

Lake Columbia

Angelina and Neches River Authority
Regional Water Supply Project

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2007

ANRA opposing LNVA's attempt to amend water rights

The Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA) in Beaumont is attempting to amend its Neches River water rights. It has claimed that large portions of its application are secret under the Homeland Security law.

Lake Columbia will be negatively impacted if this amendment is approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). ANRA and other affected municipal and industrial water rights holders are opposed to this change in rights for the following reasons:

Water for drinking and bathing should not be taken away for irrigation or industrial use.

There is nothing in the Homeland Security law that allows water to be taken away from one person and given to another without compensation.

The water "needs" claimed by LNVA are not consistent with those they identified in the 2006 Regional and State Water Plan, even though LNVA actively participated in this planning process.

If water is needed for the industries in the Beaumont area, it should not be taken without allowing for future needs in the middle and upper basin areas.

The TCEQ has developed computer programs that are currently accepted in Texas. These programs, called Water

Availability Model (WAM), simulate river and stream conditions and water storage and diversions using historical data from a long period of time, usually 50 years.

ANRA ran the WAM, with the current LNVA permit conditions which recognize LNVA and City of Lufkin water rights. Not only was there enough water to satisfy the LNVA and Lufkin water rights available in 686 months out of 686 months used by the model, there was a huge surplus left in storage in Sam Rayburn reservoir.

Several conclusions can be drawn from the computer analysis. It is clear the current LNVA permit conditions, which ANRA wants left in place, benefit the people in the Neches River basin above Lake Steinhagen. These permit conditions are necessary to safeguard the dependability of the water rights of ANRA, Nacogdoches, Center, San Augustine, Rusk, Tyler, Palestine and many others in East Texas. Secondly, the removal of the special conditions as sought by LNVA only benefits the LNVA. It does not increase the reliability of its water rights. What this requested change would allow is for LNVA to increase its power in utilizing the water resources in the Neches River basin.

ANRA and other affected water rights holders will vigorously protect their water rights.

Water quality protection regulations approved

The ANRA Board of Directors voted to approve the Lake Columbia Water Quality Protection Regulations at its meeting on August 7th.

The regulations are intended to protect the water in the reservoir from sedimentation and harmful contaminants entering the reservoir and to prevent shoreline erosion.

A copy of the regulations is available for viewing on the Lake Columbia website under "General Project Info." To access the site, go to www.anra.org and click on the Lake Columbia menu choice.

Former board members recognized



Outgoing board members Carl Ray Polk, Jr., of Lufkin, left, and James E. Raney of Nacogdoches were recently recognized for their service on the ANRA Board of Directors.

Directors OK application for research project

The Board of Directors has approved a resolution authorizing the application to the Texas Water Development Board for a "Lake Columbia Watershed Water Quality Research Project."

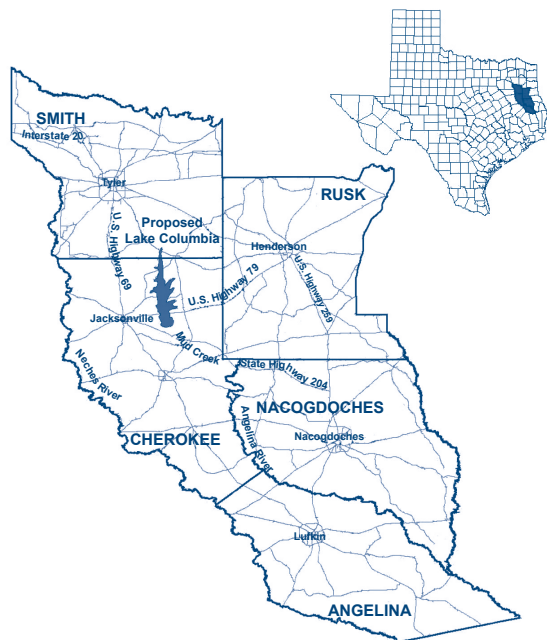
The purpose of the research grant project is to develop baseline data of numerous water quality parameters prior to impoundment and to compare water quality to known maximum contaminant levels of surface water standards.

Sampling will take place at six locations within the Mud Creek watershed.

ANRA is hopeful the grant application will be approved at a fall meeting of the Texas Water Development Board.

Corps completes initial review of Draft Environmental study

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Ft. Worth completed its initial review of the Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Study in mid-October. Direction for changes in the text of the preliminary document were returned by the Corps to the Third Party EIS consultant in Austin. The recommended changes address clarification of relevant issues prior to the release of the Draft EIS for public comment. Upon release to the public, there will be a 45 day comment period for public, along with state and federal agency comments. At the close of the comment period, the Corps will review the comments, and develop responses, prior to its decision on the issuance of a 404 permit. The 404 permit is the last major regulatory hurdle for the Lake Columbia project.



Lake Columbia Participants

City of Alto	City of New London
Afton Grove WSC	City of New Summerfield
City of Arp	North Cherokee WSC
Blackjack WSC	City of Rusk
Caro WSC	Rusk Rural WSC
Cherokee County	Stryker Lake WSC
Jackson WSC	Temple-Inland, Inc.
City of Jacksonville	City of Troup
City of Nacogdoches	City of Whitehouse

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