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## **Nashville District managing water releases, storage in anticipation of storm**

**NASHVILLE, TENN. (Dec. 3, 2011)** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District Water Management staff continues to monitor stream conditions and to manage the release of water from dams throughout the Cumberland Basin.

The National Weather Service is predicting a storm event beginning Sunday afternoon for some portions of the Cumberland River Basin and lasting for several days. For more on the weather forecast, or the flood forecast, go to <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/bna/>.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water management operations for the Cumberland Basin reservoir system are focused on reducing flood impacts on the Cumberland River and on the lower Ohio River. To this end, reservoir operations are being modified in anticipation of high inflows to reservoirs along the Cumberland River and its tributaries.

Nashville District water managers have initiated actions to position the Cumberland River system to respond to anticipated heavy rainfall within the basin and to be prepared to support flood control operations on the Ohio River. Flows from the four large tributary dam and reservoir projects (Wolf Creek, Dale Hollow, Center Hill, and J. Percy Priest) within the Cumberland Basin will be reduced to near zero as the system approaches. This will result in a rise in their lake levels which, in some cases, could restrict access to the water and/or impact the operation of marinas and other commercial facilities at these projects. No dam safety concerns are for seen for Wolf Creek and Center Hill, the two projects undergoing rehabilitation. Both projects are inspected daily as part of normal operating procedures.

While runoff into the tributary projects can be captured and released in a controlled manner, that option is not available for runoff entering the navigation lock and dam projects of Cordell Hull, Old Hickory, and Cheatham on the Cumberland River. Runoff entering these projects cannot be stored and must be passed downstream. Barkley lock and dam, the most downstream project on the Cumberland River, is operated to reduce flood damages on the lower Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

The Nashville District's goal during high water events is to reduce downstream impacts to people and property as much as possible while safely maintaining the dam facilities and structures. Water managers work closely with operators at the dams (who are on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week) to keep abreast of conditions and make operational changes as necessary. Those changes are communicated to the National Weather Service to assist them in the preparation of river forecasts.

For current conditions of the Cumberland River Basin projects go to the Nashville District web site at <http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/lakeinfo/>.

As necessary, news and information regarding water management and flood operations will be made available on the district's website at [www.lrn.usace.army.mil](http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil), on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/nashvillecorps>, and on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/nashvillecorps>. For more information about the Memphis District, go to <http://www.mvm.usace.army.mil/>. For more information about the Louisville District, go to <http://www.lrl.usace.army.mil/>.

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