

**REPORT OF THE 1990-1991  
CAMP GROUND LAKE TASK FORCE**

**RESEARCH MEMORANDUM NO. 459**

**LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION**

**February, 1992**



# **REPORT OF THE 1990-1991 CAMP GROUND LAKE TASK FORCE**

## **Task Force Membership:**

**Senator Ed O'Daniel, Co-chair  
Representative Kenny Rapier, Co-chair**

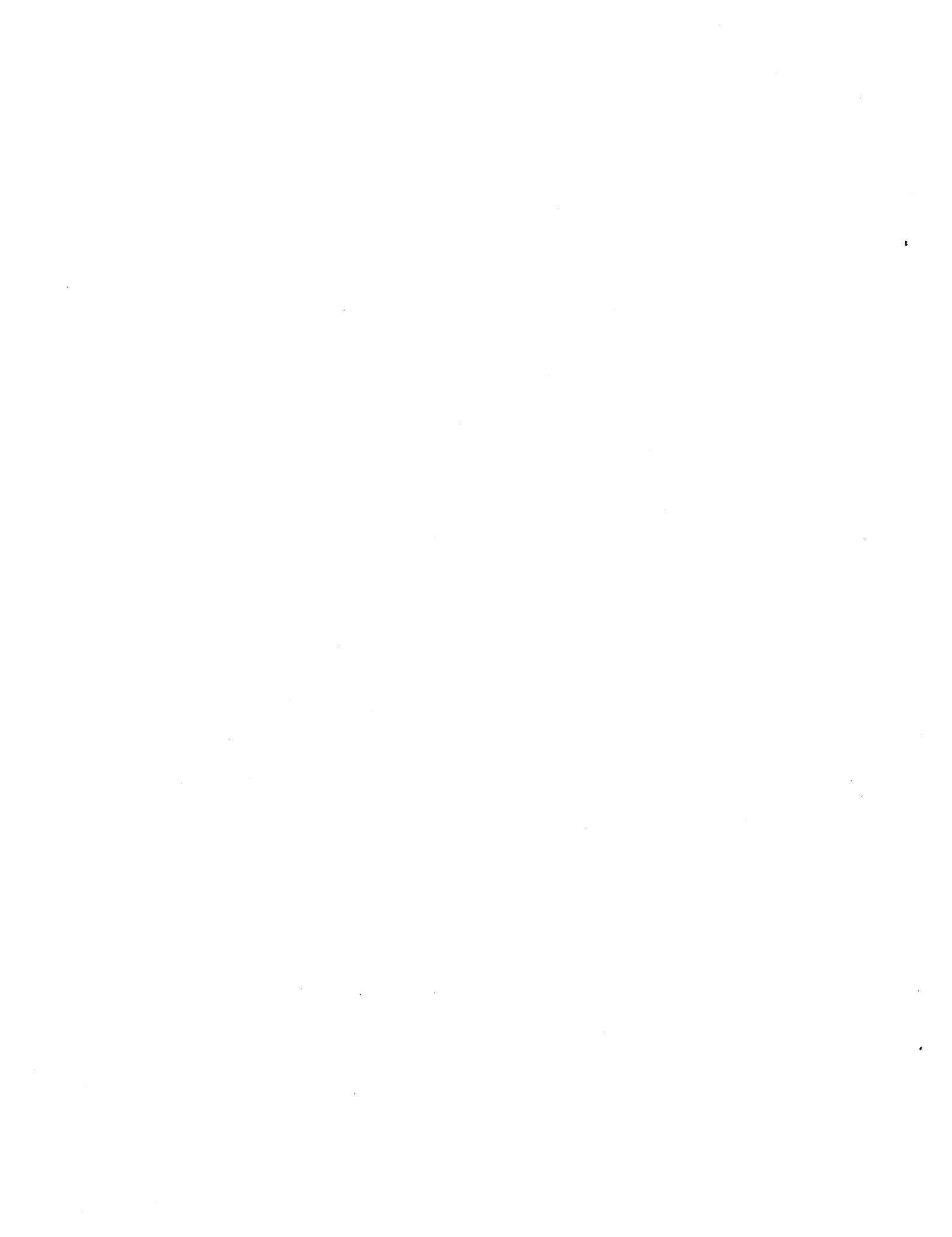
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Senator Bill Clouse  
Representative David Hourigan  
Representative John Harper  
Representative Tom Jones  
Judge Mike Abell  
Judge Robert A. Brady  
Judge Paul Catlett  
Judge Merriell Mattingly  
Ms. Alice Snider  
Mr. Gene Spragens**

