

West Point Lake Coalition, Inc.



Non-Profit Organization
P.O. Box 3677 • LaGrange, Georgia 30241
706-884-5916
www.westpointlakecoalition.org

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Colonel Byron G. Jorns
US Army Corps of Engineers
Mobile District
109 St. Joseph Street
Mobile, AL 36602

30 September 2008

Subject: 2008/09 West Point Lake Winter Variance

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the City of LaGrange, Troup County, the LaGrange/Troup County Chamber of Commerce, the West Point Lake Advisory Committee, and the 700 members of the West Point Lake Coalition, we are officially requesting once again your approval of a one year variance for the 08/09 winter draw down on West Point Lake. Your approval of the 07/08 variance allowed more water to be stored in West Point Lake and averted serious low water issues due to the drought. Thanks to the Corps' approval, a revised IOP, and some rain at the right times, we have enjoyed a great season on West Point Lake and need to continue the momentum; the RECREATION authorization from Congress needs to be honored and implemented 365 days a year.

As you may recall from the Economic Study we commissioned Basile Baumann Prost Cole & Associates, Inc. from Annapolis, Maryland, to complete, West Point Lake has an annual economic impact of \$710 million to the surrounding communities when maintained at or near full pool; that figure drops to \$419 million dollars when our lake level is between 630 and 633 MSL; and the figure precipitously drops to only \$154 million below 630 MSL. In the past, the authorized purposes of recreation and sport fishing/wildlife development have largely been ignored at the expense of flood control. The historical management of West Point Lake has resulted in major economic losses to our communities and environmental justice issues to our low income/minority residents who depend on the lake for sustenance, swimming, recreation, etc.

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As we heard on the ACF Basin Call this past Thursday, we are entering the dry season; and we respectfully request your approval of a one year variance to maintain West Point Lake at a winter pool of 635 MSL. This level allows for the maximum economic benefit to be realized and still provides approximately 6 feet of available flood storage should a record storm hit. Most importantly, this allows for critical storage of water as the drought continues and shows little sign of abating.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please give me a call or email your request. We would appreciate your approval as soon as possible but no later than 17 October 2008 so that valuable storage is not needlessly released.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dick", with a horizontal line underneath.

Dick Timmerberg
Executive Director
West Point Lake Coalition
Cell: 706-957-2029
Email: dtimmerberg@bellsouth.net

CC: Mayor Jeff Lukken, City of LaGrange
CC: Chairman Ricky Wolfe, Troup County Commission
CC: Jane Fryer, President, LaGrange/Troup County Chamber of Commerce
CC: Jeff Brown, Chairman, West Point Lake Advisory Council
CC: Representative Lynn Westmoreland
CC: Senator Saxby Chambliss
CC: Senator Johnny Isakson
CC: Joe Maltese, City of LaGrange