



US Army Corps
of Engineers

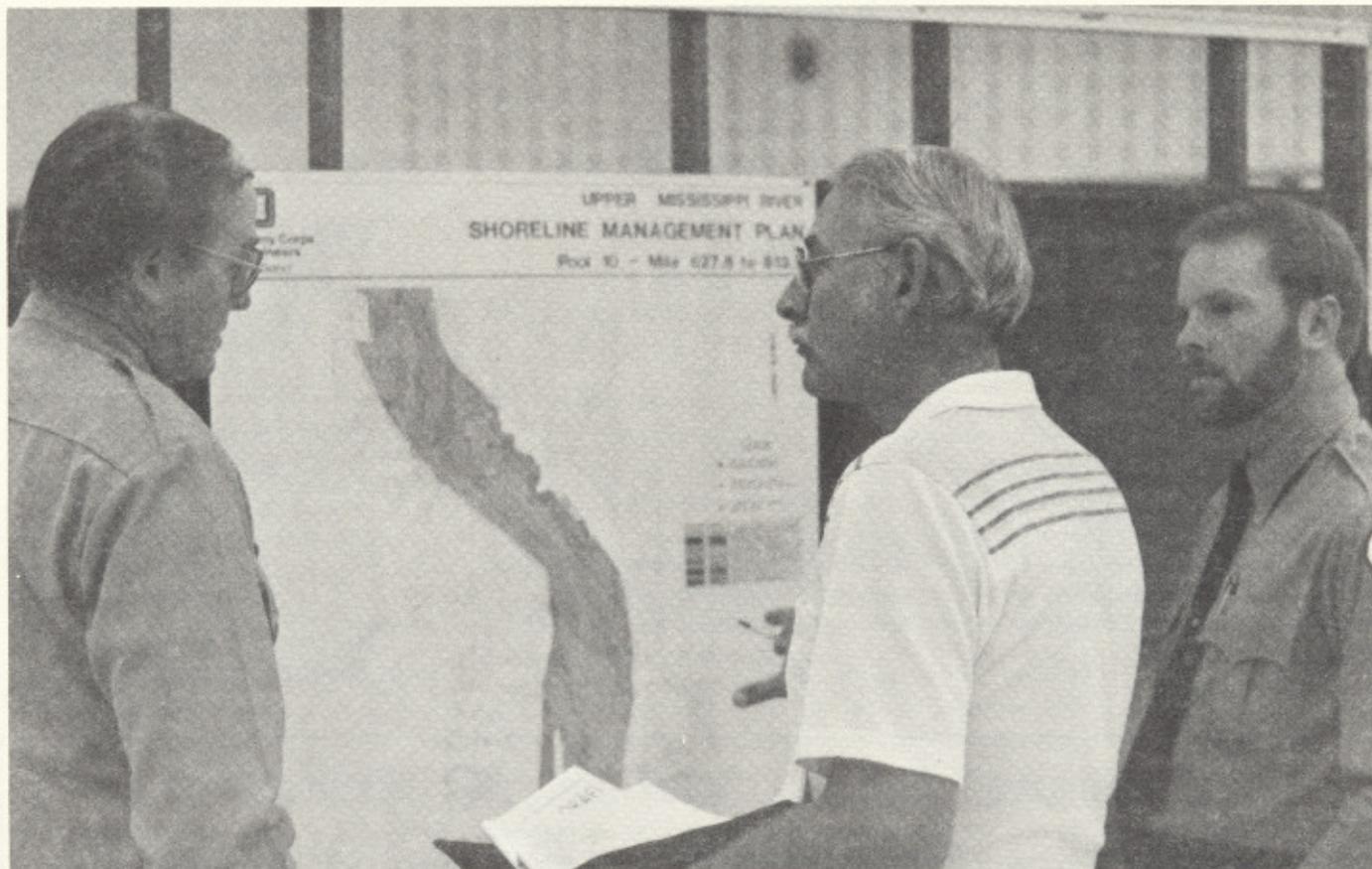
St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

Vol. 9

No. 8

December 1986



Park Rangers Jerry Lee, (left) LaCrescent, and John Knoble, Blackhawk Park, discuss the draft Shoreline

Management Plan with a workshop participant in LaCrosse. Participants had the opportunity to discuss the plan in-

formally with Corps employees and to attend a formal presentation on the draft plan. Story on page 4.

