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Louisville VA Medical Center site sees more activity as work progresses

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A contractor uses a hoe ram to break up bedrock in the basement area of the future Louisville VA Medical Center March 28. (Photo by Michael Maddox)

Please conserve:
Think before you print.

Commander's Comments

Team Louisville,

I hope everyone is enjoying the spring weather and finding time to enjoy the outdoors. The Kentucky Derby is only a few weeks away and the district is abuzz as we are officially in our second half of the fiscal year.

Much like the Derby horses, we continue to run the race and finish quality projects on time, within budget, and safely. That is how we define winning in the Louisville District! Our COVID-19 cases have significantly decreased and we are seeing more and more faces back in the office as we move into summer – our busiest season.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and this year's theme is "Prevention Starts with You." April serves as a reminder to bring awareness to sexual assault and the devastating effects it has on not only an individual but also their family, workplaces, communities and society. It also serves as a time to learn how to better support survivors of sexual assault. Remember, prevention starts with you.

In this issue of the Falls City Engineer, enjoy articles focused on many of our specialized programs and the efforts of our people and teams who make the district great. Stories include highlights on the water management team, a spotlight on Angela Schmidt's efforts to ensure a sustainable environment for future generations, lake volunteer programs, our Buckhorn Lake team, as well as updates on the Louisville VA Medical Center and the Van Voorhis Elementary School project.

Col. Eric Crispino
Commander and District Engineer
Louisville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

We are executing our mission under incredibly tough and challenging conditions, so the months ahead will be hard, but I have the utmost confidence in each of you. The district has an excellent reputation, and I want to thank you for your efforts and ask for your continued commitment. Each of you make an essential, positive impact on our district.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you around the hallways of the Federal Building moving forward. Stay safe!

Building Strong! Louisville Proud!

Col. Eric Crispino

Eric D Crispino

Contents

Water management team revolutionizes data collection with cloud-based solution

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District water management Team – who are responsible for the daily operation of seventeen multi-purpose reservoir projects within the Louisville District and the collection and dissemination of data associated with those projects in regard to reservoir control and water quality – has been busy working to revolutionize USACE processes.

The water management team is currently developing a web-based user interface, which will allow lake project personnel to input data into the Civil Works Business Intelligence database, eliminating the need for an on-site storage solution. In January, the team started working with the USACE Hydraulic Engineering Center and Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory out of Hanover, New Hampshire, to serve as a pilot district for migrating all water management processes to a cloud-based platform.

"A cloud-based solution for water management processes will eliminate the need for physical storage and a physical server," said Adam Connelly, Louisville District water management team lead. "Eliminating these pieces of hardware results in a much lower cost of maintaining water management data."

A cloud-based solution would also ensure Continuity of Operations Plan, also known as a COOP, in times of emergencies, given the nature of data being available anywhere, anytime, according to Connelly.

"This migration occurring at an enterprise level would save USACE significant costs and effort trying to prepare and implement existing COOP processes," Connelly added.

Several critical water management processes would be migrated in this effort.

"First, all of the hydrologic and hydrometeorological data currently downloaded from the USGS (U.S. Geological Survey) and National Weather Service to our database," Connelly said. "The programs that are used to transform and convert data and models that are used to estimate hydrologic conditions and assist with reservoir operational decisions. Basically, all of the processes needed for water management to successfully complete its mission."

This paradigm shift will allow water management offices all over the country to eventually migrate their processes to the cloud, resulting in cost-savings due to a reduction of on-site hardware and improving the redundancy of water management data access, according to the team.

"Louisville District water management is excited to serve as an integral part of this paradigm shift for this agency-wide Water Management initiative," said Michael Borchers, Hydrology and Hydraulics section chief.

In addition to piloting the new cloud-based initiative, in February, the Louisville District Water Management Team developed flood inundation maps for the Green and Kentucky Rivers to better understand impacts of the forecasted flood crest.

"Inundation maps are depictions of where water might reach during flood periods," said Connelly. "They are developed using hydraulic modeling software and topographic data."

