



***LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
WATER SUPPLY  
Study Lessons Learned***



# *Challenges*

- Customer Expectations.
  - Funding & Time
- Impacts to hydropower.
  - Differing Economic Policies
- Dam Safety (DSAC) Initiative
  - Guidance



# *Customer Expectations*

## Main “Misconceptions”

- I. Potential Customers believe reallocation of storage from the Chief’s Discretionary Storage is automatic and Corps has automatic access to study funding.
- II. Reallocation from flood pool does not impact hydropower or flood control.
- III. A water supply reallocation study should take one year or less. (no understanding timelines associated with NEPA and EC 1105-2-410 requirements)



# *Example 1*

## **Ozark Mountain Regional Public Water Authority (OMRPWA)**

**History: Requested storage for 12 MGD in February 2007 from Bull Shoals Lake. No funding provided through budget or Congressional add.**

**Issue: \$60M available to OMRPWA for water related infrastructure. To receive the funds, OMRPWA needs a guaranteed storage allocation at Bull Shoals.**



## ***Example 1 (cont)***

### **Lesson Learned:**

- 1. Provide customer with written response acknowledging request and provide documentation of study requirements, budgeting issues, and schedule.**
- 2. Once per year (until funded) provide a follow-up letter asking for confirmation that requested storage is still desired.**



# ***Impacts to Hydropower***

## **White River Minimum Flows (WRMF)**

**History: Congress authorized WRMF with the 2006 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act. The act included language that directed SWPA to determine hydropower impacts and compensation.**

**Issue: SWPA and Corps hydropower valuation policies contradict causing confusion, inaction, and increases political influence on policy decisions.**



## ***Example 2***

**WRMF requires two different types of hydropower buyouts:**

- 1. A one time buy-out for a non-Federal hydropower facility, this requires an appropriation;**
- 2. An offset to the Federal hydropower purpose, this does not require an appropriation, no funds are provided to SWPA.**



## ***Example 2 (cont)***

**The issue is conflicting policy.**

**SWPA includes inflation in hydropower compensation calculations and the Corps' Hydropower Analysis Center does not.**

**Who is Correct, and Who has ultimate authority?**



# ***Dam Safety (DSAC)***

## **Mid Arkansas Water Alliance (MAWA)**

**History: MAWA is comprised of 27 Water Utilities in 8 Counties in central Arkansas. A 2001 PAS study recommended acquiring water from Lakes Ouachita and Greers Ferry. In 2004 MAWA requested storage from these two lakes and the study process was initiated. EA was completed in March 2007 and Reallocation Report in November 2008.**



## ***Example 3***

**In December 2008 Blakely Mtn Dam at Lake Ouachita was certified DSAC 2. As a result of the down grading from DSAC 4 to DSAC2, a flood pool reallocation at Lake Ouachita was no longer supported by the Corps of Engineers forcing MAWA to reinitiate a conservation pool reallocation study. The delay has severely impacted the southern half of the MAWA group.**