Photos by Ken Gardner

President Reagan signs new waterbill

Washington, D.C.— The Water Resources Development Act of 1986, that was into law on November 17, 1986, by President Reagan, begins a new era for the Army Civil Works program.

Robert K. Dawson, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, said that the new omnibus legislation is the culmination of long months of effort by many dedicated individuals in the Congress, its various committees, the Administration, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the private sector who never stopped working for its passage.

The legislation forges a new and realistic

charter for future Federal water projects and assures continued water resources development in spite of continuing fiscal austerity necessary to eliminate projected budget deficits, Dawson added. The omnibus bill, he said, breaks the long-standing impasse over user fees, cost sharing, and the appropriate Federal role in future water resources development. It also establishes new cost sharing requirements as well as national and local user fees, thus guaranteeing that non-Federal interests will play an important role in planning, financing, and maintaining Corps of Engineers water projects.

The new omnibus legislation authorizes new work with a total cost of about \$16 billion and includes 50 navigation projects, 115 flood control projects, 24 shoreline protection projects, 61 conservation and development projects, 38 planning studies, 63 project modifications, and 26 miscellaneous projects. Consistent with the new funding formulas, the Federal share of the cost of the new work is approximately \$11 billion, with the initial non-Federal costs at more than \$4 billion.

St. Paul District projects and studies included in the Omnibus Bill are listed on page 3.

Holiday message from the Chief of Engineers

"As we approach another holiday season you, the men and women in our Corps family, continue to serve our country throughout the world. The dedicated service each one of you has given forms an important part of what the Corps of Engineers has contributed to the nation's security and well-being: to the concept of Peace on Earth.

Working every day for peace and freedom in a troubled and uneasy world, you each set a valuable example for future generations to look back to when it is their turn to carry the torch for the values we cherish.

While we have a legacy of greatness in leadership and values from our Founding Fathers, your dedication and that of our soldiers, our retirees, and our family members is heartwarming. Whatever our individual backgrounds, faiths, or hopes, we all value some degree of unity in sharing the message and celebration of this holiday season.

The coming season is bountiful for most of us. Yet for some this holiday season may ring empty. During this time, let us all pause to remember those families who have lost a loved one in the nation's service, or are separated because of distant duties.

Throughout the year I have taken several opportunities to express thoughts on how fortunate we in the Corps family are. This holiday season, we can rejoice over our sustained efforts --throughout the entire year--to give and share with others peace, comfort, and encouragement.

I congratulate each of you for helping to bring about our considerable achievements of this past year. I hope all will have a very happy holiday season and a prosperous, peaceful New Year.

Lt. Gen. E. R. Heiberg III
Commander, USACE

Corps Calendar

- Dec. 15
Christmas Party at the Landmark Ctr.
Contact Charles Spitzack ext. 7637
- Dec. 29
Retirement Party for Pete Fischer
Contact Peggy Peterson ext. 7743



"Statistics: A group of numbers looking for an argument."
—Anonymous

Approved General Schedule, 3% increase for January 1987

Steps	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
GS-1	\$ 9,619	\$ 9,940	\$10,260	\$10,579	\$10,899	\$11,087	\$11,403	\$11,721	\$11,735	\$12,036
2	10,816	11,073	11,430	11,735	11,886	12,215	12,564	12,913	13,262	13,611
3	11,802	12,195	12,508	12,901	13,374	13,767	14,160	14,553	14,964	15,339
4	13,248	13,690	14,132	14,574	15,016	15,458	15,900	16,342	16,784	17,226
5	14,822	15,316	15,810	16,304	16,798	17,292	17,786	18,280	18,774	19,268
6	16,521	17,072	17,623	18,174	18,725	19,276	19,827	20,378	20,929	21,480
7	18,358	18,970	19,582	20,194	20,806	21,418	22,030	22,642	23,254	23,866
8	20,333	21,011	21,689	22,367	23,045	23,723	24,401	25,079	25,757	26,435
9	22,458	23,207	23,956	24,705	25,454	26,203	26,952	27,701	28,450	29,199
10	24,732	25,556	26,380	27,204	28,028	28,852	29,676	30,500	31,324	32,148
11	27,172	28,078	28,984	29,890	30,796	31,702	32,608	33,514	34,420	35,326
12	32,567	33,653	34,739	35,825	36,911	37,997	39,083	40,169	41,225	42,341
13	38,727	40,018	41,309	42,600	43,891	45,182	46,473	47,764	49,055	50,346
14	45,763	47,208	48,653	50,098	51,543	52,988	54,433	55,878	57,323	58,768
15	53,830	55,624	57,418	59,212	61,006	62,800	64,594	66,388	68,182	69,976
16	63,135	65,240	67,345	69,450	71,555*	73,660*	75,765*	77,870*	79,975*	
17	73,958*	76,423*	78,888*	81,353*	83,818*					
18	88,682*									