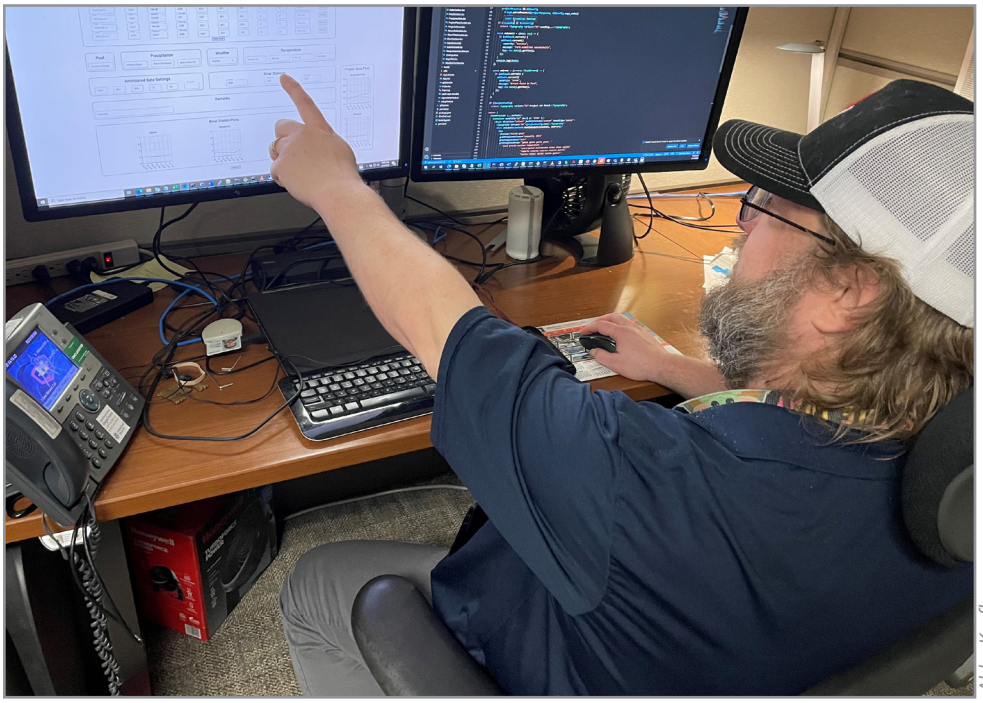
The maps were developed in accordance with Great Lakes and Ohio River Division's Flood Inundation Mapping Standard Operating Procedures, also known as SOP, and were uploaded to the Modeling Mapping and Consequence Center's flood inundation mapping viewer.

"The Louisville District was one of the first districts in the country to utilize the MMC Flood Inundation Mapping viewer in real-time as the flood event developed," Borchers said. "This experience will allow the Water Management Team to meet Flood Inundation Mapping expectations during future flood events and will allow the Louisville District to serve as a resource for other Great Lakes and Ohio River districts for meeting the Region's Flood Inundation Mapping SOP."

The flood inundation mapping expectations can vary from event to event, according to Connelly.

"But in general, if the district is expecting moderate flood stages to be reached on any river system that has a CWMS (Corps Water Management System) model, a map is supposed to be created and uploaded to a web viewer hosted by the MMC," Connelly said. "This web viewer can be viewed by folks at the regional level and USACE Headquarters."

Water Management is composed of the Water Control Team and the Water Quality Team. In addition to Borchers and Connelly, the Louisville District Water Management team members includes: Jamie Blanton, Brandon Kolze, Sally Snyder, David Wilson, Melanie Babin, Zac Wolf and Kristin Berger. Water management requires balancing competing interests to successfully operate USACE projects. It is a collaborative effort that requires working closely with federal, state, and local agencies as well as other partners and stakeholders.



Abby Korfhage

David Wilson, Louisville District Hydrology and Hydraulics Section system administrator, works in the new web-based user interface. USACE Louisville District is currently serving as a pilot district for migrating all water management processes to the cloud-based platform.

