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FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

FLOOD CONTROL

Flood Control Needed (Flood Control)

Comment ID: 216
Author Name: David Scott
Organization:

This project was initially sought after by citizens of West Point, GA in an attempt to reduce the effects of flooding in the Chattahoochee river. This has been accomplished by the West Point dam and lake. It was most recently tested in May of 2003. With the largest flood on record the Dam reduced flooding greatly. The lake rose 10 feet to its maximum storage level at which time all inflows had to be matched by the dams outflows to maintain the dam's integrity. My main concern is this, if that exact situation happened again with the lake at 635' MSL rather than 630' MSL what will the result be below the dam. 130,000 ac.ft. of extra water will have to pass over the spillway gates as compared to the 2003 flood. Since the maximum storage level will be reached quicker in this hypothetical situation, all inflows will have to be matched at an earlier stage which could increase flood levels below the dam even more. My main concern as a citizen with family and property below West Point Dam is that we continue to be protected by the project, and that our safety is not disregarded in an attempt to keep someone's dock afloat all winter long!

Comment ID: 224
Author Name:
Organization:

I live below West Point Dam, and though I am not in the inundation zone, if the water level is kept at 635' year round, I feel for the unfortunate families who are downstream and living in that zone. The main reason the lake is dropped to begin with is to allow for Spring rains to fill the lake back up without worry of overflowing or having to release large amounts of water, thus flooding the homes and businesses downstream.

What is the importance of keeping the lake level at 635'? It is important solely for recreation, which can still be appreciated at 630' msl. You will notice that the group which is really pushing this issue is the dock owners around the lake. Now, tell me what is more important: having a floating dock year round or having the safety and security of knowing that West Point Lake is being managed to reduce floods which could destroy your home.

Higher Pool Levels in Winter (Flood Control)

Comment ID: 112
Author Name: Marlene Timmerberg
Organization:

We are tired of our lake being used for flood control by the corps.

Comment ID: 349
Author Name: *Marlene Timmerberg
Organization:

We want the lake to be managed at a level of 633 to 635 for a safe recreational lake for which is was proposed. We are tired of our lake being used for flood control by the corps.

Comment ID: 634
Author Name: Laura Adams
Organization:

This is more than a flood control issue - it is not a primary concern for management of the lake.

Comment ID: 635

Author Name: O.W. McGowan
Organization:

Recreation is the prime economic drawer from use of West Point Lake; therefore that should be the major consideration for operation of the lake - not flood control. Even the "flood of record" of 2003 created minimal flood danger, and the water level never reached the max positive level.

Critical Yield Analysis (Flood Control)

Comment ID: 55
Author Name: Brian Atkins
Organization:

Each of these objectives is critical to the update process. Moreover, the order in which these steps are completed is significant. It is impossible to evaluate and assess proposed changes to the water control manuals unless the critical yields have been calculated and the baseline is established. Refusing to undertake a complete review and assessment of each of these objectives will ensure that valid water control manuals will never be developed and that additional conflicts over the Corps' operations of the federal reservoirs in the ACF Basin will follow. The first objective that must be accomplished is to update the critical yield analysis for Lake Lanier, West Point Lake and Lake Walter F. George (Lake Eufaula), Lake. Without an accurate determination of the amount of water that is available to address the competing demands for water and water storage in the driest of conditions, it will be impossible for the Corps to develop water control manuals that establish operations that are consistent with Congressional intent and satisfy the purposes for which Congress authorized each project. The critical yield analyses for the federal reservoirs in the ACF Basin have not been revised to reflect 2007 drought conditions. Indeed, in the past, the Corps has failed to use then-existing droughts of record to calculate the critical yields; instead deciding that the then-existing drought of record was an outlier and could be ignored. Failure to develop a critical yield analysis based upon the actual drought of record cannot be repeated. Because the conditions in 2007 established a new drought of record, the State of Alabama respectfully requests that the Corps update its calculation of the critical yields from the federal reservoirs, particularly Lake Lanier, as a first step in its effort to update the water control manuals. The determination of the critical yield should be done in an open and public process that includes input from stakeholders throughout the ACF Basin. Before the critical yields are
finalized, the Corps should conduct one or more public hearings to allow the public to provide input into the process, particularly any modeling or operating assumptions used to make such calculations. Alabama believes that until the critical yield calculations are updated, any effort to update the water control manuals will be incomplete. The critical yield calculations should consider the inventory of all existing pipes withdrawing water from or discharging treated wastewater to any of the federal reservoirs, including the elevation within the reservoir of each such pipe, and the need to meet downstream minimum flow requirements at Peachtree Creek (750 cfs), Columbus and Phenix City (1,850 cfs) and Plant Farley (2,000 cfs). After the critical yields of the federal reservoirs are determined, the Corps needs to establish the baseline conditions against which any proposed modification to the water control plans will be judged or assessed. Alabama believes the Corps should use the 1959 water control manual for Lake Lanier, the 1975 water control plan for West Point Lake, the 1965 water control plan for Lake Walter F. George, and the 1972 water control plan for Lake Seminole/Jim Woodruff to determine whether there is sufficient water available in each reservoir to meet the Congressionally authorized project purposes of hydroelectric power generation, flood control, and navigation support for the ACF System and to provide water storage for the specific amounts of storage currently under an existing, valid contract.

Flood Control at WP Adversely Affects Recreation (Flood Control)

Comment ID: 68
Author Name: Dick Timmerberg
Organization: West Point Lake Coalition

By the Corps' own admission, West Point
Lake can not stop downstream flooding. It never could! At least 2 more lakes were needed

above West Point Lake that were never authorized or built to adequately support that operational goal. Consequently, managing West Point Lake in an attempt to guarantee flood protection has had a devastating economic impact on the communities surrounding the lake. No one can guarantee flood protection; Mother Nature, at some point, will always win. People and businesses who and which live and operate in flood plains do so at their own risk.

Lanier-Increase Normal Pool to 1073 (Flood Control)

Comment ID: 52
Author Name: V.M. Perry, Jr.
Organization: Lake Lanier Association

Full Pool Level We request that the WCP provide for a Lanier full pool level of 1073 MSL, instead of the current level of 1071 MSL. This operational change was originally proposed by the Lake Lanier Association in our letter of January 9, 2007 (attached). We further request that the new WCP provide for this full pool level throughout the year, rather than only during the summer season. Lake Lanier was designed with a substantial flood control capacity that greatly exceeds any demand that has ever been put on it. In the 21st century, weather prediction capability greatly exceeds what was available when Buford Dam was constructed in the 1950's. As a result, the Corps is able to monitor changing weather and manage the flood control capabilities of the system so well that there is no purpose served in lowering the full pool level to 1070 from October through April. The importance of this is heightened in times of drought, when basin inflow to refill Lanier can be severely reduced. There is no longer any reason to drop Lanier's level during the "non-summer" months.
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