US Army Corps of Engineers
Wilmington District

W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir "Wilkes County Water Intake Project" Wilkes County, NC

- **Sponsor: Wilkes County, NC**
- **Proposed water intake upstream of the W. Kerr Scott Dam.**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: NC 5 Date**:** 8 April 2013

1. **PROJECT NAME AND STATE:** W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir, North Carolina

2. **LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:** The W. Kerr Scott Dam is located in Wilkes County North Carolina, on the Yadkin River. The reservoir stretches approximately 15.7 miles upstream of the dam on the Yadkin River. W. Kerr Scott Dam is an earthen structure 1,740 feet long with a maximum height above the streambed of 148 feet. Project purposes include flood risk management, water supply storage, outdoor recreational opportunities and the management of natural and cultural resources.

3. **ISSUE AND INFORMATION:** In January 2004, the towns of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro in partnership with Wilkes County submitted a conceptual proposal for a water intake just upstream of the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir Dam. Wilkes County and the city of Winston-Salem have a renewable 50-year water storage contract with the Corps, providing 33,000 acre-feet of storage between elevations 1,000 feet NGVD and 1,030 feet NGVD. The towns of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro currently use raw water intakes installed on the Yadkin and Reddies Rivers, respectively. They propose to construct a raw water intake and pump station on the W. Kerr Scott Reservoir project and associated raw water pipeline to convey water to the towns of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro. This project will be funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF), administered by the North Carolina Division of Environmental Health (NCDEH), Public Water Supply Section (PWSS). The Corps has continued to coordinate with Wilkes County, the towns of Wilkesboro and North Wilkesboro, and their environmental consultant.

POC(s): Kevin Heape, (336) 921-3390 / Daniel S. Brown, (910) 251-4832

The county provided funding for the Corps to review the environmental assessment (EA) and for the requested use of government property. On September 28, 2012, USACE issued a FONSI and an easement to Wilkes County for the pipeline and water intake structure. The sponsor is expecting an official offer from the SRF shortly, at which time they will review options and develop a timeline for construction. They foresee bidding the project in the fall of 2013 and starting construction in 2014.

Issues include completion of a drought management plan to address water management for the in-lake and downstream intakes during drought, contract term and renewal, agreement between storage contract holders Wilkes County and Winston-Salem regarding use of water by other entities, and concerns regarding potential impacts of actual use of full storage allocation for water supply.