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Contact: Public Affairs
918-669-7366
CESWT-PA@usace.army.mil

Shutdown of Chloride Control Projects Slated for July 6, 2021

TULSA, Okla. — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Southwestern Division and the USACE Tulsa District finalized the Arkansas – Red River Chloride Control Project shutdown decision June 24, 2021.

The Biden-Harris Administration submitted to Congress the President’s Budget for Fiscal Year (FY)2022, May 28, 2021. Included in the proposed budget is the Army Civil Works FY 2022 Budget.

The FY 2022 President’s Budget did not include any funding for the continued operations and maintenance for the Arkansas – Red River Chloride Control Project (Area VIII) and Estelline Springs Experimental Station (Area V) in northwest Texas and southwest Oklahoma. The FY 2021 Budget did not include funding for continued operation and maintenance of the Arkansas – Red River Chloride Control Project Area VIII, however the projects did receive \$1,544,000 in the FY 2020 Workplan to continue the operation and maintenance of this project.

“Since the release of the FY 2022 Presidents’ Budget, Tulsa District staff began working on the requirements to conduct an orderly shutdown of these projects,” said Tulsa District Senior Stakeholder and Outreach Manger Mike Abate. “After extensive analysis, even after the stopping of the pumping high chloride concentrated water into the Truscott Brine Reservoir, Tulsa District still has the responsibility to continue to monitor the reservoir’s high hazard dam.”

The shutdown will begin on July 6, 2021 to ensure that there is adequate funding to complete the shutdown process and continue dam safety monitoring through FY 2022. The shutdown process will take a little over two months with the expected completion by the end of FY 2021.

The Red River Chloride Control Project and Estelline Springs Experimental Station were designed to control natural chloride brine emissions at ten major source areas to improve water quality for municipal, industrial, and agricultural use. Improvements included construction of low flow dams, pump stations, and diversion pipelines to impoundment facilities.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works program works with other Federal agencies, and with State, Tribal and local agencies and others to develop, manage, restore and protect water resources primarily through the construction, operation and maintenance, and study of water-related infrastructure projects, as well as by regulating development in waters of the United States, and working with other Federal agencies to help communities respond to, and recover from, floods and other natural disasters.

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