



SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED PER NR20-021

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Pittsburgh District announced the opportunity for public comments from August 5, 2020 through September 4, 2020 regarding the return to normal reservoir operations as soon as practical, weather permitting. The return to normal reservoir operations is based on the finding of the East Branch Dam Post Implementation Evaluation that the recently completed grouting, secant and cut off wall successfully reduced the risk at East Branch Dam to within tolerable guidelines. The USACE Dam Senior Oversight Group accepted these findings, July 28, 2020 acknowledging that the cutoff wall and related risk-reducing construction activities have been successful. Interim Risk reduction measures that included reduced pool levels and 24-hour project staffing are no longer required. Reference the following documents:

- MFR DSOG concurs with EBR PIE team RISK TOLERABLE.pdf
- MFR EastBranch IRRMPRevision 3 Final Redacted.pdf

The Pittsburgh District is committed to communicating the efforts and progress related to the East Branch Dam Safety Modification Project to all interested and affected parties and to provide opportunities for the public to express concerns and provide input. The district's intent has always been to return to normal reservoir operations once the dam safety repair was successfully completed.

Project Status: The Army Corps of Engineers' contractor completed the installation of the seepage cutoff wall, which was accepted by the district in March 2020. The contractor completed the placement of large stone on the upstream face of the dam. Most of the site restoration work is expected to be completed before the end of the calendar year 2020 with some minor, non-dam safety items carrying over into next spring. Weather permitting, the District will allow the reservoir to begin to fill following the normal operating curves, hopefully reaching normal summer pool elevation 1670 next spring. The District will monitor the dam while the pool is rising, prepare the performance report two weeks after achieving elevation 1670 feet, and submit for Dam Safety Officer approval.

Background: Public safety is the number one priority of the Pittsburgh District's Dam Safety Program. In 2008, the Pittsburgh District initiated a dam safety investigation into seepage-related concerns at East Branch Clarion River Lake in Elk County in western Pennsylvania. To reduce the risk to the public, the Pittsburgh District implemented several interim risk reduction measures including increased monitoring, continuous on-site staffing, updated emergency action plans, and lower reservoir levels to relieve pressure on the dam. These actions allowed the district to minimize dam safety risk while fulfilling the authorized purpose of the dam until permanent risk reduction measures were completed. A dam safety modification study was completed and approved in October 2010. In August 2014, the Pittsburgh District awarded the \$132.5-million East Branch Dam Cutoff Wall Rehabilitation Project contract to Layne Christensen Company of Ruther Glen, Virginia. The company's Bencor Division, of Frisco, Texas, is performing the dam safety work and was subsequently acquired by The Keller Group,

LLC. This contract is nearing substantial completion.

Public Comments on Returning to Normal Operating Conditions:

The public submitted 74 comments via email and on line following the link below:

https://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning-Programs-Project- Management/Key-Projects/East-Branch-Dam-Repair/ One mail-in comment was submitted.

Below is a summary of the typical comments received. The number to the right of the typical comment indicates the number of comments received with respect to that particular topic. Some of the comments received addressed more than one topic.

		Number
		of
		comments
		on this
Item	Typical Comments	topic
1	Return to normal reservoir operations	63
2	Provide information on shore line plan	1
3	Leave new growth of trees in place	3
4	Consider hazard to boaters and skiers if leave new growth underwater	2
5	Limit numbers of boaters when reservoir capacity reduced to assure safety	1
6	Adjust pool level control plan such as retain full pool until after Labor Day	2
7	Thanks and appreciate the Corps for the work to assure dam safety	13
8	Improve the fishery	3
9	Open up campground	4
10	Provide the plan and projected water level	2
11	Do not affect the water level of the Wild and Scenic Clarion River	1
12	Build pedestrian bridge over spillway, new trail, camp sites on east side	1
13	Why ask for input after not responding to request to purchase rock	1*
14	Address lack of upkeep of facilities and grounds	1
15	Conduct grand opening to celebrate when completed	1

^{*}Note: The District responded to the request to purchase rock. The rock placed temporarily to protect the upstream face of the work platform was owned by the Contractor, not purchased with appropriated funds.

