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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Corps continues enforcement of policy to ban submersible pumps on area lakes

FORT WORTH, Texas – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Fort Worth District continues enforcement of its Jan 20 2010 policy that bans the use of pumps that are *non-compliant* with standards set by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) for the purpose of withdrawing water for individual domestic use at Fort Worth District Lakes.

This ban further enforces guidelines that have always been in place for requirements for private water line installation at any Fort Worth District Lake. Those guidelines specify that 'a pump shall be approved by Underwriters Laboratory, installed in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations, and wired in accordance with all provisions of the latest edition of the National Electrical Code – NEPA 70 (NEC); wiring methods for wet locations shall be used; and pumps may not be rated more than 220 volts. Permit holders signed-off on these guidelines in order to receive their original permits.

Corps representatives are completing notification by personal letter to permit holders who were originally authorized to place the pumps on Corps property and stress that even if a permit holder has not yet received a letter, the ban is still in effect, will be enforced and must be complied with.

While the Corps acknowledges the inconvenience the ban may pose to some local homeowners, the general public's safety must and will always come first.

"Our overall goal is to reduce the potential for 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."

Corps representatives and lake managers are encouraging permit holders to explore compliant and safe alternatives to the banned pumps such as multi-jet or centrifugal pumps and will continue to inform them and the public of the policy to ensure their safety.

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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.

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