



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HUNTINGTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
502 EIGHTH STREET
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25701-2070

CELRH-DE

31 August 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR Chief, Operations and Readiness Division

SUBJECT: Policy on Use of Manned Submersible Vessels for Recreational Use on Corps Lakes Within the Huntington District

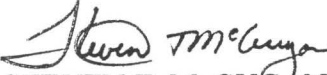
1. The District Commander's Directive to Operations, dated 9 September 2011, subject: Interim Policy Restricting the Operation of Submarine and other Submersible Vessels on Corps Lakes within the Boundaries of the Huntington District, is rescinded and replaced with this policy memorandum.
2. For the purposes of this policy, a "manned submersible vessel" is defined as a vessel or vehicle that can be submerged and navigated under water, and is manufactured or operated primary for pleasure; [See 46 U.S.C. 2101 (25)(A)].
3. Operation of manned submersible vessels shall be permitted on all Corps Lakes within the Huntington District, except in the following areas:
 - a. Areas designated as "restricted to vessels", normally delineated by buoys;
 - b. Within one hundred (100) feet from any critical infrastructure not designated with buoys. Critical infrastructure includes, but is not limited to; dams, dam intake structures and gates, water supply intakes, water gauges, bridge piers, or similar items as determined by the Lake/Resource Manager;
 - c. Within one hundred (100) feet of boat ramps (except for ingress and egress), controlled swimming areas, marina areas, and fishing piers;
 - d. Designated hazard areas;
 - e. Heavily traveled boat lanes;
 - f. Narrow channels;
 - g. Areas where visibility is obscured; and
 - h. Other areas as deemed necessary by the Lake/Resource Manager.
4. The provisions of paragraph 3 shall not apply to contractors or emergency personnel engaged in demolition, salvage, construction, rescue or repair work in the regular course of their business.

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5. Appropriate surface support is required to be in the vicinity of the manned submersible vessel(s) at all times during the duration of the operation at the lake. This includes having adequate communication between surface support and subsurface operation.
6. The operator shall provide the following to the Lake/Resource Manager, at the lake where they intend to operate:
 - a. Written/mailed notification submitted in the form of a "dive plan". See attached Dive Plan Notification format Appendix A, which includes required timeframes established jointly by OR and SM.
 - b. A "safety plan" that identifies safety issues and recommended resolutions for all aspects of the dive operation, both on-shore and on-water. For an example of a safety plan, operators may consult online resources including, but not limited to the "Operating Guidelines for Personal Submersibles" available at WWW.PSUBS.ORG.
 - c. An "emergency plan" describing the process or procedures to be used in the event of an emergency situation on-shore or in the water. For an example of an emergency plan, operators may consult online resources including, but not limited to the "Operating Guidelines for Personal Submersibles", available at WWW.PSUBS.ORG.
7. The operator must adhere to all Federal and state laws applicable to vessels while operating on the surface of the lake.
8. The operator must adhere to all Federal and state laws applicable to scuba diving when operating below the lake surface, including the proper displaying of a diver down flag.
9. POC for this policy is Mr. Jack Nichol at 304-399-6989.

Encl


STEVEN T. MCGUGAN
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commanding



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Huntington District

Dive Plan Notification (Appendix A)

Operators of manned submersible vessels being used for recreational purposes on Corps lakes in the Huntington District must provide the following information five days prior to the dive date to the Lake/Resource Manager at the lake where they intend to operate. Operators are encouraged to call the Lake/Resource Manager well in advance of their dive dates to discuss their dive plans and obtain an email address or fax number to forward this notification. Operators can obtain Lake Phone numbers from the Districts' website at www.lrh.usace.army.mil/ under Locations. This notification form is also available on the website under Recreation – Rules and Regulations or from the Lake/Resource Manager.

1. Name of operator and other persons participating:

2. Contact Information (Name, phone #, email, and mailing address):

3. Date(s) of Operation:

4. Intended boat ramp(s) to be used:

5. Location of intended dive site(s):

6. Description of submersible vessel(s):

7. Description of any support vessel(s):

Note: Safety and Emergency Plans must be submitted to the Lake/Resource Manager two days prior to the dive date.