

# TEAM CUMBERLAND

## Hydropower Optimization

LTC John L. Hudson  
25 March 2015



®

US Army Corps of Engineers  
**BUILDING STRONG®**



# Hydropower Optimization

- Nashville District has embarked on a Hydropower Optimization Program for the Cumberland River System
- What is Hydropower Optimization ?  
**Maximizing the amount of energy produced for a given amount of water discharged by operating individual units and power plants at optimal efficiencies**
- **THE PURPOSE** of Hydropower Optimization is to gain maximum benefit from available water and most efficiently operate the individual units and plants as a system.



# The Problem

- Aging equipment – Existing SCADA nearing end of design life
- Technology and operational models built in the 1940's-1970's
- Insufficient digital instrumentation prevents operators from running units and plants at peak efficiency
- A mix of analog and digital instrumentation inhibits proactive maintenance and extends outages

# The Solution

- Establish Nashville District Hydropower Optimization Team (HOT)
- Work in collaboration with Hydroelectric Design Center (HDC)
- Address efficiency of the equipment, operational systems and models
- Implement optimization in phases
- HDC's total cost estimates is **\$13,820,000**

# Optimization Phases

- Phase 1 – SCADA
  - Immediate need – replace/upgrade current SCADA system
  - Ever increasing cyber security requirements demands more advanced and secure system
- Phase 2 – Individual Units Optimization
  - Installation of digital governors on Kaplan units
  - Unit performance test (index test) Kaplan and Francis
  - Telemetry instrumentation installation for head measurement
  - Gate and blade position instrumentation
- Phase 3 - Optimize Plants
  - Optimize all units within a plant using computerized algorithm leveraging real time data
  - Run unit that is most efficient for river conditions
  - Strategic scheduling of outages
- Phase 4 – Optimize River System
  - Dr. Lebeuf (Vanderbilt University) study on managing river flows



# Benefits

- 2% to 5% in increased unit efficiency
- Increased energy production using less water for same or more power production
- New SCADA will have Sequence of Events functionality to allow for root cause analysis and forensics in case of a powerhouse incident resulting in reduced down time
- New SCADA will use commercial off the shelf hardware and software, and employs a lifecycle strategy of predictatively replacing equipment before it is obsolete
- Increased cyber security and ability to adapt to new threats



# Benefits

| Plant (type)     | Average Annual Generation <sup>1</sup><br>(MW-hr) | Annual Value of 2%<br>increase in Generation <sup>2</sup> |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Barkley(K)       | 680,025                                           | \$689,274                                                 |
| Cheatham (K)     | 179,457                                           | \$181,898                                                 |
| Cordell Hull (K) | 338,262                                           | \$342,862                                                 |
| Old Hickory (K)  | 454,183                                           | \$460,360                                                 |
| Center Hill (F)  | 316,680                                           | \$320,986                                                 |
| Dale Hollow (F)  | 102,481                                           | \$103,876                                                 |
| Wolf Creek(F)    | 735,052                                           | \$745,048                                                 |
|                  | <b>TOTAL</b>                                      | <b>\$2,844,304</b>                                        |

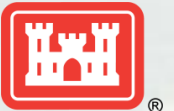
<sup>1</sup> Based on 2000-2009 generation

<sup>2</sup> Based on \$50.68/MW-hr



# Way Forward

- Develop HDC's recommendations into clearly defined subprojects
- Commit remaining unallocated Legacy MOA funds to system optimization subprojects through the ballot process
- Nashville District aggressively pursue FY17 Federal Appropriations to target specific subprojects





# QUESTIONS?



---

**BUILDING STRONG®**