

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

For

PROCESSING REQUESTS TO ALTER US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CIVIL WORKS PROJECTS PURSUANT TO 33 USC 408, Waurika Lake Water-Intake Channel Maintenance Project Dredging, Gate Extension & Gate Replacement

Description of the Action: The Waurika Lake Master Conservancy District (WLMCD) is requesting approval to perform maintenance dredging of the WLMCD water intake channel, pump to and store dredge material in a confined dredge material disposal facility on WLMCD property, replace lower gates on the WLMCD intake structure, and install an intake pipe extension and floating intake within Waurika Lake, a USACE Project in Cotton, Stephens, and Jefferson Counties, Oklahoma.

Proposed alterations/modifications to an existing USACE project, Waurika Lake, conducted by a non-federal sponsor (WLMCD) must adhere to 33 U.S.C. Section 408 and remain in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental and cultural resources laws and regulations. The WLMCD is requesting 33 U.S.C. Section 408 approval from the Tulsa District to temporarily occupy and alter portions of the Waurika Lake Project to carry out the preferred alternative. The Environmental Assessment for the Waurika Lake Water-Intake Channel Maintenance Project was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, including the guidelines in 33 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 230 and is incorporated by reference.

The water supply intake facility is located within the reservoir approximately 2.25 miles north of the Waurika Lake embankment. A water supply intake channel was constructed during initial construction of the water supply intake structure. Over time, the water supply intake channel has substantially filled with sediment resulting in complete inoperability of the lowest of three intake gate invert elevations at the face of the water supply structure. Water supply and water quality impacts due to sedimentation within the intake channel are exacerbated by drought and falling lake pool elevation. The requestor's preferred alternative includes:

- removal and reinstallation of six 4-foot by 6-foot gates, frames, and thimbles at the intake structure;
- dredge approximately 77,000 cubic yards of sediment from the intake channel;
- pump dredged material to a confined dredge material storage area (CDMSA) on WLMCD property for evaporative volume reduction;
- install 4,000 feet of 42-inch (OD) HDPE pipe anchored down the centerline of the intake channel; and
- install a 30-MGD floating intake structure and connect to the intake channel pipe.

These proposed alterations/modifications are operation and maintenance responsibilities of the non-Federal sponsor, the WLMCD, and will be implemented at no cost to the federal government.

Anticipated Environmental Effects: During implementation of the proposed project, within the immediate area of activity, minor adverse effects are anticipated due to temporary restrictions in recreational use of the lake, temporary disturbance of aquatic habitat, and temporary disturbance of terrestrial habitat. No critical habitats for federally listed threatened and endangered species exist within the project area, and the proposed project will not affect threatened or endangered species, including potential migrants. State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) coordination was completed within the

proposed project area. No previously recorded historic properties or significant buried cultural resources have been identified within the proposed project area. Therefore, the undertaking has no potential to affect historic properties. Upon completion of the project, recreational use will return to normal with appropriate safety systems near the floating intake structure, aquatic habitat disturbance will cease, and the CDMSA on WLMCD property will be restored to native land status. Implementation of the preferred alternative will result in improvement in flow and water quality conditions within the dredged intake channel, and will reduce the amount of treatment required by receiving city water systems. Repair of intake facility gates will result in restoration of withdrawal efficiency. Improved intake performance and operational flexibility during low lake conditions and future drought conditions will result. The completed project will support regional economic growth by continuing to provide reliable source of water supply to counties and cities in southwestern Oklahoma.

Facts and Conclusions: Based on a review of the information, it is determined that the implementation of the Proposed Action is not a major federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. Therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

14 JUL 15

Date



Richard A Pratt
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment