

# Lake Columbia

Angelina and Neches River Authority  
Regional Water Supply Project

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2008

## Additional funding requested for lake project

At its next Board of Directors meeting, the ANRA Board will authorize the application for additional funding for the Lake Columbia project.

The resolution will seek "up to \$50 million" to be added to the \$15.6 million already pledged to the project. The Texas Water Development Board application will be submitted prior to the July, 2008 deadline for such applications.

The funds will be used to pay for final engineering design including geotechnical investigations, all phases of land acquisition, and known mitigation expenses.

As with the previous Texas Water Development Board commitments, securing a Federal 404 permit would have to precede the release of funds.

## Corps of Engineers requires additional study for wetlands

As part of the ongoing Environmental Impact Study, the Corps is requiring a "functional assessment of wetland impacts" be added to the EIS.

The ANRA Board approved a contract amendment with TRC/Brandes at its latest Board meeting to authorize the additional work. This assessment is expected to add approximately 60 days to the process of delivering a Draft Environmental Impact Study to the Corps office in Ft. Worth.

The information gained from this additional study will be helpful in providing a basis of comparison for lands impacted by the reservoir development and those which will be purchased near the Big Thicket National Preserve for mitigation.

## LNVA modifies application for Sam Rayburn Reservoir permit

Following strong opposition to its proposed amendment to its Sam Rayburn Reservoir permit, the LNVA has modified its application.

Whereas the previous application would have damaged ANRA's water right for Lake Columbia, the new LNVA amendment retains the subordination language necessary to protect existing water rights which include Lake Columbia.

While ANRA will still seek party status at the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on the newest LNVA amendment application, it is pleased with the LNVA action to modify its initial language.

An excerpt from the ANRA Board President, Al Chavira press release states, "We are fortunate that there is abundant water in the river systems. If properly managed, conserved, and apportioned, it is sufficient to supply the human, industrial, and environmental needs of the entire Angelina and Neches River basin well into the future."



# Timeline for EIS from draft to Corps completion

Anticipated timeline from the date the draft study is submitted until preparation by the USACE of a Record of Decision.

Event:	Targeted Completion Dates
DEIS submitted to USACE	May 15
USACE review of DEIS prior to publication	Three Weeks
Publish DEIS in Federal Register	June 15
45 day public/agency review of DEIS (30 days into the period a public hearing will be held.)	July 30
Prepare DEIS comment response	Three Months
USACE publication of Final EIS in Federal Register	Nov. 1
30 day public/agency review of Final EIS	Dec. 1
USACE preparation of Record of Decision	Jan. 15, 2009

**USACE** – US Army Corps of Engineers

**EIS** – Environmental Impact Study

**DEIS** – Draft Environmental Impact Study

**Chart Source:** *Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.*



## Lake Columbia Participants

City of Alto

Afton Grove WSC

City of Arp

Blackjack WSC

Caro WSC

Cherokee County

Jackson WSC

City of Jacksonville

City of Nacogdoches

City of New London

City of New Summerfield

North Cherokee WSC

City of Rusk

Rusk Rural WSC

Stryker Lake WSC

Temple-Inland, Inc.

City of Troup

City of Whitehouse

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