CORPS RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

This document will be posted on line at the following link

https://www.lrp.usace.army.mil/Missions/Planning-Programs-Project- Management/Key-Projects/East-Branch-Dam-Repair/

Please see below the Water Control Plan that was included on page 4 of the memo referenced above:

MFR EastBranch IRRMPRevision 3 Final Redacted.pdf.

All email inquiries received a response from our office to acknowledge their submission. The one mail-in comment was submitted anonymously, and thus could not be acknowledged.

Pittsburgh District appreciates the input from the public in carrying out its mission. East Branch Dam is one of 16 flood control reservoirs within the Pittsburgh District that provides for flood risk reduction within the Upper Ohio River basin. Flood control, water quality control, fish/wildlife, and recreation are all operating and authorized purposes at East Branch Dam; however, storage is only allocated for flood control and water quality control. When not operating for flood control, East Branch Dam maintains a required temperature-flow schedule downstream on the Clarion River. The Pittsburgh District plans to return to the original water control plan represented in the graphic below as "Original Plan." This plan, which calls for a reservoir drawdown starting in mid-June, is calculated to meet the project purposes to the maximum extent possible, weather

permitting.

The District closed the campground during the period of construction in the interest of public safety, and with construction completed, now plans to reopen the campground in the spring of 2021. No shoreline management plan exists, because the reservoir shoreline is state-owned land managed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission recommends to leave in place that vegetation which is growing between the interim pool elevation of 1650 and the original pool elevation of 1670 feet. All of the vegetation located in this elevation band around the reservoir will be inundated and die when the pool is raised, but the woody debris will persist for many years, providing habitat and refuge for fish and other aquatic life.

There is little habitat (shrub, emergent and submerged vegetation) around the reservoir under normal operations, because seasonal pool elevation changes are large; and the pool is high during the summer growing season and low during winter dormancy, which is opposite in natural lakes. Therefore, leaving the dead woody debris would be beneficial. Boat safety regulation is the purview of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission. The District appreciates the suggestion of conducting a grand reopening in 2021, following the approval of all Dam Safety requirements.

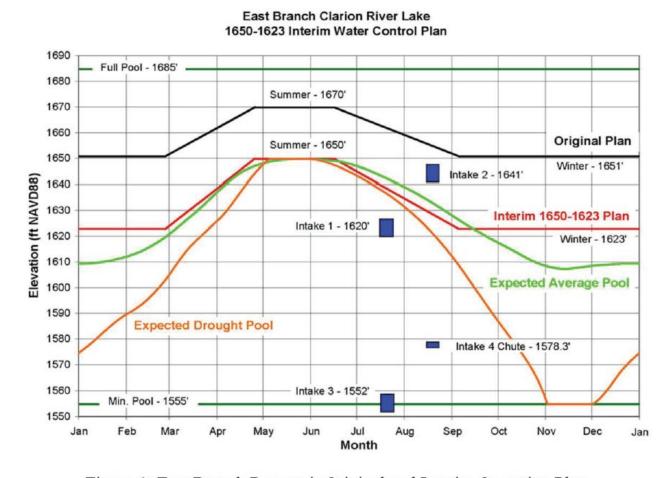


Figure-1: East Branch Reservoir Original and Interim Operating Plan

Public comments on East Branch Public Notice regarding completing PIE/DSOG and returning to normal operations

