

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

PROJECT NAME AND STATE: Town Bluff Dam, B. A. Steinhagen Lake, and the Robert Douglas Willis Hydropower Project, Texas

AUTHORIZATION: Rivers and Harbors Act of 1945, PL 79-14.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA:

	<u>O&M</u>
Estimated Federal Cost	\$3,081,000
Budget Request for FY 2007	2,694,000
Tentative FY 2007 Work Plan Allocation	2,542,000 1/
Budget Request for FY 2008	3,081,000
Amount that Could be Used in FY 2008	7,446,000

1/ Final amount is subject to change, and will not be known until the Joint Continuing Resolution is passed by both the House and Senate, and final allocations are provided.

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: Town Bluff Dam, B. A. Steinhagen Lake and the Robert Douglas Willis Hydropower Project are located in Tyler and Jasper Counties, on the Neches River, one-half mile from the city of Town Bluff, Texas. The project consists of an earthfill dam (6,698 feet long and 45 feet high), which serves as an uncontrolled spillway by being covered with six inches of reinforced concrete. The gated spillway has six (40-foot x 35-foot gates) and two (4-foot x 6-foot) gate-controlled conduit outlet facilities. Town Bluff serves as a re-regulating dam for Sam Rayburn power generation water releases. Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA) is permitted to make withdrawals not to exceed 2,000 CFS from Town Bluff. Ten recreation areas comprise 2,185 acres. 2006 visitation - 3,171,644 visitor hours.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2007: Scheduled O&M activities.

APPLICATION OF THE AMOUNT THAT COULD BE USED IN FY 2008:

Additional repair to main dam embankment	\$2,000,000
Control of noxious aquatic vegetation	450,000
Repair cellular cofferdam	500,000
Pave access road and campsite pads Magnolia Ridge Park	500,000
Construct four screen shelters in Campers Cove Park	160,000
Upgrade of electrical service in Sandy Creek Park	135,000
Replace restroom in East End Park	100,000
Apply forest herbicides on 1500 acres	155,000
Management/curation of archeological/cultural resources	
environmental stewardship areas	29,000
Management of natural resources of environmental	
stewardship areas	102,000
Pest management of environmental stewardship areas	111,000
Purchase recloser switch for spare	50,000
Replace cooling water pumps	73,000

ISSUES AND OTHER INFORMATION: Repair to recreation facilities, management of natural resources, and environmental clean-up will bring facilities up to the Corps of Engineers Justified Level of Service standards and meet public expectations, prevent destruction of the natural resources and wildlife habitat at the lake, and accomplish the Corps of Engineers mission of environmental stewardship. A lack of funding will adversely impact the recreational experience of the public, prevent protection of the natural resources and wildlife habitat, and endanger the environment around the lake. Failure to fund the additional repair to the main dam embankment threatens the integrity of the structure and may result in loss of the spillway. The LNVA is the local sponsor for water supply. Construction started in 1947 and impoundment in April 1951. A non-Federally funded, Federally operated hydropower addition was completed in FY 1990. The Sam Rayburn Municipal Power Agency was the local sponsor. Additional funds in the amount of \$150,000 were allocated through Investment Program in FY 1994.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: The Administration supports this project.

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Congressman Brady, TX-8.