Spring showers bring out lake staff superpowers

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District manages 17 flood risk reduction lakes, which receive an average of 15 million visitors each year. While many visitors enjoy the campgrounds, playgrounds and other recreational activities the lakes provide, some may not realize the amount of work that goes on in preparation for the summer months.

Some say April showers bring May flowers, but in this case, spring showers bring out lake staff superpowers.

At Buckhorn Lake in Buckhorn, Kentucky, each spring, mother nature brings a large amount of rainfall causing the lake level to rise.

"Our last two significant floods were in 2019 and 2021, and both were near record pool," said Priscilla Southwood, Buckhorn Lake park ranger.

USACE

Matthew Hoskins, Buckhorn Lake maintenance worker, cleans and sprays off mud at Buckhorn Lake in Buckhorn, Kentucky.

Spring flooding at Buckhorn Lake usually occurs in late-February through April and has a big impact on the communities upstream as several families can be blocked by floodwaters for weeks at a time, according to Buckhorn Lake staff.

"Supplies have often been taken to them by boat via the National Guard or county officials," Southwood said. "Ferry Boat service is utilized for emergency situations such as delivering medication or food. Boats, paddles and life jackets are loaned out to the Leslie County Emergency Operations Center by the Corps of Engineers and are used as needed during flooding."

According to USACE operations personnel, because the lake rises so quickly during this time and there being a 25-foot difference from summer pool to winter pool, it leaves behind significant debris and mud around the project site that must be cleaned up each year.

"It's a team effort to clean it all up and these guys do it. They do it every single year," said Buckhorn Lake Project Manager Dewayne Shouse. "Every amenity in these areas, from a lone picnic table to the light fixtures inside a shower house, must be cleaned and often replaced prior to opening to the public after each flood event. It's all hands-on deck. Even the office admins and park managers pitch in to help."

Each year, Buckhorn Lake staff, with help from Carr Creek Lake employees and local contractors, work diligently to remove mud and clean up debris to ensure the project is ready for the upcoming recreational season. However, this is no simple task.

"Our lake accumulates a very large amount of drift during flooding," said Christopher Farler, Buckhorn Lake maintenance mechanic leader. "The maintenance team works to corral the drift into one location with log boom, and it is later removed by a contractor."

Between 5,000 and 10,000 cubic yards are removed annually, according to Shouse.

Trace Branch Campground and Recreation Area, Confluence Recreation Area and Leatherwood Recreation Area flood annually when the lake waters rise, and cleanup is required at each location.

"We usually clean up mud and debris at the dam boat ramp and at Trace Branch and Confluence Area," Southwood said. "The boat-in campground usually has a lot of debris that must be stacked and burned. Bathrooms and shower houses at Trace Branch flood, so they must be sprayed with pressure washers, disinfected and cleaned. Also, shelters and playgrounds must be pressure washed and disinfected. Then old

Continued on next page

Jeff Riley

Areas around Buckhorn Lake flood after mother nature drops a large amount of rainfall causing the lake level to rise, Feb. 23, 2019.

Continued from previous page

mulch at the playgrounds must be dug up and new mulch placed down."

Although flooding usually occurs each year, the impact varies depending on how much water the lake must hold to prevent flooding downstream.

"Our maintenance staff spends the majority of time during flood season doing cleanup and capturing drift, which leaves little time for other required maintenance duties," Farler said. "The longer a campground is under water, the more compacted silt material must be removed."

The team uses boats, trucks, skid steers, tractors and excavators to remove all the mud, and pumps are placed in the water along the shoreline. Pressure washers are set up to help clean areas like parking lots and campsites.

"Employees work for hours with hoses to spray and remove the accumulated silt," Farler added.

Even with additional support from the local community and volunteers from the Leslie County correctional institution, it takes approximately two to three weeks to clean up the mud and drift, depending on the severity of the flooding situation.

"There aren't very many flood control projects around that are affected by the quantities of sedimentation and drift annually as Buckhorn Lake," said Shouse. "This being said, no one works harder than our team on a routine basis to provide a safe recreation experience for the underserved area we serve in Southeastern Kentucky."

In addition to their recurring cleanup duties, the team must also manage gate changes and monitor the water levels, making it a very busy time for Buckhorn Lake staff.

