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Table Rock Lake/National Environmental Policy Act: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Issues Notice of Intent to Prepare Draft Shoreline Management Plan Report/Environmental Impact Statement

Arkansas Environmental, Energy, and Water Law Blog

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The United States Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps") issued a November 30th Federal Register Notice of Intent to:

... prepare a Table Rock Lake Shoreline Management Plan Report and Environmental Impact Statement to investigate potential significant impacts, either positive or negative to Table Rock Lakes' authorized purposes of flood risk management, hydropower, water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife.

See 80 Fed. Reg. 74771.

The Corps states that an Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") is being prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"), Council on Environmental Quality regulations and the Corps implementing regulation, Policy and Procedures for implementing NEPA, Engineering Regulation (ER) 200-2-2 (1988).

Table Rock Lake is described as a multipurpose water resource development project primarily for flood risk management and hydropower generation that is bordered by southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas. Additional purposes of the lake include the provision of water storage to supply fish hatchery; recreation and fish and wildlife mitigation, to the extent they do not adversely affect flood risk management, power generation, or other authorized purposes of the project.

The Corps also notes that Table Rock Lake is:

... a major component of a comprehensive plan for water resource development in the White River Basin of Missouri and Arkansas.

The Federal Register Notice describes Table Rock Lake, along with the associated region. It identifies the original and subsequent Shoreline Management Plans and describes the NEPA scoping/public involvement process.

The Corps notes that “anticipated significant issues to be addressed in the EIS” include impacts on:

- Hydropower
- Flooding
- Recreation
- Water supply
- Fish and wildlife resources and habitats
- Other impacts identified by the public, agencies or Corps studies

The draft EIS is scheduled to be available for public review in the spring of 2017 (subject to the receipt of Federal funding).

[Click here to download a copy of the Federal Register Notice.](#)