## **LRC Staff:**

**Linda Kubala  
Alice Downey  
Diana Lynn Hill**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Vic Hellard, Jr., Director  
Legislative Research Commission

**FROM:** Linda Kubala

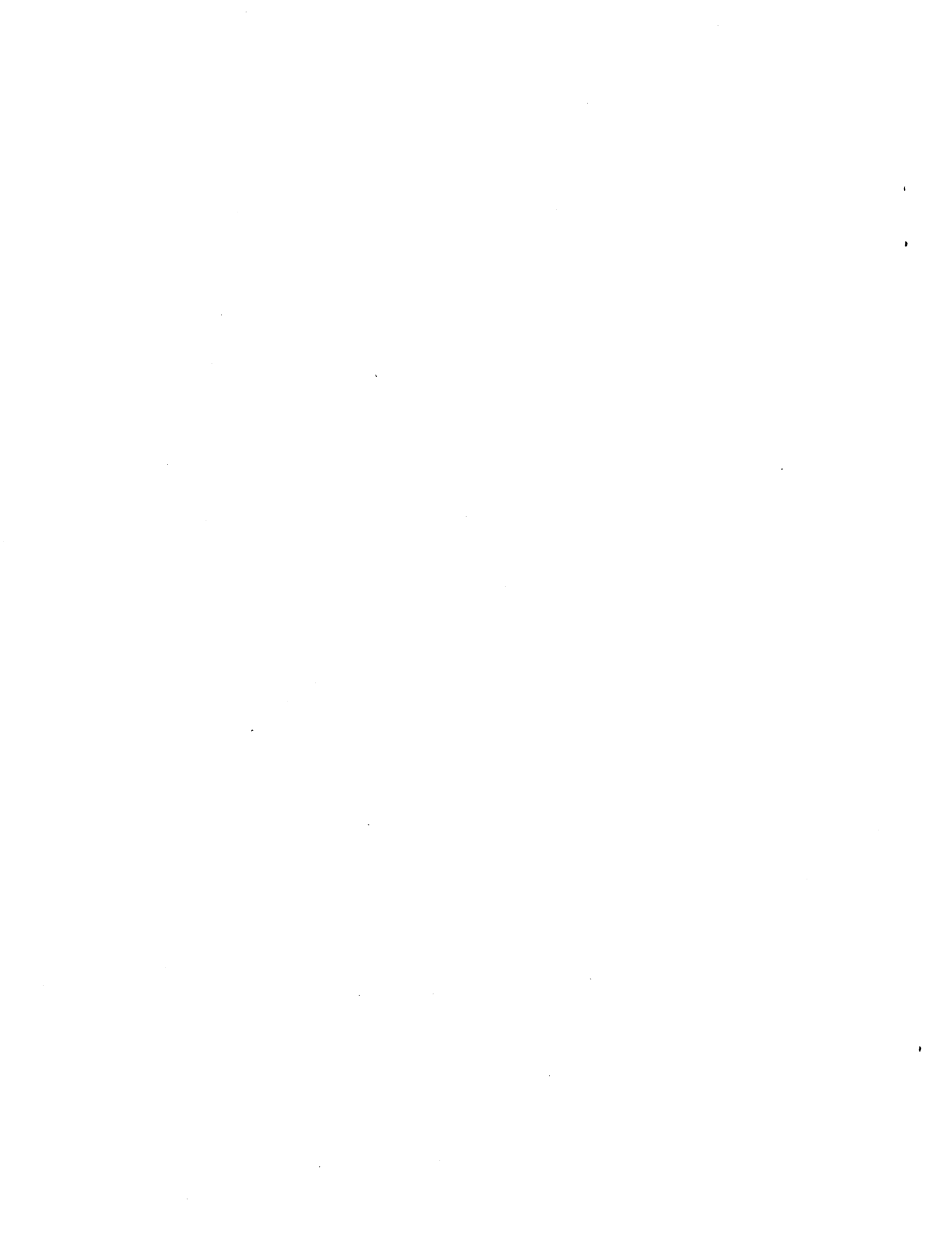
**DATE:** February 15, 1992

**SUBJECT:** Report of the 1990-1991 Camp Ground Lake Task Force

The Camp Ground Lake Task Force was created by 1990 SCR 112. Its purpose, according to the resolution, is to study the potential for the proposed Camp Ground Lake, which is located mainly in Washington and Nelson counties, and to report its findings and recommendations to the LRC. This memorandum reports the activities and findings of the task force.

LK/dlh

Enclosure



## COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The task force met three times in the Fall of 1990. Since the fate of Camp Ground Lake is of great interest to residents of that area, the meetings were held in Springfield and Bardstown, which are near the proposed projects. These meetings were very well attended by interested citizens.

The first task of the group was to get information about the status of the Camp Ground Lake Project and the Corps of Engineers study funded in 1990-1991. Camp Ground Lake has been an active Corps of Engineers project since 1974. It has not been built, but neither has it been rejected by Congress. Congressman Natcher has been a consistent advocate of the reservoir, as are many local residents.

Congress funded a new Salt River Basin Reconnaissance Study by the Corps of Engineers, to begin in Fall 1990 and scheduled for completion by August or September, 1991. Representatives from the Louisville District of the Corps of Engineers attended all task force meetings. At the first meeting, they briefed the task force members on the proposed study. This study is supposed to investigate smaller impoundments than those originally proposed at the Camp Ground site and at the site of another reservoir once proposed for the area, Howardstown Lake. The original Camp Ground Lake would have impounded 10,000 acres at high water, and about 5,000 acres under normal conditions. State or local governments now must pay a much larger share of the cost of water projects than they did when the Camp Ground Lake originally was proposed. One of the major objectives of the Corps of Engineers is to identify non-federal sponsors who will pay part of the cost if a project is found to be feasible by the reconnaissance study. Congress, however, occasionally exempts projects from those rules.

