

ATTACHMENT 3
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION FEASIBILITY STUDY
SOUTH FORK LICKING RIVER, CYNTHIANA, KENTUCKY

PURPOSE AND NEED.

The purpose of the Feasibility Study is to evaluate alternative plans for alleviating flooding problems in Cynthiana, Paris, and Millersburg. The need for this project is to protect Cynthiana, the major damage center within the South Fork basin, and the other communities from damages and disruption caused by floods.

PROPOSED PLAN.

The proposed plan is for the construction of two dry bed detention basins (DBs): one DB on Hinkston Creek in Bourbon and Nicholas Counties, and one DB on Strodes Creek in Bourbon County. The potential project would alleviate flood damage problems in the communities of Cynthiana, Paris, and Millersburg. In comparison with other considered plans, the proposed plan has the highest net benefits.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED.

Other alternatives that were evaluated in detail were economically feasible but were not selected because their net benefits were significantly less than those of the proposed plan.

Initially, plans for earthen dams were partially evaluated for the detention basins but were dropped because earthen dams would create a safety concern unless the top of dam elevations were significantly raised, which would have significantly increased the cost. A total of 30 plans were evaluated in detail. Detailed descriptions of these plans are presented in the Main report of the Feasibility Study to which the EA is appended. Based on hydrologic and economic analyses of the various solutions to the flooding problems in the study area, there were economically feasible plans that would provide greater flood damage reduction than the NED Plan but would be at greater costs. These plans did not have sufficient net benefits to justify their cost increases over those of the proposed plan and were of no interest to the local sponsor. There were other economically feasible plans that would provide lower flood damage reduction than the proposed plan and could be developed at lower costs but likewise were of no interest to the local sponsor. There also were economically infeasible plans and alternatives that were considered but did not pass the screening test.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project evaluates environmental effects that would occur to water quality, wetlands, aquatic and terrestrial habitats, threatened or endangered species, cultural resources, socioeconomic structure of the area, and cumulative effects. The proposed plan would not have significant adverse impact on any of these environmental factors. One significant positive impact is reduction in flooding in parts of several communities.

Executive Order 11988 - Flood Plain Management prohibits floodplain development unless there is no practicable alternative. A determination has been made that the floodplain location of the prospective project is the only practicable alternative. There is no alternative to locating the proposed project outside the floodplains of Hinkston Creek and Strodes Creek that would meet the project purpose and need. Local officials, interested individuals, and public agencies were an integral part of the planning process for this project.

Any extraneous excess fill materials such as gravel and RCC ingredients will be hauled by the contractor out of project lands. Native excess fill materials will be minimal, if any. Any native excess materials will be placed on project lands and graded to drain. A 401 Water Quality Certification is required for this activity and will be requested from the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

A National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit will also be required for the project. A pollution prevention

plan will be prepared prior to construction and will be implemented in compliance with NPDES requirements.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND COORDINATION.

A Public Notice regarding the availability of the EA and FONSI has been distributed and copies of the documents either have been mailed or otherwise made available upon request to all Federal, state, and local agencies, public officials, local libraries, and interested individuals.

DETERMINATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.

I have reviewed and evaluated, in light of the overall public interest, the documents and factors concerning this EA and proposed project as well as the stated views of other interested agencies and the concerned public. In doing so, I have considered the possible consequences of the proposed project in accordance with regulations published in 33 CFR 230 (Corps of Engineers Regulations) and 40 CFR 1500-1508 (Council for Environmental Quality Regulations). The following paragraphs provide my conclusions and how the project complies with the above-cited regulations.

The proposed project is environmentally sustainable. The proposed project would result in long-term benefits to the communities of Cynthiana, Paris, and Millersburg and the State of Kentucky without significant impact to the environment. I believe that this proposed project does not constitute a major federal action that would result in any irretrievable or irreversible losses to aquatic or terrestrial resources. Additionally, it would not significantly affect the quality of

the human environment. This constitutes a FONSI. As a consequence, I find that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required by the provisions of Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act, Public Law 91-190, or 42 USC 4332, or by the applicable implementing Corps of Engineers and Council for Environmental Quality regulations and guidance. This FONSI was prepared in accordance with 33 CFR 230 and 40 CFR 1500-1508.



Raymond G. Midkiff
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commander and District Engineer

Date 9/14/05