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Corps enforces policy to ban submersible pumps on area lakes

FORT WORTH, Texas – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Fort Worth District has issued a policy banning the use of submersible pumps for the purpose of withdrawing water for individual domestic use at Fort Worth District Lakes. Corps representatives are currently sending personal letters to permit holders authorized to place the pumps on Corps property.

“Our overall goal is to reduce the potential for unnecessary accidents at our area lakes,” stated Col. Richard J. Muraski, Jr., commander of the Fort Worth District. “Part of that involves informing local homeowners, lake users and the general public of the potential electrocution hazards associated with the use of submersible pumps on water bodies where swimmers and boaters are present.”

The Corps through consultation with Underwriters Laboratories has determined that since submersible pumps currently are not UL rated for use in marine environments where swimmers and waders may be present, the use of submersible pumps for the purpose of withdrawing water for individual domestic use at Fort Worth District Lakes is prohibited.

Corps lake managers will work with current waterline permit holders to enforce the new policy and ensure the safety of their lake visitors.

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About the Fort Worth District: The Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was established in 1950. The District is responsible for water resources development in two-thirds of Texas, and design and construction at military installations in Texas and parts of Louisiana and New Mexico. Visit the Fort Worth District Web site at: www.swf.usace.army.mil.