



1968-1977

The seventh decade of the

Kansas City District

World Events

1968

Lt. Gen. William F. Cassidy, Chief of Engineers, says "Perhaps our greatest deficiency in the past has been our inability to identify and measure the impacts water resources developments have on social and environmental values, and on local and regional economies."

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act creates a national system of undeveloped rivers.

Flood Control Act authorizes two multiple-purpose lakes, Longview and Blue Springs, and channel modification on the Little Blue River Basin in Jackson County, Mo.

1969

Perry Lake in Kansas and Stockton Lake in Missouri are placed in operation, although work continues until 1973.

Kansas City District completes the Rathbun dam and reservoir on the Chariton River in Iowa.

"The complexity of the water resources management field has been growing at a rapid pace, with new concepts and interests appearing in a continuing stream. We are facing new problems, as well as new opportunities," Gen. Cassidy said.

1970

The authorized Kaysinger Bluff Dam and Reservoir, Osage River basin, Mo., is officially renamed by Congress to the Harry S. Truman Dam and Reservoir.

Pres. Richard M. Nixon signs the National Environmental Policy Act and the Corps responds with Environmental Guidelines for the Civil Works Program.

Congress passes an Omnibus Water Resources Act which includes Title I: The River and Harbor Act and Title II: the Flood Control Act.

Flood Control Act authorizes four multiple-purpose lakes to be constructed in the upper Blue River basin, three in Kansas and one in Missouri.

Kansas City District is no longer responsible for military design and construction work.

1971

Corps and EPA agree on division of responsibilities to provide state and local governments' expertise to implement congressionally mandated pollution abatement programs.

1972

Congress passes Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments (PL 92-500, the "Clean Water Act").

Melvern Lake is placed in operation.

Secretary of the Army approves contracts for local cooperation for water supply storage and recreation developments at Smithville Lake.

Clinton dam and reservoir, located at Lawrence, Kansas, authorized in 1962 and appropriations made in 1971, is placed in active construction status by the District.

Levees and channel improvement on the Little Chariton River, at its mouth upstream on the Missouri River from Glasgow, Mo., are essentially completed.

The Environmental Defense Fund files suit against the Kansas City District alleging violations of NEPA at Harry S. Truman Dam and Reservoir.

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Kansas City District

1973

Kansas City District begins construction on Smithville dam and reservoir, Little Platte River, Mo. Damaging floods occur on upper Kansas River watershed.

Congress approves by resolution the Kansas River navigation project for a distance of 9.33 miles from the mouth of the river upstream.

Kansas City District completes environmental assessment of the Sec. 208 local protection project on the Elk Creek at Clyde, Kan.

South Topeka unit local protection work, the last of several in this capital city of Kan., is completed as authorized in the 1954 Flood Control Act.

City of Lawrence, Kan., requests Kansas City District to work cooperatively to develop recreation plans and facilities for Stages I and II local protection project initially authorized in 1954.

Congress appropriates funds for construction of Hillsdale dam and reservoir on the Marais des Cyngnes (Osage) basin in Kansas, and allocates the funds to FY1974.

Stockton Lake is officially completed and the power operation encounters problems.

Kansas City District initiates construction of Long Branch dam and reservoir on the Little Chariton River in Missouri.

Congress appropriates funds to construct the Little Blue River channel modification and the Kansas City District begins construction in 1974.

Kansas City District begins a reanalysis of the Grand River basin to determine the effects of changed economic conditions and impacts on the feasibility of authorized lakes or local protection projects.

1974

Construction is initiated on Hillsdale dam and reservoir.

Corps and EPA define their relationship regarding water pollution management responsibilities.

Jackson County, Mo., approves a recreation cost-sharing contract for the Little Blue River Lakes, which the Secretary of the Army later approves.

Kansas City District, in cooperation with the state of Missouri and other agencies, completes a study to determine the advisability of providing additional improvements for flood control on the Osage River basin.

The Corps places channel modifications on the Platte River and the Little Platte River, Missouri and Iowa, in the inactive category.

1975

Kansas City District initiates “riverine habitat and floodway restoration” program as part of Missouri River Stabilization and Navigation project.

1976

Corps and EPA achieve a memorandum of understanding on water quality regulations.

President-elect James Earl “Jimmy” Carter promises to “end the unnecessary construction of dams by the Corps of Engineers.”