ODNR hasODNR has**ODNR FACT SHEET FOR STAKEHOLDERS REGARDING USACE ASSESSMENT OF BUCKEYE LAKE DAM**

Following are important facts that are being provided to stakeholders about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers assessment of the condition of Buckeye Lake Dam in 2014.

MAIN POINT

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) is having the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers do an assessment of the condition of Buckeye Lake Dam during 2014, underway now. The goal is to make sure the dam is safe.

SUPPORTING POINTS

1. **Buckeye Lake Dam is aging and deteriorating; improvements are needed for it to meet state dam safety requirements; those improvements are yet to be determined.**

   - Buckeye Lake Dam was built 1825-1832 as a 4.1 mile long earthen embankment. It is one-of-a-kind in North America because of its type, long length, and advanced age.
   - The dam's deficiencies and relevant dam safety standards are documented in Ohio Dam Safety Program inspection reports of 2005 and 2010.
   - Several previous engineering reports have also described various safety deficiencies of the dam.
   - Some examples of the dam's deficiencies are excessive long term seepage through and deterioration of the embankment, multiple excavations in the downstream slope, and inability of safety inspectors to examine areas of the dam hidden by structures.

2. **The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the right entity to offer a professional and unbiased assessment of the dam.**

   - The Army Corps of Engineers has more than 33,000 civilian employees and 700 military personnel who provide management, construction support and engineering expertise in more than 130 countries.
   - The Corps' Dam Safety Program uses a risk-informed approach to manage its own portfolio of 694 dams, with public safety as the number one priority. This approach is a best practice adopted to develop balanced and informed dam safety assessments and to evaluate, prioritize and justify dam safety decisions.
   - The goal of the Corps' Dam Safety Program is reflected in ODNR policy as well – that is, we want to ensure our dams do not present unacceptable risks to

people, property, or the environment, with the emphasis on people. Focusing on public safety is critical to an effective dam safety program, including timely dam inspections and evaluations.

3. **The approach being taken by ODNR and the Corps to provide an assessment of Buckeye Lake Dam is reasonable and responsible.**

- ODNR has contracted with the Corps to provide its assessment of the condition, operation and maintenance of the dam, as well as any recommended repairs.
- Part of the assessment includes a thorough analysis of technical data and other documented information about Buckeye Lake Dam, which is underway.
- Another part of the assessment includes a multi-day, on-site visual inspection by land and water of Buckeye Lake Dam, set for Aug. 25-28.

4. **ODNR and the Corps are listening to the Buckeye Lake community.**

- The Corps' assessment will also include meeting with various local residents, including those living on and below the dam, to receive their input. **More information will be provided soon on this topic.**
- The Corps' assessment will be made available to the public in early 2015.
- The Corps' assessment will serve as a foundation for continued discussions between ODNR and community interests, including risk reduction planning. ODNR understands there are a number of unresolved issues regarding this dam (the future disposition of private docks, for example). ODNR will make time to seek residents' input and work through these issues with the community in an open and transparent process before any final decisions are made. **Details about when and how this will occur will be provided at a later date.**

# # #