

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers  
69 Darlington Avenue  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403-1343

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**FOUND SEALED METAL CONTAINER**  
**W. KERR SCOTT RESERVOIR, WILKESBORO, NC**

**JULY 6, 2016**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:** A sealed metal container weighing approximately 10 pounds and resembling an urn or funerary container (Container; Figure 1) was found September 1, 2015, within Berry Mountain Park at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir (WKS), Wilkesboro, NC. The location at which the Container was found is typically submerged; however, due to unusually low water elevation (1027.69'), the Container became visible and was removed from the lakebed by a WKS volunteer. Immediately following discovery, the Container was transported to the WKS Visitor Assistance Center (VAC), placed in a sealed box, and held in a locked office. Upon initial visual examination, the Container was devoid of any markings or information to be used in identification.

On October 22, 2015, the Container was transferred to the NC Board of Funeral Service in Raleigh, NC, for further examination. Following examination, during which the Container remained sealed, no additional information was revealed. The Container was returned to the WKS VAC on April 12, 2016, and is being held in a lockable, fire-proof safe.

Records indicate that the land tract (tract 203) in which the Container was found was previously owned by the Dula family. The known cemetery in closest proximity to the Container's found location is the Davis Family Cemetery (located within tract 210-C). There is no available evidence to support or refute the Container's association with the Dula or Davis families.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District (Corps), in accordance with applicable sections of NC General Statutes 70-30 and 130A-415, regards the Container and its contents as unclaimed human remains. Furthermore, the Corps intends to respectfully dispose of the Container's contents at sea in a manner consistent with the NC Medical Examiner's Office's methods of disposing of unclaimed, cremated human remains. The Container will be provided to a Wilmington, NC-based contracted service, well-practiced in conducting burial at sea activities. The service will open the Container and release its contents into the Atlantic Ocean. Based on available information, the Corps believes that the proposed action is appropriate, and will release the Corps from any further obligation and/or responsibility regarding the Container, legal or otherwise.

This Public Notice is being distributed to notify interested persons of the Corps' proposed action regarding the previously-described Container, and may be accessed online at:  
<http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Locations/District-Lakes-and-Dams/W-Kerr-Scott/News-Notices/>.

If you have questions regarding the proposed action, please contact Mr. Justin Bashaw, Environmental Resources Section, within 30 days of the date of this notice. Mr. Bashaw may be contacted at the address at the top of page 1 of this Public Notice or at (910) 251-4581.



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Elden J. Gatwood  
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch



Figure 1. Sealed metal container found September 1, 2015 at W. Kerr Scott Reservoir.