

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2018

Col. Calvin C. Hudson, II
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
District Commander Ft. Worth District
P.O. Box 17300
Ft. Worth, TX 76102-0300

Brig. Gen. Paul E. Owen
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Commander Southwest Division
1100 Commerce Street, Suite 831
Dallas, TX 75242-1317

Re: Implementation of Contract No. DACW29-68-A-0103 - Contract between the United States of America and the City of Texarkana, Texas for Municipal and Industrial Water Supply Storage Space in Texarkana Reservoir (Wright Patman Lake)

Dear Brig. Gen. Owen and Col. Hudson:

This letter is a request for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to complete a funding agreement with the local sponsor Riverbend Water Resources District (RWRD) on behalf of the City of Texarkana, Texas to complete the development of certain obligations associated with the Cultural and Environmental Resources Study in connection with implementation of the Ultimate Rule Curve under Contract No. DACW29-68-A-0103 ("Permanent Contract").

Water supply is a very critical issue for me and my constituents in northeast Texas. In fact, Wright Patman Lake is the sole source of water for many in this region of Texas. As such, full and expeditious implementation of the aforementioned contract is vital to this region. As you are aware, this contract was executed in 1968 – 50 years ago this year. There are a variety of possible reasons why the Permanent Contract has not been implemented to-date; however, the obligation still remains and any further delay of implementation is becoming extremely costly to the local sponsor.

Beginning in 2015, the region through RWRD and the City of Texarkana re-initiated efforts with the Corps, both with the Fort Worth District Office and the Dallas Southwest Division Office, to move forward with implementation of the Permanent Contract. In fact, RWRD provided \$50,000 toward this effort on February 27, 2017. Additionally, the Corps, some time ago, developed initial cost estimates for moving forward with National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) studies associated with implementation of this contract. Meetings have been held between the Corps, RWRD, and the City of Texarkana periodically since 2015 on this effort. While the meetings appear at the time to be productive, results do not follow. In fact, at the last meeting in early November the Corps indicated a funding agreement would be provided shortly, if not at the latest by the end of the 2017 year. Nothing has been provided. RWRD has funds available for the

non-federal costs of this effort and views this funding agreement as a key initial step in moving forward to get this contract implemented. RWRD has also conducted a regional water analysis to determine the future water needs of the region. The study substantiated that the region needs this water and the importance of getting this contract fully implemented.

While I understand significant effort will be required to complete the studies necessary to fully implement the NEPA requirements of this contract, completion of the funding agreement will be an initial step. I request the Corps to complete and provide this funding agreement to RWRD within 30 days. Also, please provide me with copies of any correspondence on this matter. Understand, timely completion of all efforts to implement the Permanent Contract are critical to meeting the water needs of Northeast Texas and I ask that it be a high priority of the Corps.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Ratcliffe". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress

cc: Mark Mazzanti, Programs Director, Southwestern Division
Becky Moyer, Chief, Civil Works Integration Division, Programs Directorate,
Southwestern Division
Eric Verwers, Deputy District Engineer for Project Management, Fort Worth District