



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Roy E. Barnes
Governor

May 16, 2000

The Honorable Joseph W. Westphal
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
The Pentagon
Room 2E
570 Department of the Army
Washington, D C. 20310

Re: Lake Lanier: Request for Final Agency Action

Dear Secretary Westphal:

I appreciate your taking the time to meet with me in Atlanta on March 7, 2000 to discuss the operation of Lake Lanier to meet the State's water supply needs. In addition, I understand that you had a productive follow-up meeting in Washington, D.C. on April 18, 2000 with representatives of the State.

The purpose of this letter is to request final agency action under 5 U.S.C. § 702 et seq. by the Army Corps of Engineers in the form of a response to the request by the State of Georgia relating to the operation of Lake Lanier. The State of Georgia requests that the Corps manage the resources of Lake Lanier so that water supply needs in Georgia may be met. Specifically, the State requests that the Corps take the following actions:

- Allow municipal and industrial water withdrawals from Lake Lanier to increase as necessary from the 1999 annual average of 131 mgd to the projected 2030 annual average of 297 mgd.
- Release sufficient water from Buford Dam to provide for municipal and industrial water withdrawals from the Chattahoochee River below the dam and upstream of Peachtree Creek to increase as necessary from the 1999 annual average of 278 mgd to the projected 2030 annual average of 408 mgd.
- Provide certainty for these municipal and industrial water withdrawals by entering into long-term contracts with the State of Georgia or municipal and industrial water users.

Secretary Joseph W. Westphal

May 16, 2000

Page two

- Release sufficient water from Buford Dam for environmental quality purposes so that, in addition to meeting the needs described above, there is a minimum instantaneous flow of 750 cfs in the Chattahoochee River just upstream of its confluence with Peachtree Creek in the months of October through May, 850 cfs in the months of June and September, and 950 cfs in the months of July and August, starting in 2001.
- To the extent that hydropower generation at Buford Dam is reduced over time by operating to meet the needs described above and the Corps of Engineers must assess fees from municipal and industrial water users to ensure that the Federal government's project costs are repaid, that the Corps account for return flows, conjunctive use with other project purposes, and separable costs/remaining benefits in calculating such fees, and that the Corps charge such fees only as municipal and industrial water withdrawals increase over time.

The State of Georgia respectfully requests that the Corps take final action on this request as soon as possible.

The enclosed material is submitted in support of the State's request. In addition, we will make available any resources that are necessary to answer any questions that the Corps may have relating to this request. Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions or comments relating to this request or any other aspect of the Corps' operation of Lake Lanier.

Sincerely,



Roy E. Barnes

cc: Brigadier General Richard Capka, Commander
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
60 Forsyth Street
Room 9M15
Atlanta, GA 30303-8801