



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Wilmington District

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**PHILPOTT LAKE, VIRGINIA  
WATER STORAGE REALLOCATION  
FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**



**DRAFT APPENDIX E PERTINENT CORRESPONDENCE  
July 2022**

**Wilmington District – U.S. Army Corps of Engineer**



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
69 DARLINGTON AVENUE  
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA 28403-1343

April 7, 2021

Planning and Environmental Branch

Dear Sir or Madam:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District (USACE), is preparing an Integrated Feasibility Report with Environmental Assessment (IFR/EA) to evaluate the feasibility and impacts of a water storage reallocation for the Philpott Lake and Dam, located in Patrick, Franklin and Henry Counties, Virginia (Figure 1). Philpott Dam is located on the Smith River, crossing the border between Henry and Franklin Counties in Virginia. Construction of Philpott Dam was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944 (PL 78-534). The authorized project provides for a concrete gravity dam 920 feet long with a maximum height of 220 feet above the streambed, with a lake that stretches 15 miles upstream of the dam on the Smith River extending into portions of Henry, Patrick and Franklin Counties. Philpott Lake is operated for flood risk management, generation of hydroelectric power, regulation of low river flow, and public recreation. Water supply and environmental stewardship are additional incidental purposes. The powerhouse has a total installed capacity of 15,000 kilowatts.

The Henry County Public Service Authority (HCPSA) currently operates a state-approved six million gallons per day water supply intake that is located about 3 miles downstream of Philpott Dam. The HCPSA has requested water supply storage in Philpott Lake to support additional releases for four million gallons per day of additional downstream water supply withdrawals. The water storage reallocation feasibility study was authorized by the Public Law 85-500, Title III, Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 USC 390b; P.L. 85-500), as amended. The HCPSA is the local sponsor.

There are no water supply storage agreements currently in place for Philpott Lake, and there are no special operations for water supply. Releases for flood operations, power generation, and low-flows provide sufficient water for current downstream water supply withdrawals by HCPSA. However, to meet future increased downstream withdrawals by HCPSA, reservoir storage currently designated for other purposes will need to be reallocated to water supply to allow for increased releases from the dam.

The Corps is requesting comments from agencies, interest groups and the public to identify significant resources and issues of concern with regard to the proposed reallocation. Comments received as a result of this scoping letter will be considered during preparation of the IFR/EA. The EA will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and will address the project's relationship to all applicable federal and state laws and Executive

Orders. Significant resources known to occur in the study area will be identified (including socioeconomic, cultural, recreational and aesthetic resources) and potential impacts on these resources will be fully addressed in the EA.

The EA is being prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and will address the project's relationship to all applicable Federal and State laws and Executive Orders. Resources known to occur in the study area include fisheries and benthic resources; threatened and endangered species, human resources (including socioeconomic, recreational and aesthetic resources); and cultural resources. Potential impacts to these resources, as well as, water quality, air quality, and other resources of significance will be fully addressed in the EA. Should there be other issues which you believe should be discussed in the EA, please take this opportunity to bring them to our attention.

A Public Scoping and Information meeting will be held on April 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm at the Henry County Administration Building's 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, 3300 Kings Mountain Road, Martinsville, VA 24112. The meeting can also be viewed on Facebook Live accessed through the following link: <https://fb.me/e/7fb1Q0eFI>. Input provided at this meeting and in response to this scoping letter may result in coordination with individuals or agencies on an as-needed basis to discuss certain issues. In order to effectively address any concerns that are raised, we need to have your input no later than 30 days from the date of this letter. Any question or input may be provided via regular mail (address above), or by email to Mr. Kent Tranter, Project Manager, [Kent.Tranter@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kent.Tranter@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,  
**GATWOOD.ELDEN** Digitally signed by  
**N.J.1228965177** GATWOOD.ELDEN.J.1228965177  
Date: 2021.04.07 19:05:30 -04'00'  
Elden J. Gatwood  
Chief, Planning and  
Environmental Branch

Enclosure

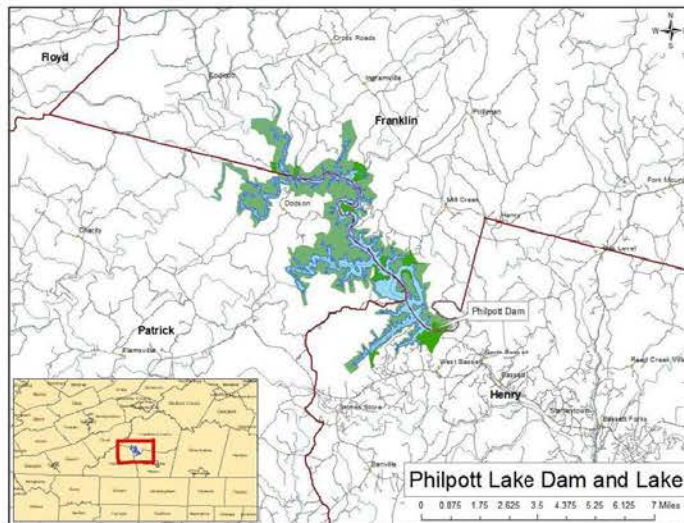


Figure 1. Philpott Water Reallocation Study Area

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Phoenix Lake Water Supply Reallocation (DHR File No. 2021-0917) | e-Mail #03811  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 15, 2021 4:12:55 PM

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Dear [REDACTED]

The Department of Historic Resources (DHR) has received through our ePIX system the referenced project for our review and comment. Based upon the documentation provided, DHR concurs with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' determination that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed undertaking.

Implementation of the undertaking in accordance with the finding of *No Historic Properties Affected* as documented fulfills the Federal agency's responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. If for any reason the undertaking is not or cannot be conducted as proposed in the finding, consultation under Section 106 must be reopened.

Thank you for your consideration of historic resources. If you have any questions or if we may provide any further assistance at this time, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

[REDACTED]  
Division of Review and Compliance  
Phone: (804) 482-6088  
[REDACTED]