



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Wilmington District

## Philpott Lake, VA Philpott Marina

- **Proposed development of a public marina**



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: VA 5, VA 9

Date: 8 April 2013

1. **PROJECT NAME AND STATE**: Philpott Lake, Virginia, Proposed Marina in Henry County
2. **LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**: Philpott Dam is located on the Smith River, crossing the border between Henry and Franklin Counties in Virginia. The lake stretches 15 miles upstream of the dam on the Smith River, extending into portions of Henry, Patrick and Franklin Counties. The authorized project provides for a concrete gravity dam 920 feet long with a maximum height of 220 feet above the streambed. Philpott Lake is operated as a unit of a coordinated reservoir system for flood risk management in the Roanoke River basin, generation of hydroelectric power, regulation of river flow, and public recreation. Water supply and environmental stewardship are additional purposes. The powerhouse has a total installation of 14,000 kilowatts.
3. **ISSUE AND OTHER INFORMATION**: Philpott Lake had a marina at Twin Ridge, in Franklin County, under a commercial lease from the mid 1960s until it was destroyed by fire in January 2001, leading to the termination of the lease and restoration of the area as a public ramp and day-use area. The lack of a viable sewage handling system was the barrier to rebuilding a marina. This barrier was eliminated by Henry County and the Corps of Engineers joining forces to build a sewage delivery system throughout Philpott Park on the south end of the lake.

With the completion of the sewer access lines, the Henry County Board of Supervisors voted in December 2010 to update their feasibility study as a precursor to any movement toward development.

4. **CURRENT STANDING**: In their January 2012 meeting, the board voted 5-1 to seek a lease from the Corps of Engineers to build and operate a marina as a county park. Since the county and the Wilmington District have collaborated to develop a plan that is sensitive to local

## PROJECT INFORMATION - Philpott Lake, VA - Philpott Marina - Continued

concerns that any marina built on Philpott Lake should be kept to a small footprint, built with minimal visual impact from the lake, and offer only essential services: gas dock, wet boat storage slips, small bait/tackle & convenience store. The final plan also includes plans for the county to operate the group camp area and enhancing it to better meet the needs of groups/families. The proposed lease is now awaiting final review and signature in the Savannah District Real Estate Division, while the county prepares to put the construction contracts out for bid. The county desires to have the marina and group camp area up and running for the 2013 recreation season.