



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT  
BIRMINGHAM FIELD OFFICE  
218 SUMMIT PARKWAY, SUITE 222  
HOMEWOOD, ALABAMA 35209

North Branch  
Regulatory Division

April 30, 2015

**SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE**

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

**Proposed Programmatic General Permits for Minor Structures and Activities in Georgia Power Company Reservoirs Located in the Chattahoochee River Basin Within the Regulatory Boundaries of the Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**

**SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBERS:**

- SAM2015-00291-JMT; GPCO-PGP01 Construction and/or maintenance of fixed structures**
- SAM2015-00292-JMT; GPCO-PGP02 Construction of non-commercial boat slips**
- SAM2015-00293-JMT; GPCO-PGP03 Construction and modification of boat ramps**
- SAM2015-00294-JMT; GPCO-PGP04 Riprap for shoreline, bank, and channel protection**
- SAM2015-00295-JMT; GPCO-PGP05 Bulkheads, sea walls and other standard shoreline protection/stabilization devices roughly paralleling, and at, the shoreline or bank**
- SAM2015-00296-JMT; GPCO-PGP06 New work channel dredging**
- SAM2015-00297-JMT; GPCO-PGP07 Maintenance dredging of existing boat slips, canals or navigation channels**
- SAM2015-00298-JMT; GPCO-PGP08 Maintenance dredging of existing ditches**
- SAM2015-00299-JMT; GPCO-PGP09 Filling of previously dredged areas such as boat slips, artificial canals, etc.**
- SAM2015-00300-JMT; GPCO-PGP10 Debris removal**
- SAM2015-00301-JMT; GPCO-PGP11 Fish havens, fish reefs, fishery enhancement, mariculture and aquaculture activities**

**ISSUING OFFICE:** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District  
Regulatory Division  
Birmingham Field Office  
218 Summit Parkway, Suite 222  
Homewood, Alabama 35209

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Interested parties are hereby notified that in accordance with 33 CFR 325.2(e)(2) and 325.3(b), the Mobile District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is proposing to issue programmatic general permits, described herein, pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The term "Programmatic General Permit" refers to a type of general permit, authorized by the Department of the Army, that is issued on a nationwide or regional basis for a category or categories of activities when those activities are substantially similar in nature and cause only minimal individual and cumulative environmental impacts; or the general permit would result in avoiding unnecessary duplication of the regulatory control exercised by another Federal, State, or local agency, provided it has been determined that the environmental consequences of the action are individually and cumulatively minimal.

Georgia Power Company (GPCO) owns the pool property of the reservoirs listed in Table 1 and in some areas has additional property rights along the shoreline. GPCO regulates all activities and structures within the boundaries of the hydroelectric reservoirs subject to licenses issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and pursuant to FERC requirements, these activities and structures must be pre-approved and permitted by GPCO. Therefore, in an effort to expedite authorization of work, including minor structures and other activities with minimal adverse impacts located in waters of the United States, the USACE, Mobile District, proposes the authorization of the enclosed Programmatic General Permits (PGPs). These PGPs are only applicable within the FERC project boundaries of GPCO reservoirs located in the Chattahoochee River Basin within the State of Alabama (reference enclosed map).

Under the proposed PGPs, a permit applicant will only apply to GPCO, rather than applying to both GPCO and the USACE for authorization. GPCO will (1) verify that the proposed project meets the terms and conditions of the PGP(s); (2) notify the applicant and; (3) provide the General and any Special Conditions of the PGP(s). This notification will accompany GPCO's Shoreline Permit.

Drafts of the GPCO PGPs proposed for issuance are enclosed. Conditions listed thereafter are applicable to all proposed PGPs.

General permits are reviewed every five (5) years. Each PGP contains certain limitations intended to protect the aquatic environment, natural, and cultural resources. Conformance with the conditions contained in the PGP does not necessarily guarantee authorization under the PGP. In most instances, a proposed project complying with conditions of the PGP can receive specific authorization. Any proposed project not complying with the conditions will be evaluated by USACE as either a Nationwide

Permit or Standard Permit. A Standard Permit will be individually coordinated with third parties, including Federal and State resource agencies.

Table 1: Georgia Power Reservoirs Subject to Jurisdiction Under **Section 10 and Section 404**.

Goat Rock Lake
Lake Harding
Langdale
Lake Oliver
Riverview
North Highland Lake

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the USACE can be based. For accuracy and completeness of record, all data in support of or in opposition to the issuance of the PGPs should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. The decision whether to issue a PGP will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the below listed public interest factors. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposed activities, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the PGP, will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The USACE is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activities. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess the impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Any person may request in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the proposed activity. Requests for public hearing shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding the public hearing.

Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The USACE will apply for certification from the State in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act and upon completion of the required advertising, a determination relative to certification will be made by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the PGPs defined in this notice are being considered for the potential to affect cultural and historic properties. We are seeking comment from the State Historical Preservation Officer, Federally recognized American Indian Tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service and concerned citizens regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area.

By copy of this notice, the USACE is requesting comments from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding federally listed species or critical habitat, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Endangered Species Act, to insure the proposed activities will not adversely affect any listed or proposed species.

Permit specific comments should refer to the applicable Public Notice Number and should be directed to: District Commander; Attention: Mr. Joseph Tanko; U.S. Army Engineer District, Mobile; Birmingham Field Office; 218 Summit Parkway, Suite 222; Homewood, Alabama 35209, **with a copy to:** Alabama Department of Environmental Management; Post Office Box 301463; Montgomery, Alabama 36130, in time to be received not later than **May 30, 2015**.

If you have any questions concerning this notice or for additional information, you may contact Mr. Tanko ([joseph.m.tanko@usace.army.mil](mailto:joseph.m.tanko@usace.army.mil)), phone (205) 290-9096. For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at [www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx](http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx), and please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey while you are there. Your response is appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.



