



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NASHVILLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
110 9TH AVENUE SOUTH, ROOM A-405
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203

November 17, 2025

Project Planning Branch

To ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Nashville District initiates scoping under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate potential impacts of a proposed streambank stabilization project at Dale Hollow Dam Campground (Figure 1), just below the Dale Hollow Dam and Reservoir Project. Bank erosion is threatening the structural security of the campsites and the safety of recreation at the site.

Dale Hollow Dam is located at Mile 7.3 on the Obey River in Clay County, Tennessee. Dale Hollow Reservoir spreads throughout Clay, Pickett, and Overton Counties in Tennessee, and across Clinton and Cumberland Counties in Kentucky. The Reservoir is one of four major flood risk management reservoirs for the Cumberland River with the others being Center Hill Reservoir, J. Percy Priest, and Lake Cumberland. The Dale Hollow project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1938 and the River and Harbor Act of 1946. The project was completed for flood control in 1943 and power generating units were added in 1948, 1949, and 1953.

The Dale Hollow Dam Campground is one of the most popular recreation sites at Dale Hollow and provides a variety of recreation activities from camping and picnicking to fishing and paddling. As it is located directly below the dam, the rapid changes in flow velocity and water levels from dam releases have resulted in the gradual erosion of the streambank at the Campground. Recent rains resulted in a more drastic overnight collapse of a section of streambank and the loss of several campsites. Surface drainage at the site was also identified to be a contributing factor to this most recent bank collapse. The degradation of the bank was identified as a threat to use of the Campground, and USACE will be considering various options to restore and stabilize the site and preserve the integrity of this resource for current and future users.

USACE is considering the following courses of action:

- No Action – The streambank will continue to erode and may eventually result in several sites at Dale Hollow Dam Campground being deemed unsuitable for use.
- Stabilization of the Streambank at Dale Hollow Dam Campground – USACE shall design and consider several possible stabilization plans to be described in a future NEPA document. Once a path forward is selected, the public shall be notified and additional comments may be made on the proposed plan.

On 8 December 2025, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm, USACE will hold a public meeting at Smith County Ag Center located at 159 Ag Center Ln, South Carthage, TN 37030. USACE aims to gather input from all stakeholders to best balance the reservoir's authorized project purposes. USACE will also evaluate input submitted to determine the proper level of analysis for NEPA review (categorical exclusion, environmental assessment, or environmental impact statement).

This letter serves to solicit scoping comments from the public, federal, state, local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity as part of the USACE planning process and in accordance with the NEPA process. We encourage comments not only about resources in the immediate project area, but also of plans or proposals for any other development that may influence project resources or potential alternative plans. This letter also serves to initiate the public involvement requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

We request comments be sent to CorpsLRNPlanningPublicCom@usace.army.mil no later than thirty calendar days from the date of this letter. If you are unable to access an email account, you may send written comments to the address listed on the letterhead, ATTN: CELRN-PMP. Comments will also be collected in-person at the Public Meeting. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Valerie J. McCormack Ph.D.
Chief, Project Planning Branch

Enclosures



Figure 1: Dale Hollow Dam Campground and Area of Bank Destabilization