



Missouri Department of

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Eric R. Greitens, Governor

Carol S. Comer, Director

JUL 26 2017

Mr. Bradley M. Scott
General Manager
North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission
201 N. Market Street
Milan, MO 63556

Re: East Locust Creek Reservoir

Dear Mr. Scott:

I am writing you today to convey the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' (Department) continued support for the East Locust Creek Reservoir project. I commend you, your staff, and the North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission (Commission) on your efforts and commitment to developing a long-term solution to the water supply needs of North Central Missouri.

As you are aware, surface water supplies in the 10-county region of North Central Missouri are vulnerable to drought, and the use of groundwater in northern Missouri is limited, not only because of a lack of quantity, but also because of its poor quality. The 2,352 acre East Locust Creek Reservoir would provide a much needed reliable, long-term water supply in northern Missouri.

The Department's Water Resource Center independent analysis, using the USDA Agricultural Research service model "RESOP", demonstrated a firm yield of 6.8 million gallons per day for East Locust Creek Reservoir. Based on the Department's current evaluation of the project and after reviewing the draft Project Purpose and Need Statement (January 7, 2016) the Department agrees that the current design yield of 7.0 million gallons per day is appropriate and should be utilized as the final design capacity for the reservoir.

In support of the Commission's efforts and the East Locust Creek Reservoir project, the State of Missouri has invested more than \$7 million towards securing this much needed regional water supply project. It is the Department's understanding that the Commission has nearly completed land acquisition, has begun preparing the lake bed and is awaiting full completion of the permit process.

Once the permit process is complete, the Commission has indicated that it intends to apply for a USDA Rural Development loan to pay for a majority of the remaining project costs; however, the loan cannot be secured until all permitting is fully complete.



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In closing, the Department looks forward to the full completion of the permit process and remains committed to supporting the East Locust Creek Reservoir project.

Sincerely,

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Carol S. Comer
Director

cc: Mr. Mark Frasier, USACE, KC District
Colonel Douglas B. Guttormsen, USACE, KC District