



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**441 G STREET NW**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000**

CECW-CO-N

2 February 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR MSC and District Operations Chiefs, NRM Chiefs, and  
Operations Project Managers

SUBJECT: Total Solar Eclipse Transit 21 August 2017

1. On August 21, 2017, a total solar eclipse will cross the entire country for the first time in 38 years. The last one was February 26, 1979. This rare and cosmic event will capture people's imagination and people from all over the world will come to the US to witness this short-duration, yet impactful phenomenon.

2. The eclipse will cross 14 states and its path aligns with many USACE projects. These projects will be prime viewing destinations. Attached is a map showing the path of the eclipse and a list of lakes that are within 50 miles of the centerline of the eclipse's path. We anticipate significant visitation to these lakes and a rush to reserve campsites and other facilities at the opening of the six-month reservation booking window in February 2017. We also expect intense demand for open areas in the day use parks and camping parks, as well as non-park areas for access to unencumbered views of the open sky. There will likely be increased demand on boat ramps and parking areas to view the eclipse from the water. While these lakes within the path of the eclipse can expect the heaviest visitation, we also expect increased visitation to lakes outside its path. This will be a nationwide event and all projects should be prepared.

3. Be advised that other federal (and perhaps state and local) agencies will be offering ticket and lottery sales for the event. USACE will not change our current fee structure for this event. People who wish to view the event from non-fee areas open to the public will not be charged any fees for viewing the event. Projects should expect requests for special events, and current policies regarding special events and facilities will remain in effect.

4. The following recommendations are provided to help projects prepare for this event and manage the expected large crowds and lines of vehicles from visitors wanting to access federal lands to view the eclipse.

5. Recommendations:

- a. Identify park areas and non-park areas that will be open to the general public.
- b. Clearly mark and monitor restricted, closed and not safe areas, especially areas around our outlet and intake structures to prevent public access.
- c. Make available as many areas as feasible that can be safely accessed.

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- d. Determine the visitor capacity of these areas and how the areas will be managed to control capacity and provide visitor assistance.
  - e. Expect increased visitation to all park and non-park areas with open areas suitable for viewing the eclipse and consider additional patrols and staffing to provide the necessary visitor assistance.
  - f. Expect increased visitation from visitors launching boats to view the eclipse from the water and plan on providing additional patrols and staffing to provide the necessary visitor assistance at the boat ramps and on the water.
  - g. Expect and plan for visitors stopping on the road shoulders and in the middle of the road.
  - h. Develop a communication and management plan for your lake.
  - i. Issue local news releases to inform the public of your plans for managing the areas, both land and water, that visitors may safely access.
  - j. Offer special event permits for groups that want to reserve a group facility or area.
  - k. Coordinate closely with partners to help manage and provide visitor assistance.
  - l. Align with other high-profile eclipse events in the area to communicate messages and raise awareness.
  - m. Notify and coordinate with local municipalities.
  - n. Provide helpful tips and logistical details for maximizing visitors eclipse viewing experiences on USACE lands.
6. Additional information is provided at the following resources:
- a. NASA Eclipse Website:  
<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEgoogle/SEgoogle2001/SE2017Aug21Tgoogle.html>
  - b. Path coordinates table (NASA):  
<http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/SEpath/SEpath2001/SE2017Aug21Tpath.html>
  - c. The Great American Eclipse:  
<http://www.greatamericaneclipse.com/>
  - d. National Operations Center of Excellence:  
<http://www.transportationops.org/tools/solar-eclipse-webinar-preparing-august-21-2017-webinar-materials>
  - e. US Department of Transportation:  
<http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop16085/index.htm>

Mary Coulombe  
Chief, Natural Resources Management  
Operations & Regulatory Division