

*1. Administrative Details*

**Proposal Name: Dispossession of Kentucky River Locks and Dams  
1, 2, 3 and 4**

**by Agency: Kentucky River Authority**

**Locations: KY**

**Date Submitted: 09/23/2015**

**Confirmation Number: 9c281750-2900-4517-ae7f-7915cf7c215f**

*Supporting Documents*

| File Name | Date Uploaded |
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**2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.**

| Sponsor                           | Letter of Support  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Kentucky River Authority(Primary) | <p>The purpose of this letter is to express the Kentucky River Authority’s (KRA) support for the transfer of Kentucky River Locks and Dams 1 through 4 from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to the KRA.</p> <p>As the primary Sate agency responsible for the fourteen Kentucky River Locks and Dams the KRA has invested a significant amount of funding in capital improvements to these properties. In the last four years we have completed over \$25 million worth of construction on Locks 1 through 4. This included the reconstruction of Dam 3, reconstruction of the upper guide wall at Lock 1 and major rehabilitation to the navigation locks at Locks 1 through 4. This summer is the first time since 2007 that all four locks on the lower Kentucky River have been in operation, opening 82 miles of river to recreational boat traffic. Also, in our recently approved 6-year capital construction plan we have nearly \$2 million for repair work planned for the dams at Locks 1, 2 and 4. And finally, we have plans to renovate the lower lockmaster house at Lock 4 to serve as the primary office for the Kentucky River Authority.</p> <p>Ownership of Locks 1 through 4 is critical to our success in continuing to operate and maintain these structures for water supply and recreational use of the river</p> |

**3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.**

Feasibility Study

***4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.***

The specific purpose of this study is to allow for the dispossession of Kentucky River Locks 1, 2, 3 and 4. In 2002 the USACE deauthorized the Kentucky River Project. Since commercial navigation had ceased and commercial navigation was the reason for the Kentucky River Project to begin with, the USACE had no legal reason to continue its presence on the Kentucky River. The USACE has previously ceased all operations from Lock and Dam 5 at Lawrenceburg to the end of the mainstem of the river near Beattyville (Lock and Dam 14) and has transferred ownership of Kentucky River Locks and Dams 5 through 14 to the KRA. Since the deauthorization of the Project in 2002, the KRA has leased for no consideration Locks and Dams 1 through 4 from USACE for the purpose of maintaining the river pools and maintaining the navigation locks for recreational boat use. Kentucky law requires that the KRA maintain these river pools for water supply purposes and is empowered to receive ownership from USACE at such time that USACE chooses to relinquish ownership. The KRA's reason for ownership of these properties is to prevent further deterioration of the locks and dams that would threaten the integrity of the river pools.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

|              | Federal   | Non-Federal | Total     |
|--------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Study        | \$100,000 | \$0         | \$100,000 |
| Construction | \$0       | \$0         | \$0       |

Explanation (if necessary)

***6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.***

Because the Kentucky River Locks are currently a deauthorized project, it is our understanding that it has been difficult under the lease arrangement for the USACE office to be able to review our requests. This has been due to the local USACE office having to find a funding source to bill to anytime we have a request to construct on the leased properties, perform major maintenance, etc. It can be definitively shown from Locks and Dam 5 through 14, which have already been transferred to the Commonwealth of Kentucky, that by transferring ownership of the locks as opposed to operating under a lease agreement these costs will be eliminated.

**7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.**

Yes

### **Local Support Description**

We have primarily been working with Congressman Andy Barr's office in exploring our alternatives related to taking ownership of Locks and Dams 1 through 4.

**8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?**

Yes