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# News Release

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## **Corps Approves Request From Georgia EPD to Extend Minimum Water Quality Flow Reductions until May 31 from Lake Lanier**

**Mobile, Ala.** – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, reviewed and approved a request from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to extend the flow reductions at Peachtree Creek until May 31, 2008.

The request was coordinated with other State and Federal agencies, as well as the basin stakeholders, and was determined to have no long term significant environmental or human impacts. Hydrological modeling shows only minor differences in river flow and reservoir elevations between Lake Lanier and West Point Lake for the reduced flows and no changes downstream of West Point Lake.

“In February of this year the Georgia EPD requested and received a temporary minimum water quality flow reduction from 750 cubic feet per second (cfs) at Peachtree Creek to 650 cfs that expired on April 30, 2008 “said E. Patrick Robbins, Public Affairs Officer, Mobile District. “This is the minimum flow required near the Peachtree Creek confluence on the Chattahoochee River to provide for waste water assimilation in the river. The current temporary flow reduction is scheduled to expire on May 31, 2008.”

Georgia EPD’s request represents a proposed temporary drought

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contingency measure in response to drought conditions experienced this past year and the possibility for continued drought conditions this year. The reduction in flows is based on water quality criteria at Atlanta and seeks to conserve storage in Lake Lanier by reducing minimum releases required to meet State water quality standards during cooler months. Should requests for the minimum water quality flow reduction continue into the warmer summer months, additional evaluation and impact analysis will be required.