"The effort that our team exerts often goes unnoticed because when we do our job correctly, by the time recreation season begins the public will not even realize a flood had occurred," said Shouse. "This is what we take pride in."

USACE

Spring flooding at Buckhorn Lake leaves behind significant debris and mud around the project site, which must be cleaned up each year.

Environmental

Schmidt's accomplishments ensure health of environment for future generations

Charles Delano, public affairs

Management and cleanup of contaminated Department of Defense sites throughout Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan requires a team of skilled and knowledgeable people. One outstanding employee who supports this mission is Angela Schmidt. She is a senior biologist who began her career with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District in December 2005.

Schmidt has been instrumental in the successful completion of numerous Formerly Used Defense Site, Base Realignment and Closure and Installation Restoration Program projects. She is an ecological and human health risk assessor in Engineering Division's Environmental Branch and has worn many hats including a temporary assignment as the Superfund and Interagency/International Services program manager with the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division. For her accomplishments in support to the environmental restoration efforts for the Department of Defense, Schmidt received the 2020 Outstanding Achievement Award.

"As a lead environmental risk assessor for Louisville District, Angela is not only a dedicated professional, but a consummate champion for the development of young, inspiring environmental professionals," said Marty Wahking, Environmental Branch chief.

Schmidt is currently a member of the Camp James A. Garfield project delivery team, among many others, and has been a key factor in educating contractors on how USACE and the Department of Defense conducts business. Through her technical skills and regulatory knowledge, Schmidt helps direct project partners toward cost effective solutions for customers.

When asked what she liked about her job, Schmidt replied, "There are many things I enjoy about my job but the most important thing I do is to make sure that any of the sites I work on are left safe and clean when they are closed."

As part of the restoration process, Schmidt is known to focus her efforts on expediting cleanup and reducing costs where possible.

"I also enjoy solving complex issues at the environmental remediation sites and work hard to try and get them remediated and out of the system," said Schmidt.

When she is not working, Schmidt is most likely caring for the environment or helping people. She serves as the secretary/treasurer for the Ohio Valley Chapter of the Society of Toxicology and Chemistry and volunteers with several environmental groups such as the Ohio River Foundation. Schmidt is involved with her church where she teaches second grade religious studies. As an educator, Schmidt also teaches biology for Vincennes University and is often found in classrooms giving presentations on bats, dinosaurs and other scientific topics.

"She is a caring and selfless person, always willing to help others, and it is a great pleasure to have Angela as part of our environmental family," said Wahking.

When Schmidt is not busy with work or after work activities, she will still probably be found near the water fishing or boating.

USACE

Angela Schmidt, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District, senior biologist in the engineering division's environmental branch.

Construction for Van Voorhis on track for 2024 completion

Charles Delano, public affairs

The Van Voorhis Elementary School project site on Fort Knox, which is being managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District, is busy with crews operating heavy equipment to construct the new 104,000 square foot school that will replace the current 84,000 square foot facility. The $59.8 million construction contract, which began December 2021, had a sporadic start with inclement weather causing 23 days of delays.

The soil at the location for the 21st century Department of Defense Education Activity school consists of wet clay, which has the potential for long-term settling and negatively impacts the performance of a foundation. To ensure stability, about 200 concrete pillars will be installed to support the load of the building. Crews are currently drilling 60 feet to the bedrock to accommodate the piers. In addition to setting the piers, utility work and under slab plumbing are being completed.

Charles Delano

Contractors operate heavy equipment to drill holes at the new Van Voorhis Elementary School construction site at Fort Knox, Kentucky, March 28, 2022. About 200 concrete pillars will be used to support the load of the building.

The project team faced other challenges before construction began. “One of the biggest challenges for the design of the Van Voorhis project was the cost escalation during design,” said Sarah Ignacio, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District project manager. “The cost estimate during design was higher than expected and as a result, some of the work was descoped out of this contract, such as the electronic security system procurement, which will now be acquired through a separate contract vehicle through the Huntsville District.”

