



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

CESAW-ECP-PE No. 1

PUBLIC NOTICE AND NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

(DRAFT) PHILPOTT LAKE, VIRGINIA, WATER STORAGE REALLOCATION FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District, Wilmington, North Carolina, has prepared the Draft, Philpott Lake, Virginia, Water Storage Reallocation Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment (Draft Report/EA), July 2022. The purpose of the study is to examine Henry County Public Service Authority's (HCPSA) current and long-term water supply needs, to determine the available capacity at Philpott Lake, and to evaluate HCPSA's ability and willingness to reimburse the Federal government for the additional water supply. The Recommended Plan is to reallocate 5,200 ac-ft from conservation storage to water supply storage. An electronic version of this report is available on the USACE, Wilmington District website at:

<https://www.saw.usace.army.mil/Locations/District-Lakes-and-Dams/Philpott/Reallocation-Feasibility-Study/>

Philpott Lake is situated in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia in Franklin, Henry, and Patrick Counties, Virginia (Figure 1). Philpott Lake is a multi-purpose water resources project originally authorized to address flooding issues associated with communities in south-central Virginia. The lake is formed through the impoundment of the Smith River, considered to be a major tributary of the Dan River. Construction of the Philpott Dam was completed in 1952. The powerhouse was completed shortly after the dam in 1953 and is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District. The project includes a concrete gravity dam with an ogee spillway, a powerhouse, and a switchyard. Philpott Lake is 15 miles long and covers approximately 2,741.5 acres at elevation 973.4 feet NAVD88. It extends into Franklin, Henry, and Patrick counties in south-central Virginia. Philpott Dam and associated infrastructure, as well as all land acquired for the Philpott Lake project, approximately 9,515.6 acres, are federally managed and administered by the USACE.

The Draft Report/EA has been prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality and USACE requirements for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (33 CFR 230), as amended, and addresses the relationship of the proposed action to other applicable Federal and State Laws and

Executive Orders. The Draft Report/EA addresses the proposed action's impacts on environmental resources, including: federally listed threatened and endangered species, archaeological and historical resources, wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, and water and air quality. This Notice of Availability is being distributed to notify all known interested persons of the availability of the Draft Report/EA.

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) pursuant to NEPA will be completed by the USACE if comments received during the review period indicate that a FONSI is appropriate for this project. Comments on the Draft Report/EA should include sufficient detail to support statements in favor of or opposed to the proposed action. All correspondence should refer to the title and date of this public notice. We would appreciate receiving comments no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. If we have not received your comments by then, we will assume that you have none.

Written comments may be submitted to the following email address:

Philpott-reallocation-feasibility-study@usace.army.mil

for

Elden J. Gatwood
Chief, Planning and Environmental Branch

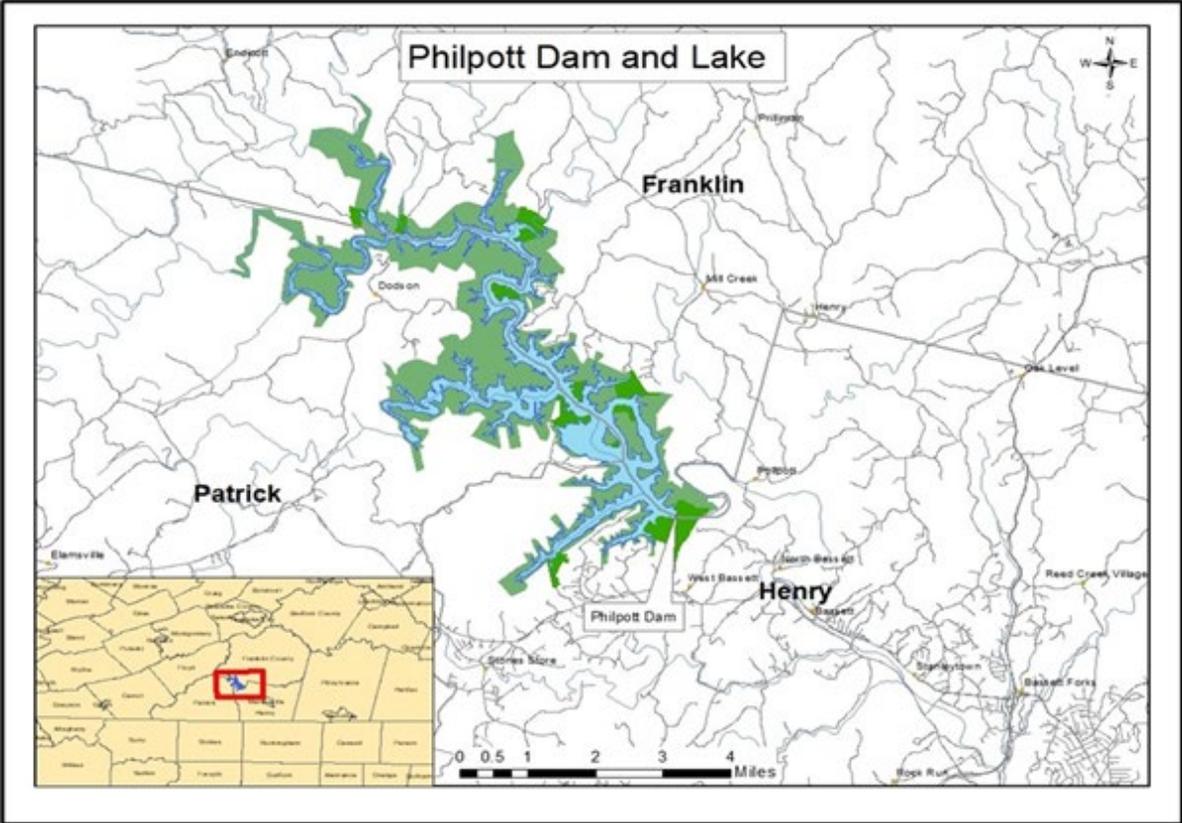


Figure 1. Philpott Dam and Lake Location