



TRVA NEWS

Tennessee River Valley Association

TRVA News
Summer 2009

Construction Continues on Chickamauga Lock Replacement Project

Construction continues on the Chickamauga Lock Replacement Project near Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Ongoing efforts include the completion of the \$83 million cofferdam contract that is currently approximately 75% complete (see photo taken July 9, 2009). The remainder of the cofferdam contract is currently scheduled for completion in the spring of 2010.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 has provided \$57.5 million for continued construction of the Chickamauga Lock Project that is critical to the efficient operation of the Tennessee River System. Included will be \$5 million to complete the cofferdam contract, \$25.5 million for mitre gate and culvert valve fabrication, plus fabrication of bridges to be used during lock construction, and \$25 million for construction of lock approach beams.



Congressman Zach Wamp (R) with the support of Congressman Lincoln Davis (D), both of Tennessee, was able to get an amendment to related legislation passed on July 15, 2009 that will provide an additional \$14 million in FY2010 to support construction. Initially funds would have been taken from the Olmstead project, but was withdrawn and altered to achieve passage.

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Nashville District Change of Command

The US Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District Change of Command was held on July 17, 2009 at the War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee.

Lieutenant Colonel Bernard R. Lindstrom passed the District Colors to Brigadier General John W. Peabody who in turn installed Lieutenant Colonel Anthony P. Mitchell as the new Commander of the Nashville District (pictured are LTC Lindstrom, BG Peabody, LTC Mitchell, DPM Mike Wilson).

LTC Mitchell was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers in 1992. He has served in engineer leadership positions from platoon leader through company commander. He was a Platoon Leader and Executive Officer in the 44th Engineer Battalion (M), Camp Howze, Korea, and Company Commander in the 168th Engineer Battalion, Fort Lewis, Washington.

LTC Mitchell is a graduate of Prairie View A&M University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and a graduate of the University of Texas with a Master of Science Degree in Engineering (Construction Engineering and Project Management). He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff college, and the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Courses.

LTC Mitchell is married to the former Trena Leshea Mims of Fayette, Mississippi. They have three sons, Anthony Paul Jr. 16, Malik Shemar 11, and Tyriq Jayvon 9. TRVA welcomes the Mitchell family to the Valley and looks forward to continuing the positive cooperative relationship that has been developed over the many years.



Waxman-Markey Passes in House 119-112

Legislation known as the Waxman-Markey Climate Change Bill narrowly passed in the House of Representatives that will potentially result in dramatic increased energy costs in the southeastern United States.

Under the requirements of this legislation, power producers will be required to provide 20% of their energy from "clean/renewable" sources that include wind, solar and biomass generation before the year 2020. Existing hydro and nuclear generation does not qualify as "clean/renewable" sources.

In our region, the Tennessee Valley Authority currently generates 63% from coal/fossil plants, 32% from nuclear facilities, 4% from hydropower dams, and only 1% from qualifying renewable sources. In the beginning, plans are to issue free offset credits that will have to be purchased from a yet to be established market at a "market" price in future years designed to encourage new source development. Many estimates suggest that consumer rates will rise by as much as 25% in the near future as a result in fossil generation dependent regions.

The legislation is currently stalled in the Senate where a similar bill has been offered. Senator Boxer has indicated that no action will be taken until early fall when a conference committee will be able to reconcile differences. With the final legislation's details unclear, producers are in a position of uncertainty, and hopeful for Senate moderation that will allow more flexibility.

Office of Management and Budget Again Proposes Lockage Fees

The Administration has once again proposed changing the funding method for the Inland Waterway Trust Fund from the current twenty cents per gallon tax on fuel used on our nations waterways paid by the waterways industry to a per barge per lockage fee.

Introduced but not implemented in recent years, Congress has rejected similar OMB proposals offered by previous Administrations. Under the current method of funding, taxes are collected on the entire inland waterway system. If implemented, the OMB proposes to collect approximately \$200 million from only the locking segments of the nation's 12,000 mile inland waterway system.

Estimates show such a change would result in as much as a 300% increase in taxes/fees paid by operators on these locking segments, which will include the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. These fees would be passed along to shippers placing additional burdens on already strained economies and resources.

Two cost shared Inland Waterway Trust Fund Projects are currently under construction on the Tennessee River. The replacement of the deteriorating Chickamauga Lock near Chattanooga, Tennessee, and the critically needed Kentucky Lock addition near Paducah, Kentucky.

The Inland Waterway Users Board and the US Army Corp of Engineers are currently engaged in discussions that seek to develop a more equitable funding method that will provide the needed funding for the IWTF.

