



# NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## **CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROHIBITS SUBMERSIBLE PUMPS IN THE MOBILE DISTRICT**

**MOBILE, AL** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mobile District recently enacted a policy that prohibits the use of submersible pumps on USACE administered waters for withdrawing water for individual domestic use. Officials instituted the policy to increase safety for users of Mobile District waters following the near-electrocution of a swimmer in the Savannah District in 2010. An investigation determined a submersible pump delivered the shock to the swimmer. This policy is consistent with those developed by other USACE Districts, including Fort Worth, Savannah, Little Rock and Tulsa Districts.

“Submersible pumps are not designed for use in open water or where swimmers may be present,” said E. Patrick Robbins, Chief of Public Affairs, Mobile District. “We updated our policy to increase the safety of visitors to Mobile District water resource projects.”

Individuals with withdrawal permits may continue to use water from USACE reservoirs but may not use submerged pumps. Pumps must be on shore on private property or, if on a permitted dock, must remain above water. Only non-conductive (non-metal) hoses or pipes may enter the water from the pump. Individuals with pump permits will receive a letter from USACE outlining the policy change and giving them until August 11 to remove any submersible pump(s).

USACE will waive all permit modification fees associated with this policy change but permit holders must bear the cost of removing or replacing submersible pumps. This policy affects waters in eastern Mississippi, Alabama, and western Georgia and applies to all waters in the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway, Okatibbee Lake, the Black Warrior Tombigbee River system, the Alabama River system, West Point Lake, Walter F. George (Lake Eufaula), Lake Seminole, Lake Sidney Lanier, Carters Lake, and Allatoona Lake.

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