ITEM	COMMENT
1	Want to thank the Corps of Engineers for the work on East Branch, it's been a
'	long time coming to see it back to full pool. I feel the reopening will being more
	business to the area and all safety concerns have been addressed. I would like to
	know the shore line plans for the future. I would like to see the new growth be left
	in place to help improve the fishery. It would also be better if the damn was left at
	full pool unit after the Labor day weekend.
2	Please fill it up to where it used to be. To make it one of the best fisheries in the
-	state. I would also hope that the fish commission would see a great opportunity
	here also to stock numerous species of pan and predator fish. The tree that have
	grown since the start of your project will be tremendous cover. Thank you and
	thank you for another job well done.
3	Yes! Open it back up and the campground. Beautiful area to go.
4	East branch will become one of the hottest recreation lakes in the state next year
	when the camp ground opens back up. Not filling the lake will cause a massive
	liability to the state and risk to boaters. On a given weekend it is logical to
	conceive that there could over 100 boats on the lake. At current summer levels
	that would be a disaster and extremely dangerous for recreation. As I write this
	the date is 8/6/20 and the lake looks like a puddle. Last weekend the boat launch
	was at 100% capacity with boat trailer parking. Imagine individuals with their
	green kayaks with green life vests paddling down the middle of the lake with 100
	ski boats buzzing past. It happens now and with increased use you are asking for
	injuries and death due to prop chop if you do not spread the boats out. Filling the
	lake to capacity is a safety issue in my opinion. Liability should be on the state if
	they allow 100 boats on the water with minimal capacity like we see on this date.
5	Our comments and requests never mattered to the Army Corps as long as you
	could publish articles in our local papers showing progress and a tour each
	Spring. 13 years have passed, literally people have died waiting for you to finish
	this project! Residents and landowners questions were never answered and your
	organization did whatever it wanted to anyway. The landowners association
	asked to purchase rock at the end of the project and you wouldn't even respond as we housed your employees and subcontractors. Why ask our input now? It
	, , ,
6	must be a feel good exit campaign It has been very discouraging trying to use East Branch Lake over the last 13
	years, but now that it is fixed can we please return to the normal pool level. I have
	had use of my dock in Swamp Creek for 6 weeks a year at the most.
7	Thank you for the investment into keeping citizens in Elk county safe. We just
'	started kayaking on the East Branch lake this year. I ha
8	Please fill the East branch dam up To full capacity, it's looked terrible at both ends
	of the dam for years. We appreciate the hard work that went into repairing the
	dam. But let's get it back to normal!
9	We want our Dam back as it was. Boating, fishing, tubing, water skiing,
	swimming.
10	Hope that the dam is safe now, thanks for doing your job. I hope it is people
	friendly for boaters.
11	Please return East Branch Dam to its full water capacity.
12	As a long time Wilcox resident and avid boater on the lake for the last 12 years, I
	am exuberant that the dam can now be brought back up to the normal summer
	pool. My concern as a water skier and the owner of a \$75,000 boat is the brush
	•

on the shorelines. I want very much for the lake be returned to its typical summer pool, however I would also want the brush to be cut over the fall and winter to insure everyone's safety while participating in water sports and to mitigate the risk of damaging folks' vessels. There are a multitude of areas that this can easily be accomplished with machinery very easily. On other steeper areas hand felling may be necessary, but I feel it to be essential to everyone's safety next summer. Please, return the lake to full summer pool and address the brush.

Thank you and the ACE for your efforts at restoring the East Branch Dam on the Clarion. It has been a long time in the effort to repair the seepage. I am old enough to remember fishing the stream before any construction took place in the valley, and have immensely enjoyed my experiences on the lake. My uncle was a carpenter on the control tower job and I was in the tower before it was completed. I learned to operate a motor boat, canoed the length and breadth of every cove and fished the feeder streams of the lake. In the 1970's I took a scuba course and had my final open water dive at Instanter. This gem of The Wilds is a valuable asset to the area and to the valley it feeds.

I am elated that the effort has been made to restore the integrity of the dam, but have a few reservations. I know that there are monitoring weirs on the downstream side and that the ACE monitors these devices. Is it the intent of the ACE to fill completely the dam to the point of overflow through the spillway? I would think that this is an absolute necessity along with a program to monitor the downstream results. I have seen the damages from the 1942 flood and recognize the absolute value of the control achieved during Hurricane Agnes. I have served as a firefighter for more than 50 years, and have often been called to help with flood recovery and body recovery, so I absolutely understand the value of the flood control mission.

