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Lake level to return to normal

Mississinewa Dam repairs to be completed in time for summer

(Louisville, Ky.) -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has announced that it plans to return the Mississinewa Lake to normal summer pool at elevation 737 feet on schedule in late spring of 2005. Mississinewa Reservoir is a key part of the Corps' Upper Wabash Flood Control System and has prevented more than \$380,000,000 in flood damages since its original construction. The recent completion of the most significant repairs at the dam make it possible to return to normal pool level as originally planned when the construction began in 2001. Pool restrictions were necessary to allow completion of construction in the critical areas of the foundation repair. Repairs are complete in the critical areas of the dam, and completing the remaining work will not require lower pools.

The remaining construction will continue through the summer of 2005 and includes work required to return the site to its pre-construction condition including removal of the work platform, road reconstruction, traffic diversion back on top of the dam, and removal of the downstream temporary bridge.

Final completion of all the work at Mississinewa is expected in late 2005. Until then, visitors and travelers around the dam may experience minor inconveniences related to lane closures and traffic rerouting during the final period of work when traffic is rerouted to the top of the dam.

With the completion of the critical work and the return to summer pool, the Corps of Engineers will have fulfilled a commitment made five years ago to return to recreation pools in 2005. The work at Mississinewa is being completed under the Corps of Engineers Dam Safety Program to ensure the continued safety and reliability of the project. The contractor is a joint venture of Bencor (Dallas, Texas) and Petrifond (Canada).