

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
POLLUTION CONTROL AND ECOLOGY

MINUTE ORDER NO. 74-54

LOCATION: SUBJECT: Approval

of Fourche Bayou Project

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The Commission hereby approves Plan VI of the Fourche Bayou Project as proposed by the Corps of Engineers and the requested modification outlined in the attached letter to Colonel Donald G. Weinart, District Engineer, Corps of Engineers, Little Rock from Trusten H. Holder, Chief, Environmental Preservation.

COMMISSIONERS

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Chairman

Trusten H.

Submitted by: Holder Date passed: 12-6-74



STATE OF ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF POLLUTION CONTROL AND ECOLOGY
8001 NATIONAL DRIVE
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72209

November 26, 1974

501 371-1701 GEN. OFF.
501 371-1136 AIR DIV.

Colonel Donald G. Weinert
District Engineer, Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 867
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203

Dear Colonel Weinert:

The Department of Pollution Control and Ecology Commission, at its Executive Meeting on October 25, 1974 considered the various proposals for solution to the flood problems in the Fourche Bayou area. The Commission endorsed, with some modification, Plan VI as proposed by the Corps of Engineers.

Plan VI is in general accord with the recommendations which the Commission had approved when it held its initial discussion of the Fourche Bayou Project at its March 29, 1974 meeting. At that time the Commission recognized that some channelization, both on the upper and lower portions of the basin, would be necessary to solve flood problems in the urban areas. The Commission requested that the large overflow and mostly timbered central portion of the basin be reserved for flood flows and retained as woodlands. It was also requested that a special effort be made to preserve mature cypress including those growing in the portion of the basin to be channelized.

We are highly pleased that the excellent planning work by the Corps of Engineers, plus the nature of the flood problems and the natural conditions within the basin, has enabled the environmental preservation features to be given such favorable consideration in Plan VI. We are also pleased that Plan VI also includes adequate provisions for alleviating the flooding of the urban portions of the basin.

The modifications to Plan VI which the Commission requests are:

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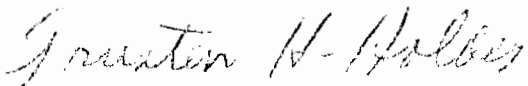
1. Retain as much woodlands as possible within the overflow bottoms located downstream from Highway 167 even though the channelization may extend upstream to Highway 167.
2. Extend the land to be acquired adjacent to the channels further than the 100 to 200 ft. width as proposed where ever such extension is necessary to include all of a cypress brake, borrow pit or other special feature of either recreational or environmental significance.

The Department of Pollution Control and Ecology believes that the quality of the environment in the area encompassed by the Corps Project for the Fourche Basin can be improved dramatically. Most of this area, especially that portion downstream from University Avenue, has become heavily polluted with trash and other solid wastes. Yet it has the potential of becoming a highly attractive and useful recreational area.

Some time ago this Department initiated a program aimed at cleaning up the general area. The program also included provisions of public fishing and other outdoor recreation through the cooperation of the city, the Game and Fish Commission, the State Highway Department, the local industries and other local interests.

We are pleased that the study of the basin by the Corps has also emphasized the opportunities which exists to change what many people consider to be a sordid and useless area into one that is attractive and useful.

Sincerely,



Trusten H. Holder, Chief
Environmental Preservation

THH/id
