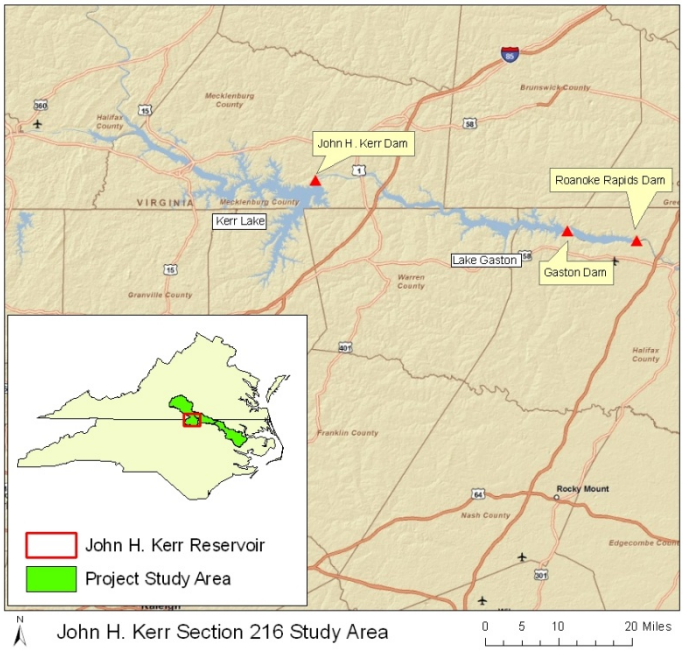
April 24th, 2012

Kerr Reservoir and Surrounding Stakeholders

As you may be aware, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) is conducting a feasibility study (Study) to review the operation of the John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir (Kerr Reservoir). The study, now in its 12th year, is now in the plan formulation and evaluation stage. Outcomes from this work will provide information on potential structural and operational modifications to John H. Kerr Dam that improve the quality of the environment in the overall public interest, and in particular address downstream environmental resource concerns in the Lower Roanoke River.

The John H. Kerr Dam is located in Mecklenburg County, Virginia and Kerr Reservoir covers approximately 50,000 acres and extends about 39 miles up the Roanoke River. The study area includes the John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir project and the Roanoke River Basin from the Dam downstream to the Albemarle Sound and is located in Charlotte, Halifax, Mecklenburg, and Brunswick Counties of Virginia, and in Granville, Vance, Warren, Halifax, Northampton, Bertie, Martin and Washington Counties of North Carolina.



Kerr Reservoir is a significant resource serving the region through its authorized purposes of flood control and hydroelectric power generation. The reservoir also provides quality natural resource-based recreation for area residents and a desirable outdoor experience for more than 2 million visitors a year. The Roanoke River Basin below John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir is one of the finest remaining river swamp forest ecosystems within the eastern United States. These bottomland hardwood forests, uplands, and streams provide a high quality habitat for fish, waterfowl, and other wildlife.

As part of the scoping process for the Study and in follow-up comments to ACOE, we have long suggested that fluctuating lake levels at Kerr and growing season floods in the floodplain are having significant adverse economic impacts on lake shore real estate, lake-based recreation

(see Tables below), and on downstream agriculture, hunting, timber production, and conservation lands. We recommended and continue to request that the Study include economic analyses of the current operation of Kerr compared to the 3 proposed re-operation strategies designed to stabilize lake levels and benefit downstream lands. These analyses should explore and quantify all of the economic impacts due to reservoir operation, benefits from re-operation strategies, and the additional value of the flood risk reduction achieved through the strategies.

To date ACOE has not carried out an analysis of these economic benefits. RRBA is contacting stakeholders around the Project Area to ask for your help requesting such analysis from the ACOE. To that end, a sample letter to the Wilmington District Colonel is attached for your use should you so desire. Additionally, we would like to further quantify the economic impacts resulting from high lake levels and ask that you provide any information to us detailing the type of impact (examples include, road, campsite, boat ramp closures, fishing tournament cancellations, loss of hunting land, marina issues, etc) and any details related to when it occurred, people and communities effected, estimates of lost revenue and any other pertinent information.

Best regards,

Gene Addesso

Roanoke River Basin Association

Lake Level Impacts on Reservoir and Surrounding Assets-

Table 1: Unusable Public Campsites				
Lake	Corps	NC	VA	Total
Elevation	426	650	137	1211
300 feet	0	0	0	0
302	3	44	0	85
304	5	164	0	169
306	58	252*	0	310
310	112	427	0	539
Table 2: Unusable Public Beaches				
Lake	Corps	NC	VA	Total
Elevation	13	1	N/A	14
300 feet	0	0	N/A	0
302	2	0	N/A	2
304	10	1	N/A	11
306+	13	1	N/A	14
Table 3: Unusable Public Boat Ramps				
Lake	Corps	NC	VA	Total
Elevation	15	15	4	34
300 feet	0	0	0	0
302	0	0	0	0
304	2	3	0	5
306+	5	12	0	17

Table 4: Marina Impacts			
Lake Elevation	Clarksville	Steele Creek	Satterwhite Point
	VA	NC	NC
300 feet	198 slips + ramp	350 slips + ramp	130 slips + ramp
302	Full ops	Full ops	Full ops
304	Highest level that allows full ops; no room for rise	Full ops	Moving docks in and out becomes difficult
306+	Ramp closed; 3 of 4 walkways to slip docks closed; critical at 308+	No data available	Main Parking Lot inundated; ramp closed (307)

Clarksville Lake Country Chamber of Commerce
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Town of Clarksville Virginia
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Clarksville, VA 23927

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Colonel Steven Baker, Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District
P. O. Box 1890
Wilmington, NC 28402-1890

Dear Colonel Baker,

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Wilmington District is conducting a section 216 study to review operation of the John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir. Kerr Reservoir is a significant resource serving the region through its authorized purposes of flood control and hydroelectric power generation. The reservoir also provides quality natural resource-based recreation for area residents and desirable outdoor experiences for visitors each year.

Lake level fluctuations substantially affect commercial and recreation activities on the Reservoir and within the surrounding region. There are 30 recreation areas on Kerr with a total of 1,322 campsites, 228 picnic sites, and 38 boat ramps. ACOE manages 12 of these areas and leases land to the State of North Carolina and the Commonwealth of Virginia to manage 15 other areas. Three marina areas are managed by private companies and 15 quasi-public recreation areas under lease to various churches, civic, and scout organizations. Twenty-six wildlife management areas are located around the reservoir, which are used by hunters and nature enthusiasts. Visitors to these recreation sites average 2.9 to 3.5 million visitor days of recreation per year.

Given the comprehensive nature of the 216 Study, it is imperative to include analysis of the economic impacts that fluctuating lake levels have on lake shore real estate and lake-based recreation. It is recommended that the Study include economic analysis of the current operation of Kerr compared to the 3 proposed re-operation strategies designed to stabilize lake levels and benefit downstream lands. These analyses should explore and quantify all of the economic impacts due to reservoir operation, benefits from re-operation strategies, and the additional value of the flood risk reduction achieved through the strategies.

Please ensure that the comprehensive study of Kerr Reservoir operation include the economic impacts of lake levels on the use of the reservoir and surrounding region.

Sincerely,