



Mounds Lake Project

Is the need for water really an issue?

There have been multiple water resource studies completed over the last 10 years by various stakeholder organizations. These reports illustrate a need for additional water resources for central Indiana. Furthermore, the Mounds Lake project will be required to demonstrate a clear water need in order to secure the necessary permits from state and federal agencies. We look at this as a regional project and do not speak for any utility.

Here are a few excerpts from the water reports available for review:

“Central Indiana has Marginal Supplies. The water supply in Central Indiana is diverse. It includes diversions from the West Fork of the White River, storage in water supply reservoirs in tributary streams, and groundwater from shallow and deep aquifers. The diversification of the water portfolio reflects the fact that there is no single solution to water supply and growth in this portion of the state. Supplies are limited and, without new sources, economic growth may falter.”

(WATER AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN INDIANA: MODERNIZING THE STATE’S APPROACH TO A CRITICAL RESOURCE, Indiana Chamber, 2014, Executive Summary, pg. 2)

“As the water utilities in the middle of the state consider new well fields to satisfy growth, conservation and demand management will become standard policy in meeting seasonal peak demand for water. Limited groundwater and relatively low flows in streams limit available options. This part of the state will need to build new surface water storage capable of satisfying future demands or develop well fields in other watersheds. The latter alternative will require that water from distant well fields be piped in to meet the demands of population growth.”

(WATER AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN INDIANA: MODERNIZING THE STATE’S APPROACH TO A CRITICAL RESOURCE, Indiana Chamber, 2014, Conclusions, pg. 71)

“Compounding strain on central Indiana’s water resources is the region’s growing population. Hamilton and Hendricks counties are two of the fastest growing counties in the United States (U.S. Census Bureau, 2004). The population in these two counties and in Boone, Hancock, and Johnson counties is expected to increase more than 20 percent between 2005 and 2025 (Indiana Business Research Center, 2008). A 2004 central Indiana water report states that the region’s surface water supplies are nearly fully developed and that net surface water use will likely exceed minimum stream flow requirements (7Q10) before 2020 (Malcolm Pirnie, 2004). As a result, central Indiana’s surface water supplies will no longer be available to meet future water demand. Public water suppliers, industrial users, and energy producers (the three largest withdrawers of surface water) will have to use



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groundwater when new sources are needed. Currently, groundwater is central Indiana's buffer against drought. However, if groundwater withdrawals increase, less will be available during water shortages. Consequently, managing central Indiana's surface water and groundwater supplies now is imperative for the region's continued economic vitality."

(**Central Indiana's Regional Water Supply**, Indy Chamber, Spring 2010, Executive Summary, pg. vi)

"With the constraints and assumptions used in this evaluation, it is concluded that the existing water system in Indianapolis will not be able to yield enough water to meet demands during climate conditions similar to the 1940-1941 drought-of-record. This assumes the addition of several wells added to the existing wellfields, and the proposed Waverly wellfield and existing treatment plant upgrades... If the 1988 drought conditions recur and the existing reservoirs and wellfields are operated efficiently, the system may produce enough water to meet average day demands. Additionally, the system may not be able to meet the summertime peak demands without significant reductions in future consumption through water use restrictions or conservation."

(**Black & Veatch Phase II Yield and Demand Study**, Veolia Water, October 2008, pg. 206)

"As shown in Figure 10-20 in Section 10.4.3, even if consumption is significantly reduced through water restrictions, the magnitude of the maximum day yield deficit could be on the order of approximately 100 mgd or more by 2020, if the drought-of-record were to occur again."

(**Black & Veatch Phase II Yield and Demand Study**, Veolia Water, October 2008, pg. 214)

Aren't there other options available for providing water?

It's accurate that a study of alternatives will be required to demonstrate Mounds Lake is the best solution for the water needs of the central region of Indiana. It will be part of the Phase III scope prior to the permitting of the project. Evaluating available water supply options has not been a focus as part of the feasibility studies, because this was not the appropriate stage of the project for these tasks. That said, the 2008 Black & Veatch report hosted at www.moundslake.com, did provide budget estimates for alternatives to deliver the volume of water predicted to be needed. Mounds Lake is estimated to cost less than the options noted in this report and have less impact on the environment than the noted options.

(**Black & Veatch Phase II Yield and Demand Study**, Veolia Water, October 2008, pg. 215)