BOLIVAR DAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. QUESTION: Will the Dam Fail?
ANSWER: Unlikely prior to the implementation of repairs and improvements. As referenced in the Bolivar Dam Safety Assurance History, Bolivar dam has seepage problems and through previous analysis was thought to be safe through pool elevations up to and including 949 feet, or 54 feet on the Bolivar dam gage, however due to several unexpected artesian-type boils that occurred at pool elevations of 935-936 feet during the March 2008 event, future safe operating elevations may be somewhat less. Pools above these elevations do not necessarily mean imminent dam failure, rather concerns regarding the possibility of a dam failure increase as pool elevations rise above these thresholds. Note that an extreme rain event or series of events is required to raise pool elevations to 936' and beyond. January 2005 was the worst storm event since the dam was built 70 years ago, and, following various interim risk reduction measures, the dam can likely manage storms of similar magnitude.

2. QUESTION: Will the Dam still Provide Flood Protection (aka Flood Damage Reduction)?
ANSWER: Yes. The dam will still reduce downstream flood damage by reducing peak flows. The dam will continue to provide downstream flood damage reduction against rainfall events similar to what has historically occurred since the dam's completion in 1937.

3. QUESTION: Will We get Flooded More Often?
ANSWER: Not likely. Although the possibility exists, there is a low likelihood of experiencing downstream inundation worse than experienced in January 2005 for the period prior to completion of the major rehabilitation improvements. The Corps will operate the dam within a safe range of pool elevations. In order to do so, during extreme events, the Corps may be required to release water above the current downstream flood control levels.

4. QUESTION: Are Dam Improvements Planned?
ANSWER: Yes. Planning is ongoing. Pending continued funding, the current schedule of construction is anticipated to begin in 2011 and should be fully rehabilitated and operational between 2014 to 2016.

5. QUESTION: Who will Pay for Bolivar Dam Improvements?
ANSWER: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will pay for 77% of the construction costs of the repairs and improvements to Bolivar Dam. Subject to executing a project cooperation agreement (PCA), the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District will pay 23% of the study costs and construction costs of the repairs and improvements to Bolivar Dam.

6. QUESTION: What is Being Done to Reduce Risk Prior to the Major Rehabilitation Improvements? ANSWER: The Corps is evaluating and

implementing various Interim Risk Reduction Measures (IRRM). The “final” primary solution is to install a seepage barrier blanket which will prevent the flow of under-seepage beneath the dam.

7. QUESTION: Once Improvements Are Made, What’s the New Likelihood of the Dam Failing?
ANSWER: Once repaired, extremely unlikely throughout a person’s lifetime. The dam will theoretically be able to withstand a 10,000 year storm event without failing. This translates into about a 0.01% chance any given year.

8. QUESTION: Who owns Bolivar Dam?
ANSWER: The Bolivar Dam is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

9. QUESTION: Who operates the Bolivar Dam?
ANSWER: The Bolivar Dam is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District.

10. QUESTION: Who Maintains the Bolivar Dam and How is the Maintenance Funded?
ANSWER: The Bolivar Dam is maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District. The maintenance for the Bolivar Dam is 100% federally funded. These funds come from the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) budget of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District.