*The rate of basic payable to employees at these rates is limited to the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule, which would be \$70,800.

Don't Let

FLRE

Ignite
Your
Holidays



- Purchase only UL listed outdoor/indoor lights.
- Check and discard frayed strings of lights.
- Don't overload electrical circuits.
- Use flame-resistant decorations.
- Select a fresh live tree or non-flammable labeled artificial tree.

Water Resource Development Act of 1986

The following is a list of the projects, studies and other objectives that are included in the Water Resource Development Act of 1986 (H.R. 6):

MINNESOTA:

Redwood River, Marshall—FC—\$4,370,000.

Root River, Houston—FC—\$8,360,000.

So. Fork Zumbro River, Rochester—FC—\$61,500,000.

Mississippi River, St. Paul—FC—\$8,610,000.

Noyes and Emerson, Mainitoba—FC—\$250,000.

Sauk Lake and tributaries—Authorizes a program to remove silt and aquatic growth.

Red Lake River bank erosion—Authorizes a program to plan, design, and construct a streambank erosion control project.

Rainy River Basin—Authorizes feasibility studies in cooperation with Canada.

Burns Valley Creek, Winona—Authorizes a \$630,000 cost-sharing modification on two bridges for flood control project.

NORTH DAKOTA

Sheyenne River/Maple River—FC—\$56,300,000.

Park River, Grafton—FC—\$19,100,000.

Souris River, Lake Darling, Minot—Authorizes feasibility studies in cooperation with governments in Canada to study and construct reservoir projects for storage in the Souris River basin in Canada.

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin River, Portage—FC—\$7,590,000.

LaFarge Dam, Gays Mills/ Viola—FC—\$5,000,000.

MULTI-STATE

Upper Mississippi River Plan—Authorizes interstate agreements with the states of Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin for fish and wildlife habitat rehabilitation and enhancement, long-term resource monitoring, computerized inventory and analysis system, and recreational projects on the Upper Mississippi River system.

Cabin Site leases—Extends indefinitely cottage site leases in effect in December 1989 at fair market rental unless the property is needed for immediate public uses or the terms of the lease are violated.

(FC=flood control)

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District Engineer Col. Joseph Briggs
Chief, Public Affairs Ken Gardner
Editor Denise Yale

Draft plans discussed at public meeting

More than 200 people participated in a series of three combination workshops and public meetings held at the end of September and in early October along the Mississippi River. The three meetings were held in Winona, Minn., LaCrosse, Wis., and Lansing, Iowa, to present two draft plans supporting the Mississippi River master planning effort.