The second meeting of the task force was a public hearing, which was held at the county courthouse in Bardstown. The purpose was to receive comment and public opinion on the Camp Ground Lake project or on the nearby Howardstown project. Approximately 100 people attended this evening hearing, and eleven speakers commented on one or both of the projects.

The task force was not able to schedule a planned meeting with Congressman Natcher, due to the extended session of Congress. However, a third meeting was held in December, to review the effect of the reduced appropriation on the Corps of Engineers study. The task force learned that the Reconnaissance Study would continue, but that to accommodate the 25% cut in funding, the scope had to be narrowed. The main changes would be that only one smaller project apiece would be developed for the Camp Ground and Howardstown sites, and that the study would not review all previous local protection projects studied in the basin. The Corps of Engineers also reiterated at the December meeting the importance of identifying non-federal sponsors, and answered questions about the role and obligations of these sponsors.

At the December meeting, the task force decided to await the results of the Reconnaissance Study before meeting again. That study was completed in September 1991, but was not released until after the end of the 1990-92 Interim, in January 1992.

The Reconnaissance Study concluded that there is no federal interest in proceeding with any large flood control or multipurpose reservoir projects in the Salt River Basin. None of the projects which were evaluated showed a positive cost-benefit ratio. This means that the federal government would not provide, through the Corps of Engineers, any assistance on these projects, which can proceed only if the state or local entities build and pay for them.

The Corps of Engineers initiated another study of the Salt River Basin in December 1991. This study will evaluate the feasibility of several local flood protection projects in the basin, intended to protect populated areas from flood damage. That study is scheduled for completion in December 1992.