I look forward to the reopening of the dam and its environs. I would like to see the ACE partner with the Pa. DC & R as well as the Game Commission. I believe a pedestrian bridge over the spillway and a hiking/biking trail with remote camp sites on the east side of the lake would be a valuable addition to the recreational opportunities offered to visitors. Primitive camping locations similar to Ontario's Algonquin Provincial Park could be constructed on the east shore. Access to camp sites could be by reservation and a good hiking trail could double as access for DC&R to maintain the sites on a regular basis. I am aware of the gas drilling on the east side, but believe that enough care to prevent frack water contamination of springs and safe water sources on that side has been effective. I am aware of the roads that have been constructed up Middle Fork & Briggs Hollow to access the top of the hills and they could easily provide restricted access in case of emergency. A rough estimate of the trail length from the breastworks to Instanter is about 25 miles with many locations for camp sites with potable water are possible.

Let me offer one more "I". I would be happy to assist any or all parties with interests in the reopening of the East Branch Lake in any manner or function that could be of service to the endeavor.

Thank You for allowing me to comment.

- 14 | Fill it up with no winter draw down,,, thank you
- Please restore the East Branch Dam to normal levels. It is a great Recreation Area for locals and visitors alike. It helps the local economy.
- I encourage and support the Army Corp intention to return the East Branch to regular levels ASAP. By returning the water level to pre-construction level all the stakeholders will benefit. The Dam was safe with a leak for 50+ years. I am sure

	that after \$200 million upgrade it will be safe for the next 100. Please, please it is	
	time to bring it up and let all involved enjoy beauty of the area.	
17	Fill it to its normal pool level. Otherwise, what was all that work and money for.	
18	With the repairs made to the dam it is time to return the dam to "normal" pool.	
	The East Branch Dam provides great opportunities for recreation as well as	
	providing flood protection of downstream areas as well as providing a developing	
	cold water fishery.	
19	The dam now needs to be filled to the normal level it was before the decision to	
	lower it	
20	Please bring back the reservoir to the level that I remember as a young adult!!!	
21	If all studies show dam to be safe then please return water levels to normal.	
22	I am in favor of filling the dam to its original capacity. It has been declared safe and all repairs are completed. Thank you for saving this outstanding recreation	
	area.	
23	The East Branch Dam has had much significance to my life in the last 31 years.	
20	There is not a summer that has gone by that I have not been there enjoying the	
	water on the boat and partaking in water sports. My family has been there through	
	this it all including the last 10+ years of low water levels. I was actually there	
	today, August 8th. It was so sad to see my parents talking about having to take	
	the boat out at the end of the weekend because there just is not enough water left	
	to safely keep the boat at the dock. It is only the beginning of August- there is still	
	so much summer left and yet this great place will not be able to be used for	
	boating due to water levels. Please let this be the LAST summer it has to be this	
	way. I have a one year old son and I want him to have to great experiences I have	
	had throughout my life at East Branch. Please return water levels to normal	
	summer pool in 2021 so we can fully enjoy all it has to offer!	
24	It is the consensus of the 84 members of our club to return to normal pool as	
	weather permits.	
25	I would like to see the East Branch Dam water levels returned to normal as soon	
00	as possible. Thank you.	
26	Thank you for essentially completing the multi-year project to reinforce East	
	Branch Dam. Great job! I'd like to voice my opinion that water levels in the lake	
	should now return to historical norms, based on the season and the water needs downstream. Feel free to contact me for addition comment.	
27	Please restore the water level to its original level.	
28	What is the plan and projected water level starting next year? Can you say what	
20	the future top level is expected to be? Thank You	
29	I strongly recommend restoring the water level to its original status. \$240,000,000	
	is a compelling reason to do so.	
30	We have been patiently waiting for the return to normal leaves since they first	
	lowered it for safety. We had to take our boat out on July 22nd due to the low	
	water leaves in Swamp Creek. Would be great to have three months of boating	
	instead of one and a half.	
31	Please allow the dam to fill to its original levels. It is a real asset to our area for	
	many reasons. Much was invested to make it safe. Please fill it up.	
32	We want to see the East Branch lake return to normal levels as fast as possible.	
33	I would like to see the lake return to normal levels as fast as possible. I am a	
	property owner near the dam, ever since the lake water level was dropped I have	
	had issues with my well water and had not had any issues previously. I believe	
	this is all due to the water table being lowered with the lower lake levels. Please	
	return to normal lake level.	