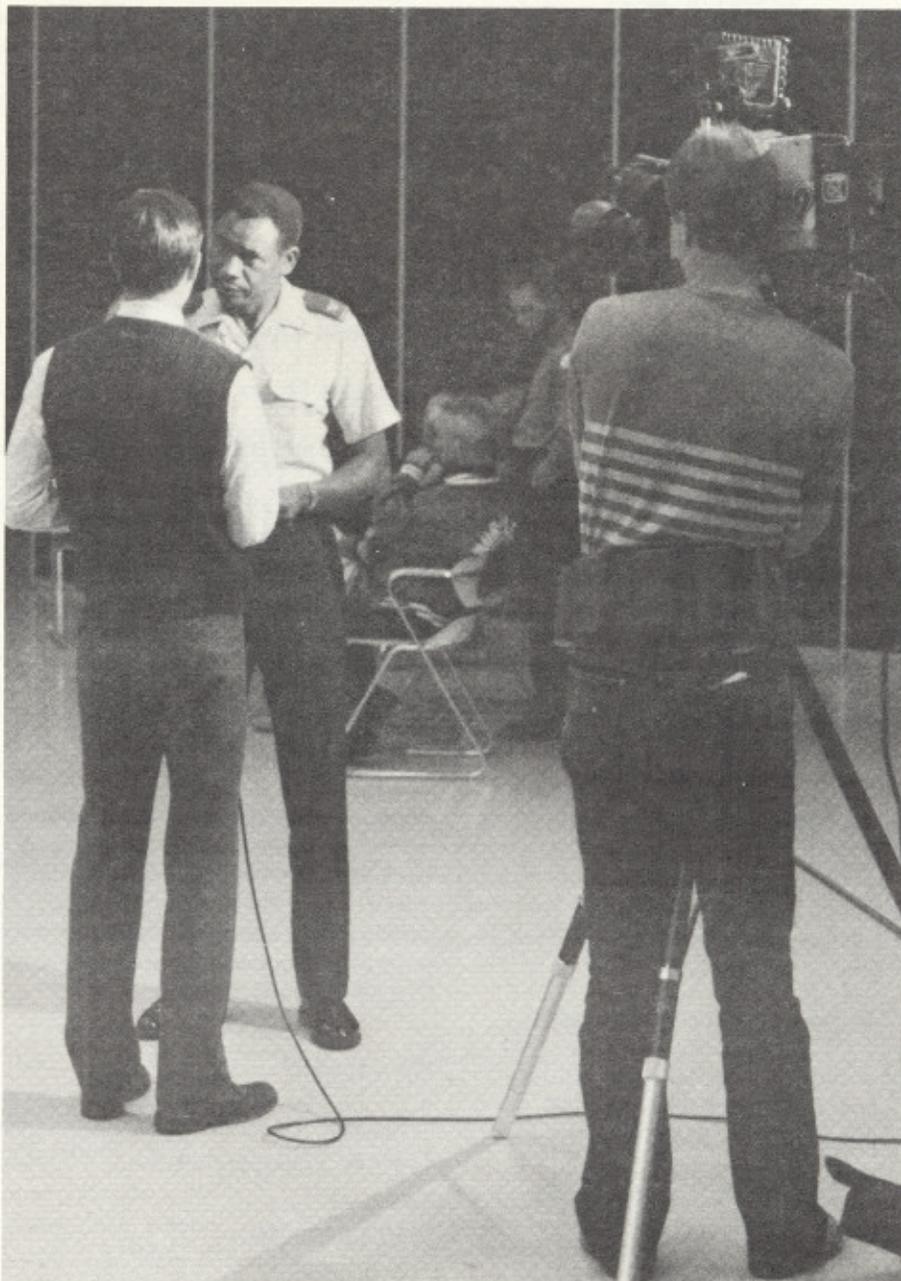
At each location people had an opportunity to learn more about the draft Shoreline Management Plan and the draft Plan of Development during workshop sessions. Each meeting also had a time for the public to make formal comments on each draft document.

The Shoreline Management Plan looks at how private facilities, such as docks, located on Corps-managed lands along the river will be managed in the future. The Plan of Development contains recommendations for managing public-oriented recreation facilities located on Corps lands along the river. The Plan of Development covered future plans for such facilities as parks, boat ramps and river access points.

During the workshops, people had an opportunity to review the plans, ask questions, talk to Corps employees about the plans and to make site-specific suggestions.

Ed McNally was assisted by Carol Nelson in conducting the workshop sessions on the Plan of Development. Both are landscape architects working in Planning's Economic-Social-Recreation Analysis Branch. Norma Malinowski, outdoor recreation planner in Natural Resources Management Section (CO-PO), and Dick Otto, park manager at the Mississippi River Project Office in LaCrescent, Minn., presented the Shoreline Management Plan and answered questions.

Col. Joe Briggs welcomed participants and presented an overview of the two plans and how each meeting would be conducted. He later chaired the public comment portion of each meeting.



Colonel Joe Briggs faced the bright lights and a television news camera while being interviewed during the public meeting in LaCrosse. The series of three meetings were covered by radio, television and newspapers in the three cities.

Plan of Development

The Land Use Allocation Plan (LUAP) was completed in 1983 and was the first volume of the district's Master Plan for Public Use and Resource Management that is intended to improve management of all federal lands along the Mississippi River. As a joint effort between the Corps and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the LUAP inventoried and allocated all Corps and FWS lands into five different land use categories: recreation—low density,

recreation—intensive, wildlife management, natural areas, and operations areas.