In addition to material cost increases, availability of construction materials such as roofing has been constrained. To ensure the project remains on schedule, the contractor ordered many supplies early and has been obtaining materials that are currently available. The procurement of more supplies at the beginning of construction has created its own challenges. The housing of these materials has required the contractor to coordinate with Fort Knox personnel to obtain alternate storage areas.

Upon completion of the construction, the Louisville District will coordinate with Huntsville District, construction contractor and vendors to install furniture, audio-video equipment and electronic surveillance systems within scheduled completion timeframes. The existing school will be demolished upon completion of the new facility.

The new Van Voorhis Elementary School will accommodate 510 Pre-K through 5th-grade students and is Architectural Barriers Act compliant, which incorporates accessibility for individuals with disabilities. In accordance with DoDEA 21st Century Education Facilities specifications, the educational facility will incorporate five neighborhoods with five learning studios, art room, music room, performance space, science labs, career technical education labs, a gymnasium and two staff collaboration spaces. The project is scheduled to be completed October 2024 and open doors for students for the 2025-26 academic year.

Charles Delano

Construction activity is seen at the site of the new Van Voorhis Elementary School at Fort Knox, Kentucky, March 28, 2022. The 104,000 square foot school will replace the current 84,000 foot facility upon completion in October 2024.

New Army Aviation Support Facility unveiled at ribbon cutting

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

With the help from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District, the Army Reserve Aviation Command's newest Aviation Support Facility, also known as ASF, is officially open. MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new facility, April 2, 2022.

The 81st Readiness Division facility supports aviation units assigned to the Army Reserve Aviation Command. These aviation units perform aircraft maintenance operations and dispatching, administration, aviation life support equipment, flight instructor support and flight standardization. The facility supports more than 250 Soldiers and civilians to include military technicians, Department of Army civilians and Department of Defense contractors.

"This was a 55 million dollar facility that was a Louisville in-house design," said Brian Cash, Louisville District Army Reserve section chief and project manager for the project. "The in-house team worked with the user to design an efficient layout that helped improve the operation of the Aviation Support Facility."

Brian Cash

Maj. Gen. Jami Shawley (left), 81st Readiness Division commanding general, John Mattson, FL 167 Aviation Support Facility supervisor, and Brig. Gen. H. Allan Cutchin (right), Army Reserve Aviation Command commanding general, cut the ribbon to officially open the new FL 167 U.S. Army Reserve Aviation Support Facility at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

According to Cash, the current and former ASF supervisors were both very complimentary of the facility and said others were looking at it as a model for future facilities.

Louisville District delivers Newark Army reserve center ahead of schedule

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District recently completed a new 43,000 square-foot Army Reserve Center in Newark, Delaware, ahead of schedule.

The Louisville District designed the facility for the U.S. Army 99th Readiness Division, which supports the training and mobilization of 300 reservists in 11 units.

"It was finished five months ahead of schedule," said Michael Higgins, Louisville District project manager. "It was designed in-house by the Louisville District Engineering Design Branch."

In the spring of 2018, the Army Reserves Installation Management Directorate requested the Louisville District partner with them to award a $21 million construction project by Sept. 30, 2020, in support of their Fiscal Year 2022 Military Construction mission.

"The project delivery team worked hard to develop a risk-based schedule, financial budget and ensured proper planning was completed early to ensure future success," said Cristie Mitchell, Louisville District Project Management Reserve Branch chief.

The challenges associated with the project schedule included a shortened design period to include permitting activities, funding availability, and challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which reduced workforces and devastated parts of the nation's supply chain.

"The team always came up with timely and effective solutions to keep the project moving forward," Mitchell said.

The project's beneficial occupancy date, also known as BOD, of November 2021 was nearly six months ahead of the original BOD established at the award of the construction contract.

The facility was fully troop ready in January 2022.

USACE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District completed a new 43,000 square-foot Army Reserve Center in Newark, Delaware, which supports the training and mobilization of 300 reservists in 11 units.