34	My opinion the dam should be raised to full pool.	
35	Now that the improvement project is done, the lake needs to be returned to its	
33	normal levels as soon as possible. There is no reason for this not to occur, but if it	
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36	doesn't, the negative economic impact on the area will be huge.	
	Please return the East Branch Dam Lake levels to full capacity ASAP	
37	I write in support of the proposal to refill the East Branch Dam to normal reservoir	
	levels. As a child, I spent countless hours at the Dam with my family. It has been	
	a sad to return there each summer for the last decade to desolate rocks and	
	overgrown trees where water should have been (and once was). The inability to	
	use the boat launch after the first weekend in August has abbreviated the amount	
	of time we can enjoy the Dam; and, since I now live in Pittsburgh and can only	
	visit occasionally during the 12 or so short weeks that the weather and water level	
	permit its use, has limited my time spent there to maybe 1-2 days a summer. I	
	want to share my childhood memories with my 2 year old daughter (and her soon-	
	to-arrive sister), and the full water level will enhance the beauty of the area, lengthen the season we can enjoy it, and allow my family (and many others) the	
38	opportunity to pass on a love of boating and conservation to the next generation.	
39	Please refill the dam!	
40	Please refill the dam to its normal level as soon as possible Thank you Please consider reopening as repairs are now complete. East Branch Dam is a	
40	valuable recreation area to many communities. Thank you for your consideration.	
41	I'd like to see the dam filled to full capacity as soon as possible.	
42	It will be great to see the lake at full level again.	
43	Dear Staff of Pittsburgh Division Army Corps of Engineers and Renovation	
73	Contractors for East Branch Dam, Thank you to everyone who was involved in	
	any way in the massive project to correct the breastwork deficiencies of East	
	Branch Dam. When we attended several of the open houses that were held	
	during the project, we were truly amazed at the science and expertise that were	
	involved in such an undertaking. And now that the project is coming to an end, of	
	course, we are thrilled to hear that the dam is going to return to normal level in	
	2021. We were quite pleased to hear that this fall, once the construction work is	
	complete, all water flowing into the dam will be held, other than what is needed for	
	the minimum daily downstream flow, to help ensure that the dam fills to normal	
	level by next spring. Again, we are grateful for the professionalism of all involved.	
	In additional to being a flood control vessel, East Branch Lake is such a jewel for	
	PA and our nation. Thank you.	
44	During these trying times where people are told to distance themselves and be	
	safe, our activities are limited. One of the few reprieves people have had during	
	this time has been using the East branch dam. I believe right now refilling the dam	
	is the best action to keep people from contact with others. I hope you all consider	
	this and appreciate your time.	
45	My name is REDACTED and I am writing to request that the East Branch Dam be	
	refilled to normal operations now that the improvements have been deemed	
	successful. My Uncle, REDACTED , owns property on the dam and I have spent	
	many summers as a young kid and teen enjoying my time on the water, now that I	
	have kids of my own I would love for them to have the same opportunity on East	
	Branch Dam. Thank you.	
46	I want to see the East Branch Lake return to normal levels as fast as possible.	
47	The east branch dam has been a place for families to get together for years. It is	
	a huge staple in our community. The project that was completed was fixed and	