By working closely with the FWS while developing the LUAP, a balance was determined between recreation use and wildlife habitats that both the Corps and the FWS could agree on. "In that respect, the LUAP is a unique plan," said Ed McNally, project manager for the Plan of Development portion of the master plan.

"The LUAP also serves as an important

foundation for further studies by the Fish and Wildlife Service, such as the FWS Refuge Master Plan and the Corps Plan of Development that are now underway. The process of developing the LUAP also improved the working relationship between the Corps and the Fish and Wildlife Service," said Ed.

The Plan of Development, which is the second volume of the Corps Master Plan, is a long-range site-specific plan that

presents many recommendations for improved public recreation facilities and better management of Corps resources. The draft plan has identified 33 sites for future improvement. These are mostly existing recreation areas or public use areas at the locks and dams, but there are a few new ones that are under consideration.

"There could be additional sites added to the Plan of Development as a result of going to the public or we may decide after public and agency inputs are received that some of those 33 sites really shouldn't be developed or should be developed in some other way than we proposed in the draft plan," said Ed.

The purpose of the public meetings was to get additional comments from those who would be affected and to gather ideas on how the draft plan can be improved. "We've incorporated a lot of inter-agency inputs, in-house inputs and inputs from non-federal sponsors," said Ed. "In the case of non-federal operating sponsors, we have counties, municipalities or states that are already operating these recreation facilities for us and obviously, those



Carol Nelson, PD-ES, explains an item in the draft Plan of Development to one of the meeting attendees in LaCrosse.

More than 200 people attended the three meetings held in late September and early October.

groups need to have a strong input on what is to be done in the future. However, we also need to guide development by giving them some good guidance as to what im-

provements are appropriate."

It will be at least another year before the Plan of Development is finalized and approved by higher authorities.

Shoreline Management Plan

For years, property owners along the Mississippi River have been enjoying almost exclusive use of the federally-owned shore bordering their land. And, for years, federal administrators of the river have debated on how private use could be more effectively managed to benefit the public as a whole, and not the select few.

To outline ideas for an optimum use of the river resource, the St. Paul District is preparing a Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) that looks at private use of Corps lands and what procedures to follow, based on policies established in an earlier document, the Land Use Allocation Plan.

One aspect of use that has been particularly examined is the "grandfathering" of private privileges, such as for docks, as a means for the government to honor past commitments. This clause goes into effect in 1990, according to the current version of the draft SMP, and it would allow a lessee only to maintain the facility as it now exists. If, for instance, a dock were destroyed, the private owner would not be permitted to replace it.

As explained by Norma Malinowski, outdoor recreation planner, who has co-authored the plan with Dick Otto, upper Mississippi area manager, "if people sell

their property, there is no automatic transfer of any docks to the people who bought the property. Also, there is no provision for the docking privilege to be passed on to future generations of the owners; however, people do have the option of putting their property in the names of any heirs prior to 1990, which could carry the dock permit on for a generation or two."

In preparing the SMP, each area where private use occurs was looked at individually for a determination as to whether long-term private use should be allowed to continue. Certain areas were zoned for limited development which would allow the continuation of private use on a long-term basis; in other words, new docks permits can be issued. "These areas," Norma said, "have been determined to be less biologically sensitive, and therefore not critical to management of refuges, or other concerns."

In the more "sensitive" areas, the Corps would gradually reclaim certain strips of shoreline for higher priority uses such as wildlife management or public recreation.

"The trend has been toward more private use of the shoreline," Norma pointed out. "If, over the next twenty years, that development were to continue, it would be difficult to reclaim those areas for public use or wildlife purposes. Our current concern, is to control the use, particularly the private use, so that the values of this river system will be available for future needs."



Dick Otto, LaCrescent, and Norma Malinowski, CO-PO, respond to questions during one of the draft Shoreline Management Plan workshops held in

LaCrosse. Combination workshops and public meetings were held in Winona, LaCrosse and Lansing, Iowa.

Photos by Ken Gardner

Construction starts on Eau Claire air stripping facility

Construction of an air stripping facility in Eau Claire began the first week of November. The system is designed to remove volatile organic compounds that have contaminated the municipal well field.