Louisville VA Medical Center site sees more activity as work progresses

Michael Maddox, public affairs

Construction on the new Louisville VA Medical Center being built in Louisville, Kentucky, has only been ongoing for five months, but the site already looks quite different from how it appeared during last year's Veterans' Day groundbreaking ceremony.

Members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District's VA Division and the contracting teams have been hard at work during the initial stages of this mega-project, said Melody Thompson, Louisville VA Medical Center project manager.

"We've really just begun, but the contractor has mobilized, and we are seeing a lot of progress. We are working on getting the overall site excavated and shaped into roughly what it will look like when the project is complete," she said. "We've set up the construction fencing. We were able to get onto the site and complete the clearing and grubbing which is what is now allowing us to move forward with current activities. We've been hauling off excess topsoil. We are continuing with cut and fill operations. Stormwater features are being installed and we've started placing crushed stone on the north part of the site for the future north parking garage.

"When we started actual construction, we were given a mostly flat template to work with, and as you look at it now you can see the basement taking shape and some areas being brought up close to where the entrance roads will be," she added.

Michael Maddox

A contractor uses a drill rig to remove soil overburden March 28. The drill rig is also being used to remove bedrock as part of forming drilled piers.

"Additionally, we have begun working on pier foundations that will ultimately be the support for the hospital. The site infrastructure has begun on the north side of the site and will continue working south over the next few months."

Tim Hitchcock, USACE area engineer for the Louisville VAMC project, added that the state of the site when the work began has aided in the construction process.

"Given the amount of land needed to build the full-service medical center and support structures such as the garages, laundry facility, central utility plant and water tower, finding 34 acres of land requiring minimal prep work was a great start," he said. "We were fortunate enough to be given a site without any prior construction which eliminated the need to do any significant demolition work. It is truly a greenfield site. Most of the prep work has been removing the topsoil from the site which will either be used in other locations or be returned to the site when we

Continued on next page

Walsh Turner Joint Venture II

Drone view of the construction site of the new Louisville VA Medical Center in Louisville, Kentucky, March 26, 2022.

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are ready for planting."

Hitchcock went on to explain while the project is still in the early stages, there is still much, much more work that will go into the completion of the approximately $900 million facility.

"We are currently at the beginning of a very complex facility. Key features upcoming will be the foundations and building structures. There is still a significant amount of technical work that needs to go into the infrastructure of a hospital such as medical gasses, communications, and monitoring equipment to ensure that the veterans get the state-of-the-art facility they deserve," he explained.

As the workload increases, so will the number of workers on the site, Thompson shared.

"In a project this size, almost every trade is likely to play a part in the construction. It will involve thousands of activities and a workforce that we expect to climb to close to thousands on site at the height of construction to complete," she said.

Bringing all these factors together to complete the project has been complex, but attainable, Thompson added.

"We have a very challenging, aggressive schedule to build a sophisticated, state-of-the-art world-class facility," she said. "We're constructing close to one million square feet, with 51 separate departments and over 100 inpatient beds. All medical projects are challenging with the complexities associated with having the numerous redundancies in utilities, unique clinical spaces like surgical departments and imaging, medical gas systems, and multiple low voltage systems."

"All mega-construction projects have obstacles to overcome, and this one has been no different with the recent pandemic and changes in supply chains, but we have a great contractor and a great team and feel confident we can partner together to overcome any of these issues," she added.

Thompson said knowing the new medical center will play such an integral part in the lives of veterans makes it that much more important that construction is done to the highest standards.

"From a "construction" point of view, we want to be sure quality is paramount. This isn't just office space. Medical gas must be right - ventilation systems need to support a healthy building. Pharmacy requirements must be met – overall safety/security systems for patients and staff cannot be compromised," she said. "From a "personal" point of view, my biggest concern is that we don't lose focus on delivering a world-class medical center to our veterans; one that is worthy to serve them and their families for the service and sacrifice they've given to this country. If we stay focused on taking care of our Veterans, we'll overcome the challenges ahead of us."

Thompson went on to say there is added pride in working on this project because of the community connection it represents between the Louisville District and area veterans.