had been approved. The community has been patiently waiting for the refilling and completion of the dam. Please make sure the dam is refilled!!!
As stated above, if the safety guidelines have been met, then the water levels should return to normal as soon as possible. This project has taken much longer than projected and as a property owner want to see its completion.
We have been waiting to see normal water levels return to the East Branch Dam. What is the reason for dumping all that money in if the dam is not going to return to normal? Fill it up!!
Please fill the water up to "normal" levels as soon as you can safely. We love fishing there and look forward to the new "cover" around the edges being a great place for fish to hide and reproduce. Please do not cut the "new" brush/trees around the edges of the lake down before filling it up.
Good morning, Please fill the dam up next year. We spend a lot of time there boating, water skiing, fishing, etc.
Hello, In response to recent request for public comment on lake level returning to normal levels; I would greatly like to see the lake resume normal levels asap. Since the project is now complete I assume that the winter pool level prior to 2011 can begin to be achieved during this fall into winter? Can you indicate what the plan is for when the level will begin to increase to normal winter and then spring / summer levels? Thank you for your time and response. [Respondent sent follow-up message 18 Aug at 2334] Can you indicate what the plan is for when the level will begin to increase to normal winter and then spring / summer levels? Thank you for your time and response.
I read through the report and i agree that the Dam should be filled next year.
I grew up on this dam. Every single weekend. My family, entire family, aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins would camp and boat here. I learned to ski here. My entire family learned to ski here. It is such an amazing treasure in a land of nothing. We just recently bought a boat and I am hoping to pass down the tradition of water sports to my 4 girls. And I absolutely cannot wait to return to the skis it has been almost 10 years and with any luck, this coming weekend will be my lucky day!
Fill it up!!!! Fishing will be great again!
Please fill East Branch Dam back up. My family has been boating, fishing there for 50 years. We now have grandchildren that have no idea what it's like to have a full dam of water all summer long. Thank You!
How will the new shoreline (tree growth) be managed when filling the EBD to previous level of 1670? How will boaters from outside the area know there are trees very near the water surface?
Please raise the water level to the level it was before the dam project took place. This will allow more water to be released in summer months when water is scarce. Thank you for your time.
I would like to see the East Branch Dam returned to normal pool levels as soon as possible. Our dock area located near Swamp Creek has been without water for 12 years now. Both of my parents missed out on the boating and dock experience at the end of their lives; my children, who were aged between 8 and 20 when the pool was dropped are now between the ages of 20 and 32 they missed out on the best years of the dam experience as well. I now have grandchildren who can hopefully enjoy the dock, boat, and camp for many years to come. So YES, please fill the dam to normal pool levels as soon as possible.
Yes, I would like to see the water level back to normal. Thank you