The district is the construction manager for this Superfund project, under an interagency agreement between the Corps and the Environmental Protection Agency. Sue Howe, ED-M, is project manager and Doug Baird, Hastings Construction Office, is the project engineer.

Several wells in the northern municipal well field in Eau Claire were found to be contaminated in 1981. Low levels of volatile organic compounds (VOC's) were found in four of the 14 wells and recently, contamination in a fifth one was discovered. VOC's are a group of organic compounds that have a tendency to evaporate when exposed to air. The VOC's typically originate from manufacturing processes that use degreasers, dry cleaning fluids, etc.

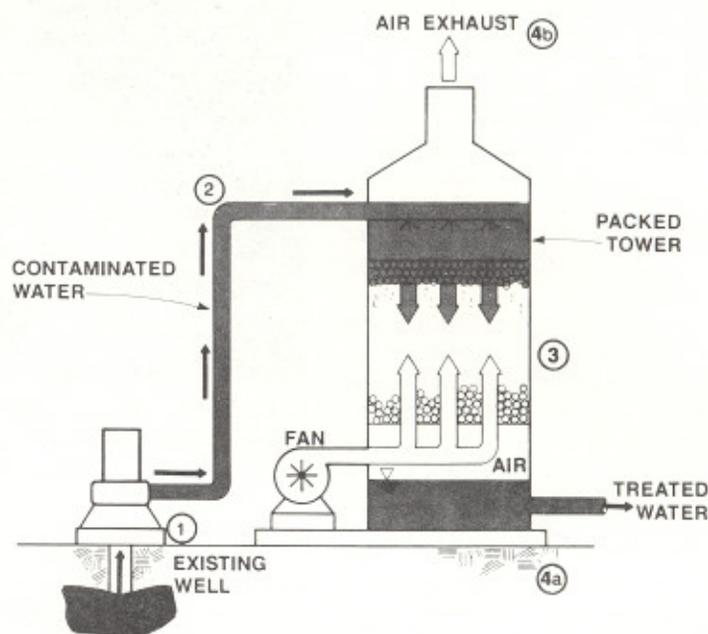
With the air stripping facility, water is pumped up through a chamber and then circulates down through a tower system containing packed plastic modules. As the water flows over the modules, it is exposed to air which causes the VOC's to evaporate. The water is then processed through the city's normal water treatment plant and distributed to city users.

Construction of the facility was originally scheduled to be completed in mid-1986 but ran into delays due to reduced funds and implementing remedial actions. "There is a health and safety plan that goes with any project like this that is very strict and it took awhile to implement that. However, the air monitoring on the site doesn't show that there is any contamination and there probably won't be any exposure to any type of contaminated substance since it tends to evaporate when exposed to air," Sue said.

The project has a built in preventive measure in case the contamination should spread to the other wells. "The facility is built so that if it's necessary, all the wells could be connected without further construction," Sue explained.

This initial action is designed to provide Eau Claire with a clean, reliable water supply. The source and the extent of the contamination is not known at this time but in-depth investigations are continuing.

Air Stripping Tower



An air stripping tower uses the natural tendency of volatile organic chemicals (VOC's) to separate from water and move into the air.

- 1 Contaminated groundwater withdrawn from aquifer using existing wells
- 2 Contaminated water distributed uniformly over loosely packed plastic modules
- 3 Water cascades down through the plastic modules. The droplets are exposed to air forced upward through the tower. This process provides for the efficient stripping or removal of volatiles from the water.
- 4a Clean water is pumped to conventional water treatment plant and then into distribution system.
- 4b Air mixed with a small percent of VOC's is released into the atmosphere.

OPM approves changes in life insurance

Washington (ARNEWS)—Federal employees who previously chose not to enroll in the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance program now may cancel that waiver and enroll at any age.

The Office of Personnel Management in Washington, D.C., recently approved a change in policy, effective July 14, that eliminates a restriction prohibiting employees who are at least 50 years old from canceling previous waivers and enrolling under the program. The age restriction had been in effect since the early days of the FEGLI program.

"These regulations eliminate one of the major restrictions on obtaining life insurance coverage under the FEGLI program," according to a summary in a recent copy of the federal register.

Over-50 employees now may cancel a waiver and become insured if at least one year has passed since the effective date of the waiver and if they provide satisfactory evidence of insurability. Such evidence usually consists of a doctor's signature on the insurance form.

