

Study Request: Minimum Leesville Lake Water Level Management

References: AEP PAD: Sec. 3.0 C. 2, 5, 9; D. 4; F, G. 1,2
FERC SD1: 4.2.2; 4.2.3; 4.2.5

Overview: Water levels in Leesville Lake of less than 604' elevation produce dangerous conditions to users of the lake and are destructive of the aquatic habitat. Study of the impact of limiting operation of the project below an elevation of 604' on Leesville Lake is needed.

Goals, objectives and information to be obtained

Limiting the minimum level of Leesville Lake to 604' elevation will improve water safety and the aquatic habitat of the project. The proposed study will investigate the impact on AEP operations of placing a limit on the minimum elevation of Leesville Lake at 604'. The benefits and costs will be compared to determine if an acceptable balance would exist to impose this limit on normal project operations. Additionally, modification of other operations parameters could be considered to offset this minimum water level limit such as increasing the maximum water level limit.

Resource management goals

N/A

Public interest considerations

Reestablishing the minimum water level during normal operations would benefit the public in many ways. Water safety would improve, safety of livestock using the lake would be enhanced, the ability of surrounding communities to use the lake as a water source would increase, aquatic life would improve, and the overall value of the properties surrounding the lake would increase.

Existing information and the need for additional information

The impact on AEP operations should be readily available from AEP historical records. It is recommended that the Tri-County Re-licensing Committee (TCRC) prepare an estimate of the increase in value to the surrounding communities of using a 604' minimum water elevation on Leesville Lake. A

comparison of cost/benefit could be made by an independent entity.

Explain any nexus between the project operations and effects and how the study results would develop license requirements

The new minimum water level would be added to the project operating license.

Explain proposed study methodology and schedule

The study can easily be performed using desk-top analyses within a short period of time and subsequently included in the re-licensing process.

Describe level of effort and cost

AEP should be able to easily estimate the cost of providing replacement power lost from the project due to an increase in the minimum water level at Leesville Lake. The TCRC is a local government entity and the cost associated with it studying the benefits to be gained by increasing the minimum water level at Leesville Lake should be on the order of 2 person months.