61	Please, Please Keep the flood control dam, East Branch. It is a very important
0 1	part of our Flood Control. It is also a beautiful lake. Thank you.
62	My opinion is to return the Dam to normal operations. Full utilization will allow
	more to enjoy this area as my family has for many years.
63	I don't understand why you would be looking for comments on refilling the East
	Branch dam. You just finished spending about 300 million dollars to repair it why
	would you do that if you're not going to use it. Of course the people that use it
	would like it filled!!!!!! Thank you
64	Would be nice to be able to go boating again asap please
65	Thank you for all the work you and your team has done in making the East
	Branch Lake a safer area for our community. As an avid boater I would like to see
	the pool level returned to its pre-construction pool level to allow longer enjoyment of this great resource and tourist area.
66	We love our local dam. Please put the water level back to where it used to be 10
00	or so years ago. We would like to be able to use both boat launches until Labor
	Day weekend. Please make available the camping area at the breast of the dam.
67	I am requesting the dam level be returned to level it used to be. I launch at
01	Instanter and would like to see it stay open closer to labor day. Would also like to
	see the campground reopen as well.
68	Of course the dam should return to normal levels why spend all that money if
	not? I remember the water levels back in the day and I can't wait. Come on guys!
	Get some water in that mud hole!
69	If the water level of the Wild and Scenic Clarion River will be affected please
	reconsider any changes. I won't pretend to understand the mechanics of the
	damn but Myself and thousands of other people have been able to use it even in
70	dry weather because the water level allows
70	As you know with the current drought the East Branch Lake is going to be
	extremely low and the boat launch will soon be closed. To mitigate the impact of
	droughts in the future it would be a good idea to fill the dam back to normal summer pool levels to ensure against worst case scenario that water can be
	provided to the downstream paper mill, water trails, and fishery (as Johnsonburg
	to Ridgway is one of the best cold water fisheries on the eastern coast). It is
	evident, for good reason, that the primary concern of the USACE is safety of the
	dam and surrounding areas. However, I believe the Dam Safety Oversight Group
	and the East Branch Dam Post Implementation Evaluation team are rather good
	at their tasks and performed an adequate risk assessment before deeming the
	risk of the dam tolerable. The filling of the dam would benefit the local people,
	economy, and wildlife in immeasurable ways. Please consider this comment when
	making the final decision and I would like to hear back. Thanks for your time.
71	Fill up the dam!! East Branch is one place where everyone around here can go in
	the summer or winter, and if you know there isn't much else to do around here!
	Everybody has been waiting for the dam to be back to normal since operations started on it.
72	
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73	Considering the extensive repair work that has been successful completed by the
	Corps the water levels should be restored to pre-construction levels and summer
	pool levels extended longer in fall. Good work and management on repairs
72	I would like to see the water level go to the normal level as soon as possible. I don't understand why this would not be the natural course of action after all the time and work that went into repairing the dam itself. I would think after all the money spent and the years of work that all the people involved would feel that raising the water level would now be safe to do. Considering the extensive repair work that has been successful completed by to Corps the water levels should be restored to pre-construction levels and summ

The last Branch Lake must be returned to normal reservoir levels. The last 12 years of reduced water levels have greatly impacted our local community. I am president of the Ridgway-Elk County Chamber of Commerce. Now that all safety efforts have been completed, we need to celebrate these efforts with a public grand opening of East Branch Lake. The campgrounds need to be re-opened as well.

The closure during construction was necessary. The closure did, however, drastically impact our local economy. Our local economy depends on these resources to: provide quality of life to residents, bring tourism dollars, and introduce our area to prospective new residents. With the water levels restored to normal levels, the shore line tree growth will provide an excellent habitat for fish and aquatic life. The grand re-opening of East Branch Lake and Campground is a mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps mission cites ""energize the economy." Our local Chamber of Commerce promotes "quality of life" for our area. This keeps residents home enjoying our natural resources. This is most important during our Covid pandemic. We are looking forward to a much needed and anticipated grand re-opening celebration of East Branch Lake and Campground. Your hard work on these efforts is greatly appreciated.

[This comment was submitted via USPS]Finally, after more than a decade the dam construction is complete at tremendous taxpayer cost. I would suggest now is a good time to commence with measures to adjust the annual, dramatic pool level change starting at the heart of recreation season. A practical pool level adjustment still could meet operational requirements plus enhance a longer water-based recreation season plus aid the fisheries. It sure would help those of us who boat and fish deep into the season. During our last visit it become apparent to us how the area has become rundown. It seems during the last 10 years there has been a lock of management skills and qualities. Prior to the last 10 years for example, East Branch Dam was a vibrant, alive, pleasant, sparkling place to recreate. The last period of time mentioned the opposite has taken place; it looks like daily, routine maintenance performance has disappeared. Perhaps an audit of the manager and maintenance positions should be commercial to see what problems exist or what is occurring.

Out last visit was eye opening. The area around the project office and the interior looked like a junkyard, not a federal facility. The first few paragraphs are within your area of expertise. The second topic should be forwarded to the appropriate person(s) for consideration. I am not a US Army Corps of Engineer employee but a concerned citizen.

This letter will be unsigned due to the remote potential of retaliation. Concerned Citizen