

Project Factsheet for: Ames Lake, Iowa

Date Last Updated: 01/21/2009 13:54

Project Location Information

Location: Ames, Iowa
River Basin(s): Des Moines
State(s): IA
Congressional District(s): IA-4

Status

Deauthorized

Description

The Ames Lake Flood Control project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1965. Some preconstruction planning for the project was performed prior to 1974. In 1974, The State of Iowa expressed its opposition of proceeding with the project at that time, and the project was placed in the "Inactive" category in June 1974.

There was renewed Congressional and local interest in the project in 1984. By letter, dated 6 March 1984, the City of Ames, Iowa provided a copy of a resolution that the city council adopted 28 Feb 84, requesting reactivation of the project. The project was approved for reactivation on 2 July 1984.

Recent efforts concluded a smaller scaled-down project was the only feasible alternative. The scaled-down project would have a surface area of 1,850 acres, and the full flood control pool would have a surface area of 3,620 acres. By letters, dated 27 August 1986 and 9 Sept 1986, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the City of Ames, Iowa advised they did not support the scaled-down project. The project was reclassified from active to inactive in September 1987.

The project at Ames Lake, Iowa was deauthorized in accordance with Section 1001(b)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, Public Law 99-662, as amended. The appropriate congressional interests were notified that the project met deauthorization eligibility criteria. The deauthorization of Ames Lake was effective 15 Apr 2002.

The originally planned alignment of Interstate Highway 35 would have gone through the middle of the proposed reservoir project. The State of Iowa had already acquired right-of-way for the highway project, following the originally proposed alignment. Therefore, the Corps entered into a Contract For Realignment of New Interstate Highway 35, dated 15 March 1966, with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Public Roads, and the State of Iowa, Highway Commission. In accordance with the Contract, the United States acquired approximately 178 acres of land (fee title land previously acquired by the State of Iowa) and approximately 145 acres of easement estates from the State of Iowa in connection with the Ames Reservoir Project. As a result, the highway was rerouted and redesigned to accommodate the proposed reservoir.

Much of this land has been leased for agricultural purposes to the adjacent landowners, whose land originally was purchased by the State of Iowa. Another portion has been used by the Story County Conservation Board for public recreational and wildlife management purposes under an interim land use agreement with the Corps of Engineers.

Now that the project has been deauthorized, action must be taken to dispose of the land and easement estates in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Further action to begin the disposal process for these properties would require funding which is not currently available.

Summarized Financial Data

Based upon current information, it is estimated that funding in the amount of \$130,000 would be required to initiate the disposal action.

Authority

SI - Special Interest -- Flood Control Act of 1965 and Deauthorized - Section 1001(b)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, Public Law 99-662, as amended

Additional Information

The project was authorized for disposal directly to Story County, Iowa in FY 2008. That action has been on hold due to manpower requirements to perform flood damage repairs and rehabilitation, and a funding request to support Real Estate actions necessary to complete the property turnover.

Rock Island Real Estate Division is coordinating with Story County with regards to the property transfer, and they are aware of our current situation.

Project Manager Information

Name: Jon E. Warren, Realty Specialist, Federal Lands Support Branch, Real Estate Division

Phone: (309) 794-5882

E-mail: Jon.E.Warren@usace.army.mil