TRVA Planning 2009 Annual Meeting

Planning is underway for the TRVA 2009 Annual Meeting to be held once again this fall at the Clarion Inns & Suites in Gatlinburg, Tennessee on October 19th-20th 2009. Past events have been well attended and enjoyed by all who participate. The Clarion has again this year offered a rate of \$150 for single or double occupancy for our members and guests with a block of rooms available beginning on Saturday Oct. 17th. Registration info and program details will be coming soon.

Mark Your Calendars Now!
TRVA 43rd Annual Meeting
October 19th-20th 2009
In The Beautiful Great Smokey
Mountains!

Upcoming Meetings/Events

August 25-28, 2009

Tennessee-Tombigbee
Waterway Development
Opportunities Conference,
Marriott Grand Hotel
Point Clear, AL
azaiontz@tenntom.org

September 23-25, 2009

National Waterways Conference
Annual Meeting
Embassy Suites Hotel
Charleston, WV
www.waterways.org

October 19-20, 2009

Tennessee River Valley
Association Annual Meeting
Clarion Inn & Suites
Gatlinburg, TN
trvassoc@hiwaay.net

US Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District Remaining Scheduled Lock Outages Calendar Year 2009

*Wilson Main Lock
14 July-11 August
Auxiliary will be Available

Old Hickory Lock
27 October-17 November

*Revised



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District Receives \$166 Million for Stimulus Projects in Region

The US Army Corps of Engineers released on April 28, a listing of Civil Works projects to be funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009. Of the \$4.6 billion appropriated to USACE for its Civil Works Program, \$166 million has been identified for the Nashville District.

The Nashville District received \$105.5 million for Construction General Programs such as the Wolf Creek Seepage Rehabilitation project in Russell County, Kentucky, the Chickamauga Lock Replacement project in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Kentucky Lock Addition project in Grand Rivers, Kentucky, and the Metro Center Levee project in Metro-Nashville.

\$60.6 million has been appropriated for Operations and Maintenance Projects in the Nashville District. Funds will be utilized for a variety of contracts to reduce a backlog of infrastructure maintenance, including several projects on the Tennessee River navigation system. All of these projects meet the criteria of the legislation, and hold high emphasis on rapid completion.

The funding provides the Nashville District with high priority economic opportunities to help support the region and the nation in some of its critical projects. "The ARRA provides critical funding for the US Army Corps of Engineers to continue to contribute to the nation's economic well-being and aid in getting Americans back to work," said Lt. Colonel Bernard Lindstrom, Commander of the Nashville District. "At the same time, these projects will meet the region's water resource and infrastructure needs."

The Nashville district will execute funding and requirements in the ARRA of 2009 in accordance with the timelines set forth by Congress and the administration to support the District's ongoing mission areas. Many of the contracts will be completed within one year. Additionally, the Nashville district is committed to transparent communication of ARRA spending and project updates, and plans to feature ARRA stories on the District's website throughout the year.

Economists estimate that nationwide, the Corps' Recovery Act projects will create or maintain approximately 57,400 direct construction industry jobs and an additional 64,000 indirect jobs in firms supplying or supporting the construction and the businesses that sell goods and services to these workers and their families.

The projects selected represent a set of productive investments that will contribute to economic development and aquatic ecosystem restoration. The projects will achieve the purposes of the Recovery Act to commerce expenditures quickly by investing in infrastructure that will provide long-term economic and environmental benefits to the nation. Moreover, the projects are fully consistent with the President's direction to ensure that Recovery Act funds are spent responsibly and transparently.

The projects also meet the five criteria enumerated in the Congressional report accompanying the Recovery Act, namely that the projects:

- Be obligated/ executed quickly;
- Result in high, immediate employment
- Have little schedule risk;
- Be executed by contract or direct hire of temporary labor; and
- Complete a project phase. A project, an element, or will provide a useful service that does not require additional funding.

Recovery Act funds will be used to complete increments of work on previously started projects and in some cases to complete such projects.

The projects included are distributed very broadly across the United States. The distribution of selected projects spreads the employment and other economic benefits across the nation.

The lists of projects released and additional information on the Corps' role in the Recovery Act are available on the web at www.usace.army.mil/recovery. Local coverage of ARRA projects can be found at the Nashville District website at www.lrn.usace.army.mil.



**Tennessee River Valley
Association**

P.O. Box 1745
1408 Fifth Ave. SE, Suite 4
Decatur, AL 35601

Office: 256.355.4660
Cell: 256.394.3433
Fax: 256.351.8257
Email: trvassoc@hiwaay.net
Web: www.trva-tcwc.org

*TRVA Welcomes The Alabama Department of Economic and
Community Affairs to Our Membership for 2009!*

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