



## **KANSAS WATER OFFICE**

**Tracy Streeter, Director**

901 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1210

Phone: 785-296-3185, Fax: 785-296-0878

Toll Free: 1-888-KAN-WATER

Web Site: [www.kwo.org](http://www.kwo.org)

### **NEWS RELEASE**

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Kansas Water Office  
The State's Water Planning Agency  
Tracy Streeter, Director  
901 S. Kansas Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66612-1210  
Phone 785-296-3185**

**U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers  
Kansas City District  
601 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2896  
Contact: David Kolarik  
Phone 816-389-3486**

### **Kansas Water Office and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announce public meetings on Wilson Lake Water Supply Study**

**Topeka, Kansas**—Officials from the Kansas Water Office (KWO) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District (USACE) today announced an open house public meeting on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Dole-Specter Conference Center in the AmericInn, 1430 South Fossil Street, Russell, Kansas.

The meeting will provide an update on the evaluation of potential impacts if Wilson Lake is used to help meet municipal and industrial water supply needs in central Kansas. The meeting will begin with a brief presentation on the status of the study. Posters with regional and lake maps will be available for viewing and pointing out areas of interest.

Wilson Lake, built and managed by the USACE, was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944 for flood control, irrigation, navigation, recreation, fish and wildlife, and water quality purposes. The Kansas Water Office (KWO) coordinates the management, conservation and development of the water resources of the State of Kansas in concert with the Kansas Water Authority. The KWO objective is to ensure that sufficient surface water storage is available to meet future water supply needs for areas of Kansas with current or potential access to surface water storage. Water in Wilson Lake has not been considered suitable for drinking water because of high chloride and sulfate content. However, new technologies are now available to produce potable water more economically.

The environmental study is evaluating the impacts of using Wilson Lake to provide water for municipal and industrial water users in central Kansas. A hydrologic model has been used to simulate withdrawal of water for water supply purposes while the lake is managed at the current multipurpose pool elevation of 1516 feet, as well as from the lake operated with a two-foot pool raise.

The agencies are seeking public comments on the two lake levels, as well as on other alternatives that could meet water needs of the area. Information on the impacts of water withdrawal from Wilson Lake is also being requested. The meeting will help to ensure that all public comments and concerns related to water withdrawal are investigated before a decision is made.

Individuals, organizations, and agencies are welcome to attend the meeting. If you cannot attend, please send comments on issues and alternatives by March 13, 2009 to ensure that comments are

considered. The findings and recommendations of the study are planned to be presented to the public for comment at a meeting in the central Kansas area in late 2009.

Please send your comments to Christina Ostrander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, 601 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 843, Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2896, e-mail [christina.ostrander@usace.army.mil](mailto:christina.ostrander@usace.army.mil). Media inquiries may be addressed to the Kansas Water Office at (785) 296-3185 or (888) KAN-WATER (526-9283) or the USACE Kansas City District Public Affairs Office at (816) 389-3486.

**Note to Editor:** The Americans with Disabilities Act, (42 U.S.C. 12101), requires the Kansas Water Office to print the reasonable accommodations message.

If accommodations are needed for persons with disabilities, please notify the Kansas Water Office at 901 S. Kansas Avenue, Topeka, KS 66612-1249 or call (785) 296-3185 at least two days prior to the meeting.