



# NEWS RELEASE

## U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 20, 2012

Release No. NR12-215

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## **Corps to lower lake elevation at Stonewall Jackson Lake for tower repairs beginning Oct. 15**

The Army Corps of Engineers will be making repairs to Stonewall Jackson Lake's Water Quality Tower 2 this fall. Brackets on the tower are being replaced to ensure the gates can operate correctly and carry out the lake's water quality mission. A lake drawdown is required for the repair work and may impact water based recreation.

The current plans are to begin lowering the lake to an elevation of 1060.0 feet (NAVD88), which is 7.5 feet below the maximum winter conservation pool. The Corps will begin lowering the lake on Oct. 15, with a target of reaching 1060.0 feet by Nov. 13. The repair work is expected to be complete by Nov. 21, at which time the Corps will allow the lake to return to its maximum winter conservation pool of 1067.5 feet. The timeline in which the pool will return to the maximum winter conservation pool will be dependent upon the amount of runoff received after Nov. 21.

Additional water quality monitoring will occur prior to the lake drawdown and during the lower lake level to ensure the Corps is meeting the downstream water quality standards in the West Fork River during the work period.

As the lake elevation drops, we expect there will be new underwater hazards, and boaters should be aware when using the lake. The Corps is currently working with the W.Va. Dept. of Natural Resources (WVDNR) and local partners to determine any impacts to water based recreation and will issue additional press releases to ensure lake users are aware of safety hazards and/or boat launch closures. The Corps and its partners will continue to evaluate the impact on boat launches and safety during the drawdown period. PLEASE NOTE: General land based recreation, including the use of the Stonewall Resort State Park, as well as hunting and shore fishing, will remain unaffected.

The water quality gates enable the Corps to release water from various elevations of the lake. This flexibility provides improved water quality in both the West Fork River and the lake itself, as well as supporting the cold water fishery in the tailwaters. Stonewall Jackson Lake also reduces the impact of acid mine drainage and municipal pollution by more than 50 percent along more than 100 miles of the lower West Fork and upper Monongahela Rivers, providing healthier water for consumption, recreation, flora and fauna during low flow periods.

Pittsburgh District's 26,000 square miles include portions of western Pennsylvania, northern West Virginia, eastern Ohio, western Maryland and southwestern New York. Our jurisdiction includes more than 328 miles of navigable waterways, 23 navigation locks and dams, 16 multi-purpose flood control reservoirs, 42 local flood protection projects and other projects to protect and enhance the Nation's water resources, infrastructure and environment.

For media inquiries, contact the Public Affairs Office at 412-395-7500 or email: [celrp-pa@usace.army.mil](mailto:celrp-pa@usace.army.mil).

Stonewall Jackson Lake is on Facebook! Join us at <https://www.facebook.com/StonewallJacksonLake>

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