

# **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

2 Martin Luther King Jr., Drive, Suite 1152 East Floyd Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Chris Clark, Commissioner

Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director

Environmental Protection Division

(404) 656-4713

April 17, 2009

Ms. Kathryn L. Dunlap  
Chair, Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District  
40 Courtland Street, N.E.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2538

RE: Extension of 650 cfs at Peachtree Creek past April 30, 2009

Dear Ms. Dunlap:

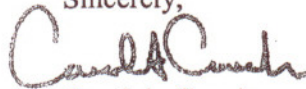
Thank you for your April 9, 2009 letter informing me that you have requested that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continue reducing releases from Buford Dam beyond April 30, 2009 to achieve flows of 650 cfs at Peachtree.

As you may recall, my October 10, 2008 request to the Corps for reduced releases from Buford Dam was supported by a rigorous technical analysis of potential impacts that such an action could have. This analysis was incorporated into the Corps' "Finding of No Significant Impact" issued on November 14, 2008, and served as the basis upon which the Corps authorized the reduction of releases from Buford Dam. The results of that analysis concluded that from November through April, all water quality standards and uses could easily be protected.

However, as you may recall, the technical analysis supporting my October 10, 2008 request to the Corps concluded that increasing water temperatures in the River beyond April 30 could pose threats to the fishery, particularly below Morgan Falls Dam. After once again reviewing the technical analysis, I remain convinced that requesting reduced releases would not be appropriate.

Once again, thank you for informing me of your request to the Corps. If you would like to discuss this or if you have any additional questions, please feel free to call me at 404-656-4713.

Sincerely,



Carol A. Couch  
Director

Cc: Colonel Byron Jorns, USACE