

JIM COOPER
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OVERSIGHT AND
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 12, 2015

Lt. Col. Stephen F. Murphy
Nashville District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
110 9th Ave. S.
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Dear Lt. Col. Murphy:

It was nice seeing you in Washington a few weeks ago. It's important that we continue to work together and protect federal resources like the Old Hickory Dam.

I was glad to learn from your *Tennessean* op-ed that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting its own independent analysis of the blasting impact on Old Hickory Dam.

My office's preliminary look into the Industrial Land Developers' report raised two major concerns. First, ILD's report contains either a misprint or miscalculation for the "worst case scenario" calculation (page 5). If your analysis uses the report's "worst case scenario" formula, your vibration levels may be miscalculated. Second, the report fails to calculate vibration levels to the earthen dam which you maintain. Once calculated, these levels seem to be higher than permitted under Tennessee Blasting Standards to the approximate center of the earthen dam, and much higher at shorter distances.

I am requesting a full copy of your analysis and information regarding the following:

1. Was your analysis based upon ILD's "Assessment and Modeling of Blast-induced Vibration and Airblast for the Quarry Project on Burnett Road" (see attached)?
2. Please list detailed conditions used for your vibration analysis (specific magnitude, frequency, duration, etc.).
3. Did your analysis confirm ILD's findings for the "worst case scenario"?
4. Did your analysis include vibration calculations to the earthen dam?
5. Was your vibration analysis conducted using site-specific information for both Old Hickory Dam and the adjacent earthen dam?
6. Please provide the latest piezometer readings for the earthen dam.
7. Please specify what other "impacts to aquatic resources" were reviewed.

Thank you for your attention to these matters. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress