



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

# News Release

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Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2896  
Phone: (816) 389-3486 Fax (816) 389-2021*

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## **The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announces a Wilson Lake Reallocation Feasibility Study**

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District (USACE) has started work on a Reallocation Feasibility Study for Wilson Lake in Russell County, Kansas. The reallocation study will consider alternatives. A public meeting will be held Wednesday, February 24, 2010, 6:30 p.m. at the Russell High School Gymnasium at 565 State St., Russell, Kan. The meeting will provide information on the study process and an update on findings from environmental and other studies conducted to date. The meeting will also give the public an opportunity to provide comment.

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. The Kansas Water Office (KWO) coordinates the management, conservation and development of water resources of the State of Kansas in concert with the Kansas Water Authority. One State Water Plan objective is to ensure that sufficient surface water storage is available to meet future water supply needs for areas of Kansas with current or potential access to surface water storage. Water in Wilson Lake has not been considered suitable for drinking because of its high chloride and sulfate content. However, new technologies are now available to produce potable water more economically.

An ongoing environmental study is nearing completion. This study was conducted to evaluate the potential for impacts from using Wilson Lake to provide water for municipal and industrial water users in central Kansas. For that study, a hydrologic model was used to simulate withdrawal of water for water supply purposes while the lake is managed at the current multipurpose pool elevation of 1516 feet, as well as from the lake operated with a two-foot pool raise. Information from the environmental study will be utilized in the reallocation study.

The February meeting will help to ensure that all public comments and concerns related to water withdrawal are identified for consideration during the Feasibility Study. The Feasibility study will provide a basis for two future decisions: 1) The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will determine if it is feasible to make water supply an authorized use; and 2) The state decides whether or not to purchase what is made available.

Please send your comments to Christina Ostrander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, 601 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, 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.

For additional information regarding the Corps of Engineers, visit the website at <http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil>.