Officials decided to change the regula-

tions because of legislative changes that have closed loopholes that previously allowed employees to enter the FEGLI program at the very end of their careers. By doing this, they were able to obtain the "free" post-retirement coverage without having contributed to the funding of such benefits while employed, according to the register.

In 1978, the FEGLI law was changed to require that employees participate in the program for a minimum of five years (or from their first opportunity, if less than five years) in order to continue the coverage during retirement.

Then, in 1980, amendments were approved that required employees retiring after December 31, 1989, to continue paying premiums until their 65th birthdays, the point at which the face value coverage begin to decline.

Employees under age 50 may cancel a waiver at any time provided at least one year has passed since the effective date of the waiver and they can show evidence of insurability.

Pump installation begins at Lake Pulaski

For homeowners around Lake Pulaski, relief is spelled "p-u-m-p".

The project that was developed to lower the rising lake level was awarded for construction on September 29th and work began on October 31st. Lake Pulaski has no natural outlet and the rising water has flooded more than 50 homes and is threatening an additional 50.

The project involves constructing a pump station and installing about 7,000 feet of pipeline. The finished pipeline will pump water from the Lake Pulaski into Buffalo Lake through an upgraded storm sewer that was built by Buffalo City, Minn. The pump will allow the lake level to be lowered and stabilized at an 966 feet. This is the elevation permitted by Minnesota State statutes and is one and a half feet below the natural high water mark. In

early November, the lake level was at 969 feet.

There has been much controversy involved due to the possible impact the pumping might have on downstream properties. "In order to proceed with the project," said Mary Schommer, project manager, "certain criteria for the operation of the pump were established through the Department of Natural Resources permit."

Some of the conditions which affect Lake Pulaski pumping include not pumping any time that Buffalo Lake's elevation is at 915.5 feet or above or there is an ice cover. Another condition is that Pulaski cannot be pumped below the 966 feet level set by the DNR.

Most of these criteria were based on the findings of a report done by Barr Engineering on the impact of pumping the water

downstream. "Barr Engineering did a very thorough study," said Mary. "It shows that the project is not going to impact the Buffalo Lake area and that we are not going to be adding any significant amount to the water level out there."

Lake Pulaski is a cost share project, with the local sponsor paying 25 per cent of the project cost. "It's really a savings for the federal government because they have already spent \$750,000 in flood insurance claims in the area. Although it looks like there is a lot of private gain, there's a lot of public gain involved with this one," Mary said.

Construction of the project should be completed by mid-February. The pump will be operated and maintained by the local sponsor, the Lake Pulaski Improvement District.

A Corps Christmas Carol

*'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the Corps
Everybody was eager to be out the door,
The maps and specs were all snug in their files
or scattered on desks in big heaps and piles,
From out of each office they came into the halls
avoiding their bosses and last minute calls,
But woe and alas, in the hall they did wait
it seemed that the elevators again would be late,
They stomped and they shuffled as they moved to and fro
they mumbled and grumbled as impatience did grow,
The red light went on and they pressed towards the door
but the door never opened as downward it soared,
Again they did wait, their impatience renewed
now they were many, not just a few,
Then a miracle did happen, as some thought it might
the red light lit up like a star in the night,
The door it slid open, the car empty and lit
they pushed and they shoved until in they all fit,
They each talked of things they had planned for the night
when somebody realized things were not right,
The button was pushed for the floor they had chose
but the door remained open, refusing to close,
The moans and the groans could be heard quite a ways
to get to the bottom would probably take days,
Out they did pile, again in the hall
pressing the button, another elevator to call,
One finally arrived and in they did go
the door slid shut, agonizingly slow,
It stopped at the next floor and the one after that
it took so long to descend that some took a nap,
The bottom was reached and they all crossed their fingers
but the door it slid open and none of them lingered,
In leaving they called to those left and then right
Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.*

(The author wishes to remain anonymous due to elevator retaliation.)



Around the district

By Ken Gardner
Public affairs

Many people know that Engineering Chief **Pete Fischer** plans to retire in early January. But the scoop of the week is that it is very likely that Pete will continue his long connection with the Corps as a rehired-annuitant on a part-time basis. He is still working out the details but if everything falls into place, Pete will be working for Engineering at the Chief's Office as a member of an efficiency review team which will be looking at how engineering divisions around the Corps operate.

