquake concerns. This alternative would not involve lowering the Tuttle Creek Lake level during the seven-to-ten year construction period. The foundation soil below the dam would be stabilized by in-place mixing of cement with the existing soil to increase its strength. A temporary downstream warning system is proposed to be installed in 2003 and would be active during the period before construction completion. In addition, the report describes proposed minor modifications to the dam and the spillway gates to prevent major damage during an extreme flood. The total project cost is estimated at approximately \$206 million. The final reports include comments that were received in response to the Draft reports along with the U.S Army Corps of Engineers' responses.

The Final ER and Final EIS are currently available for public review and comment. **Comments on the documents will be received until 12 November 2002.** This is the final opportunity for community input into the decision making process and community input on the documents is requested prior to final document approval. Provided that no substantive unresolved issues are identified, the corps would then prepare a Record of Decision to document formal selection of the Preferred Alternative.

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It is not anticipated that there will be additional community meetings related to the EIS and ER release. Written comments can be mailed to ATTN: Bill Empson, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, 601 E. 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64106-2896. Comments can also be provided via e-mail to tcdam.nwk@usace.army.mil.

Copies of the documents may be requested through the contacts listed above, viewed at local corps offices including Tuttle Creek, and at public libraries in the project area. For further information concerning this project or the documents please contact William B. Empson, P.E., Project Manager for the Tuttle Creek Dam Safety Assurance Study at the above address or by telephone at 816-983-3556 or Brian McNulty, Tuttle Creek Lake Operations Manager at 785-539-8511. Additional project information is available at www.nwk.usace.army.mil/tcdam.