"This is a mega construction project in Louisville, in our district's backyard. We have the enormous honor to construct a facility that will serve veterans who are our co-workers, friends and family. Many of our team members are Veterans. Knowing this facility will be around for 50 years or more places immeasurable importance on the moment," she shared. "What we are doing today will serve thousands upon thousands of veterans for decades and that should be extremely humbling for all of us. For many, this will be the most important project of our careers. Every day this medical center, literally every day, will not only provide quality healthcare to so many in need, but it will also rightly serve and honor America's Veterans."

The project, designed by SmithGroup is being constructed by Walsh-Turner Joint Venture II, Chicago, Illinois, includes the construction of a new 910,115 square foot medical center, parking structures, a 42,205 square foot central utility plant, roadways, sidewalks, and other site improvements.

The new 104 bed, full-service hospital located on Brownsboro Road in Louisville, Kentucky, will provide world-class healthcare for more than 45,000 Veterans in Kentucky and Southern Indiana.

Construction is anticipated to be complete in 2026.

To learn more about the project visit: www.va.gov/louisville-health-care/programs/new-robley-rex-va-medical-center.

Michael Maddox

A contractor uses a drill rig to remove soil overburden March 28. The drill rig is also being used to remove bedrock as part of forming drilled piers.

Michael Maddox

Earthwork is one of the main activities that has taken place on the site up to this point to sculpt the site in preparation for upcoming structure construction activities.

Regulators ensure safe navigation and protection of aquatic resources during Beckjord Power Plant cleanup

Abby Korfhage, public affairs

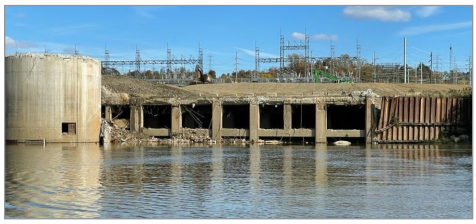
In February 2021, a smokestack, associated with the demolition of the former Beckjord Generating Station, toppled into the Ohio River at mile marker 453 in New Richmond, Ohio. The waste debris in the river caused concerns from the local communities, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District, under their regulatory authorities for Waters of the U.S., quickly responded ordering the contractors to clean it up and complete compliance actions required by USACE.

"It is not every day that something like this occurs in our program," said Todd Hagman, Louisville District project manager and biologist. "The Regulatory Division evaluates permit applications for essentially all work that occurs in "waters of the United States" that are regulated by the Corps pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act."

USACE first received a complaint regarding material found along the Ohio River streambanks associated with the demolition of the plant. While investigating the complaint, the team contacted the responsible party regarding the material and the need to clean up the shoreline. That is when the project literally, and figuratively, "blew up," according to Hagman.

USACE was notified that the demolition of the smokestack, which was planned to fall on land, instead actually fell into the Ohio River. Therefore, a compliance order was issued by USACE in April 2021 requiring an action plan outlining the corrective measures that would be used to remove all debris.

"The first goal was to determine risks associated with navigational safety," Hagman said. "Second was to determine the location of material and develop plan for removal and to ensure safety for recreational boating during the marine salvage operation."



USACE

USACE Louisville District Regulatory staff conducted a site visit to the Beckjord Generation Plant to confirm that the Department of Army permit non-compliance issues were fully resolved, and USACE determined the permittee had successfully resolved the noncompliance issues, resulting in the enforcement action being closed.

USACE

Contractors remove debris after a smokestack, associated with the demolition of the former Beckjord Generating Station toppled into the Ohio River in New Richmond, Ohio.

USACE

The Walter C. Beckjord Generating Station was a 1.43-gigawatt, dual-fuel power generating facility located in New Richmond, Ohio.

Cleanup work first began in May 2021 on the land-based portion and the cleanup fully concluded, with the final debris being retrieved in December 2021.

Throughout those seven months, the district's regulatory team worked closely with the permittee to ensure compliance throughout the cleanup process.

"We had to review and approve several iterations of their action plans for the cleanup," Hagman said. "We had to ensure the cleanup efforts proposed wouldn't impact the aquatic resources or pose a hazard to navigation. We also reviewed weekly reports and visited the site throughout to ensure operations were compliant. By working with them through the process we were able to see this to a close with everything being safely removed from the river."

