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of Engineers
Mobile District

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District announced continued Drought Procedures for Allatoona Dam

Mobile, Ala. –The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District announced they will continue exercising drought procedures for Allatoona Dam in Georgia at the headwaters of the Coosa River.

“Normal operations at Allatoona Dam call for peak power generation of two to six hours per day,” said E. Patrick Robbins, Chief of Public Affairs, Mobile District. “However, under drought management provisions in the water control plan for Allatoona Dam, releases may be reduced to a continuous minimum flow of 240 cubic feet per second with no peaking generation for extended periods including the spring refill period.”

While the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) rivers basin, which includes the Allatoona watershed, has received significant rainfall recently, a return to dry conditions is expected to occur as the 2006-2009 drought persists. Average inflows in the upper basin prior to the recent storm event were averaging 29-percent of normal for this time of year. Current meteorological forecasts call for below normal rainfall for the next week and near normal for the one-month outlook. However, longer-term climate forecasts remain highly uncertain in rainfall predictions over North Georgia. Combined with the presence of a weak

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2-2-2-2 Mobile District announced continued Drought Procedures

La Nina, dry weather patterns could continue, especially in the southern areas of the ACT basin.

“Conditions have improved over the last two drought years,” said Robbins, “but they are still not back to normal. With the uncertainty in the long term forecasts, we believe it is prudent to try and refill Lake Allatoona earlier than normal.”

In eliminating peak power releases, the Corps will be able to conserve storage in Lake Allatoona while avoiding or minimizing impacts to downstream reservoirs and water resources.

“The long term benefit of taking this action is to attempt to increase storage in Lake Allatoona for meeting the multiple downstream water resource demands during the summer and fall,” said Robbins.

The Alabama Power Company (APC) has also requested variances at several of their projects downstream of Lake Allatoona to also attempt to fill their projects earlier than normal.

“This action is a prudent step by the Corps and APC to store as much water as possible during the spring refill period to be able to meet basin needs if the drought conditions persist,” said Robbins.