

Project Factsheet for: Saylorville Lake Project, Tract 138E-1 Access to Corps Land From Tenacity Lane

Date Last Updated: 2006-09-14 08:19:02.0

Project Location Information

Location: Saylorville Lake, Iowa
State(s): IA
Congressional District(s): IA-3, IA-4

Status

Saylorville Lake Project staff have completed the construction of a 12' wide all-weather access lane leading from Tenacity Lane (a public street) along the boundary of two residential subdivision lots to U.S. property. Disturbed areas have been seeded and mulched to blend with the adjoining grounds as much as possible. Overall residential development of the adjoining privately owned lands at Saylorville Lake made access to this area a high priority to allow Corps staff to manage existing government lands and protect those areas from encroachment and risk of wildfire. In the lawsuit, the U.S. Attorney has filed a motion to dismiss the case, or alternatively to require the plaintiffs to revise their suit, since they currently do not state a valid basis for jurisdiction or a proper cause of action to sue the Corps. That motion is now pending.

Description

A 50' wide replacement roadway easement was acquired in 2001 by the United States in exchange for the U.S. releasing an existing 100' wide road easement so that private land could be subdivided for residential purposes. The replacement easement area (Tract 138E-1) traversed the common boundary between two lots within the subdivision. The action to exchange road easements began in 1995 and took many years to straighten out due to various complications that were not initially anticipated. In the meantime, lots within the subdivision were sold and houses were built. Plans by the Corps to build an all weather, concrete access lane leading to a block of federally-owned Saylorville Lake Project land were cleared for compliance with applicable laws and regulations, such as the National Environmental Policy Act, and archaeological/historic preservation laws, etc. Concrete surfacing was proposed instead of gravel for aesthetic purposes so the lane would blend with existing privately owned driveways. When Saylorville Lake Project staff advised the two private property owners of our future plans to construct a lane along the edge of their properties, they suggested that another alternative access route be investigated. The private parties were advised at an 14 April 2006 meeting (with congressional office representatives) that construction would be held in abeyance a short time in order for them to pursue an alternative access at no cost to the United States. However, no apparent progress was made in several months and the Corps proceeded with construction within the authorized road easement area, completing the project in August 2006. Although there are no current plans to develop public recreational facilities on the adjoining federally owned land, the landowners were reminded that the easement does not restrict the Corps' use of the area for any future possibilities, including public access for recreation. The landowners filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court on 14 July, alleging that Corps representatives previously advised that the easement would never be used for public access, or widened beyond a single-lane road.

Summarized Financial Data

Federal Cost	\$
Non-Federal Cost	\$
Total Cost	\$
Federal Allocations through FY 2004	\$
Scheduled Federal Allocation for FY 2005	\$
Balance to Complete	\$

Authority

SI - Special Interest --

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