By the way, Pete's retirement luncheon will be held on Dec. 29 at the St. Paul Athletic Club. Contact Peggy Peterson at ext. 7743 for reservations or additional information.

Taggatz is back.

Normally, the return of one employee to the district would warrant a mention here but not the ruffles and flourishes of a major pronouncement.

However, if you remember the first "Around the District" column I wrote several months ago, I mentioned that Harold's detail to OCE was a trigger for many of the temporary people changes listed in that first column. So true.

So Harold Taggatz is back in his job as assistant chief of Con-Ops. And because of Harold's return, **Jim Ruyak** is back at Remer, **Walt Hermerding** is back at Cross Lake, **Greg Struss** is back at Pokegama, **Dave Parsons** is back in Construction Branch, **Bruce Ragan** is back in Treatment Works Section and **Rick Rothbauer** is back at his normal job in CO-CT.

Now if we can just keep Harold at home for awhile, maybe we can keep track of who is working where.

Or maybe not. Even as I write this there are probably people changes in the making. Here's some more.

Randy Sitton has taken over the Milwaukee Treatment Works Project, replacing **Robert Doren**. Randy comes to the District mostly recently from Germany. He worked for Ft. Worth District

before going overseas. **Larry Rhea** has joined the Real Estate Office as a real estate specialist. Larry comes to St. Paul from Ft. Worth. Another sun-belter now fighting the below-freezing temperatures in St. Paul is **Bernie Miller**, the new staff internal auditor. Bernie worked for the St. Paul District before going down to the sunny Southwest so he no excuse for complaining about the cold.

Speaking of winter and cold, **Liz Sackett**, new recruiting specialist in Personnel, is fully familiar with sub-zero weather, the hazards of winter driving, and weight of winter clothes. She has just arrived from Anchorage, Alaska, where she worked for the Alaska District. She replaces **Linda Krueger** who has quit to stay home with her new baby.

What important gift can you give away to someone you'll never see or meet and yet never miss the gift? Three people at L/D #10 (and I'm sure others) know the answer. Lockmaster **Marvin Pedretti**, electrical repairman **John Christenson** and head operator **William Wolfe** all gave blood to the Red Cross Blood Mobile in October. A simple gift that can save a life.

Now let's cover a couple of in-house changes. **Joann Meier**, travel person in Logistics, is moving to EEO as **Marianne Price's** assistant. **Jan Oakleaf**, who was the A-E contracting support clerk in Project Management, is now working part-time in Personnel.

Finally, opportunity knocks for many of us but only those willing to take the risk and open the door get the pot of gold. **Ed Dahlen**, chief of Position Management and Classification in Personnel, tells me that he will be advertising an upward mobility position for a classification assistant. Watch for the vacancy announcement, dust off your SF-171, and become upwardly mobile. Like **Diane Utech**, who held the classification position until she transferred to Immigration Service regional office.

District honored for participation in FWP

The Twin Cities Federal Women's Program (FWP) awarded a certificate of appreciation to the St. Paul District on October 22nd. The Corps was among five other organizations that were honored for their contributions and support to the FWP.

Col. Joseph Briggs and Marianne Price (Equal Employment Opportunity Program) accepted the award for the district. They also expressed their appreciation and gratitude to Barbara Lemire-Higley, program support clerk in Design Branch, for her previous efforts on behalf of the FWP.

The award ceremony was held at the Ft. Snelling Employees Club.

Value engineering team receives award

Several Special Act Awards were given to the members of a value engineering team recently. The recipients included Glenn Engstrom, ED-M; Jeff Hansen, ED-GH; Mark Koenig, CO-CC; Karen Nagengast, PD-ES; Bruce Heide, PD-ES; and Dan Krumholz, CO-MA.

The recipients were cited for their exceptional performance on the value engineering study on the Pool No. 1 dredged material disposal site project. Their efforts resulted in the validated savings of \$1,124,500, an amount that by itself exceeded the district's 1986 fiscal year goal of \$1,075,000.

Value engineering (VE) is the analysis of a project to determine if costs can be reduced while maintaining the basic project functions. VE study teams normally consists of five members of different disciplines. If you have any questions, or would like to be on a VE study team, contact Tom Heyerman at ext. 5923.

