

# **Letter to the Editor Poverty Point Reservoir a 'failure'**

***Bogalusa Daily News***

**Dec 10, 2004**

The Daily News featured a front-page article "Reservoir Possibilities" on Nov. 14. The story mentioned that the Poverty Point Reservoir is a model for a potential reservoir project in Washington Parish.

Rep. Francis Thompson created the Poverty Point Reservoir in 1992. Denmon Engineering with Michael Thompson as Director built it; and it is promoted as a model lake producing 100 million gallons of water a month and costing 26 million dollars. The lake failed to produce enough water to fill the reservoir. A pumping station was built at a cost of \$900,000 to supply water.

The Department of Transportation and Development well files show Poverty Point uses four large base 16 in. water wells of the Mississippi Alluvial Aquifer to supply water for the reservoir.

This is drinking water that is being used to fill the reservoir; where it will evaporate and become polluted and will have to be treated before it can be used.

The original cost of the reservoir was \$26 million, but the audit of the capital outlay from 1997 to 2004 is over \$100 million.

What did the taxpayers of Louisiana get for their money? A pumping station supplying drinking water from four wells to a storage hole in the ground surrounded by a mud levee.

Poverty Point reservoir is a failure because a reservoir is supposed to collect rain and surface water to fill itself.

If we are going to pump drinking water to fill the reservoir, why do we need it? Is this the Economic Development that is going to enrich Washington Parish?

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