The contractor conducted a final sonar survey following completion of the corrective measures and confirmed that all material had been removed from the river based on a comparison between the initial and final surveys. Then, USACE independently verified what the sonar survey depicted.

In January 2022, the Louisville District Regulatory staff conducted a site visit to the Beckjord Generation Plant to confirm that the Department of Army permit non-compliance issues were fully resolved, and USACE determined the permittee had successfully resolved the noncompliance issues, resulting in the enforcement action being closed.

"This successful compliance action protects aquatic resources and navigation in the Ohio River and will serve as a deterrent for other unauthorized actions adversely affecting the river," said Eric Reusch, Louisville District Regulatory Division chief.

Louisville District celebrates National Volunteer Month

Madison Thompson, public affairs

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Louisville District celebrates National Volunteer Month every April by recognizing the tremendous effort of the volunteers who give their time at the recreational sites in the district's footprint. Volunteers are an essential part of delivering the district's recreational activities.

"To be a volunteer means to give freely of personal time and efforts in the service of a greater good. Volunteers are vital to the accomplishment of our mission here at Barren River Lake, and we are so grateful for each of them," said Holly Myers, park ranger at Barren River Lake.

Louisville District lakes and recreational sites offer numerous opportunities and programs for volunteers to be a part of. According to Kimberly Baker, park ranger at Caesar Creek Lake, there are opportunities to volunteer as a workcamper, bluebird box monitor, prairie seed collector and trash collector.

Barren River Lake, Rough River Lake and Green River Lake have similar programs for park sanitation, boat and fishing events for veterans, beach volunteers and campground and visitor center hosts.

For each of these events, volunteers have specific responsibilities and duties, creating a diverse set of activities volunteers can do.

"Volunteers are usually doing litter cleanup, trail maintenance, painting, or small projects that can be completed in a few hours," said Myers.

"Our campground hosts are the face of our campground (greet campers, answer questions, present programs, life jacket loner program and much more), our visitor center hosts work in our visitor center on the weekends during the recreation season (greet customers, sell passes, monitor the building, feed animals, minor gardening duties)," said Andrea Davis, park ranger at Green River Lake. "Other volunteer opportunities exist that could involve trail maintenance, trash cleanup, painting, other minor maintenance - just depends on the volunteer or group and what they are wanting to do."

Among these multitude of opportunities, some of the rangers have events which are their personal favorites.

"My personal favorite volunteer opportunity is the Trashmasters Classic Lakeshore Cleanup. This is an annual National Public Lands Day event, held the third Saturday in September," said Myers. "Hundreds of volunteers come together at Barren River Lake in a coordinated effort to help clean up the shoreline. Trash bags and gloves are provided and volunteers are shuttled by boat out to various points on the shoreline for the pickup. Around noon, everyone gathers for a volunteer celebration picnic with free food, music, and prizes. Since 1988 volunteers have collected over 287 tons of trash."

It is these events and the volunteers that really bring the community together, according to Adam Taylor, park ranger at Rough River Lake.

"I love working with people. I am a very social person. I like helping and being able to point people in the right direction if I can," said Taylor. "Each volunteer we get to interact with is special. Each person brings their own background and experience to the table and wants to donate their time."

The Louisville District is comprised of people from many diverse backgrounds, military and civilian alike. Each group performing an essential task to make the district what it is. USACE relies on all its people, including volunteers.

For more information about Louisville District volunteer programs, visit: https://www.lrl.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/Volunteer/

Courtesy of Caesar Creek

A volunteer works at Caesar Creek Lake in Waynesville, Ohio, checking trails and bird boxes at the recreational site. This is one of the numerous volunteer opportunities available along with recreational sanitation, greeting guests and feeding a varity of animals at the lake.

Courtesy of Caesar Creek

The interior of one of the many bird boxes for the aviary life at Caesar Creek Lake, Waynesville, Ohio, which volunteers can manage and take care of as part of the volunteer program.