WATER SUPPLY

WATER SUPPLY ISSUES

Water Supply More Important than Downstream Uses (Water Supply)

Comment ID: 108
Author Name: William McCalley
Organization:

2. One third of the state of Georgia population gets drinking water from Lake Lanier. This is more vital than mussels or industrial water needs.

Comment ID: 179
Author Name: Janice Grizzle
Organization:

Maximum efforts must be made to insure that an appropriate level is maintained in West Point Lake to provide drinking water.

Comment ID: 218
Author Name: CHARLES
Organization:

If our lake levels drop then our water supply drops. We need water to survive! If it can be here naturally, then it needs to be left here. We do not need to be paying to pump water into our community for survival when it can be here naturally to be filtered through the water treatment plants. We already have to spend enough money treating the water due to our poor pollution effects and lifestyles that we do not need to spend more pumping it in.

Comment ID: 235
Author Name:
Organization:

Comment:
Water quality and water supply should be at the top of the priority list when considering Lake West Point.

Comment ID: 274
Author Name: Michael Halicki
Organization:

As an Atlanta resident, I fear that downstream interests have consistently taken precedence over our region's water supply needs. This concern feels validated by the present state of Lake Lanier.

Comment ID: 322
Author Name: Eva Galambos
Organization: City of Sandy Springs

As the mayor of the city of Sandy Springs, I am here to ask the Corps of Engineers to give greater credence and greater credibility to water supply for the Atlanta metro area than has currently been given.

Comment ID: 371
Author Name: Jonathon Heard
Organization: City of Cumming

The City of Cumming and our main customer, Forsyth County, depend on Lake Sidney Lanier as our sole source of raw water supply. Forsyth County has been among the fastest growing counties in the nation for the past several years. Lake Lanier should be kept as full as possible so that citizens who live around the Lake will have an abundant supply of drinking water. Our City and County are continuous with this water supply and our rights to the water should be preserved. Human life and welfare should be protected and placed before the life of an obscure endangered muscle or fish.

* Three million residents in north Georgia rely on Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River as their sole source of drinking water. We have no alternative source of water supply, so careful management of this precious resource is critical.

Comment ID: 372
Author Name: Nancy Niekro
Organization:

There is not enough water in Lake Lanier to continually release enough to dilute the sewage being discharged into the river by Atlanta. This needs to be addressed immediately, 5 million people depend on this water for drinking.

Comment ID: 416
Author Name: robert Busser
Organization:

5. We were near a drinking water crisis in Atlanta, at least 1 county was forced to move their intake valve for water, human water obviously supersedes mussels during a drought.

Comment ID: 499
Author Name: Lois D. Salter
Organization: Gwinnett Municipal Association

We wholeheartedly support EPD's request to reduce the releases from Lake Lanier this winter to meet the reduced flow target at Peachtree Creek of 650 cfs. We believe that during this prolonged drought we must all do whatever we can to preserve storage in Lake Lanier. Our citizens along with all the others in unincorporated Gwinnett County are doing our part by supporting the state's watering restrictions and other water conservation efforts. Please grant EPD's request for the reduced releases from Lake Lanier. Drinking water for our citizens is supplied by the Gwinnett County Water System. This water system has its intakes directly in Lake Lanier. It is very important that the lake water elevation does not recede such that the county has to lower its raw water intake at a substantial cost to all the customers of the Gwinnett Water System.

Comment ID: 502
Author Name: Grier Todd
Organization: 1071 Coalition of Lake Lanier

2) Water supply is the highest and best use of storage in Lake Lanier.,

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Comment ID: 565
Author Name: Haywood Smith
Organization:

As a 35-year resident on the shores of Lake Lanier, I wish to state that the primary purpose for our lake should be as a reservoir for drinking water and sanitation needs here and downriver. Though I am well aware of the commercial impact this might have on those downriver, I ask merely for some common sense concerning our citizens.

The lake's source originates in Georgia watershed. Let us keep what we need to provide safe drinking water and sanitation for our state's citizens. Any surplus can be made available to others.

Comment ID: 606
Author Name: William A. Cooper
Organization: Cobb Chamber of Commerce

4]Water supply is the highest and best use of storage in Lake Lanier.

Comment ID: 652
Author Name: Teddy Russell
Organization: Russell Landscape Group, Inc

The people if the metropolitan Atlanta region depend upon the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' management of Lake Lanier for most of our region's drinking water. We have no alternative source of water supply, so careful management of this precious resource is critical.

Comment ID: 682
Author Name: Bob Kruer
Organization:

I am a property owner on Lake Lanier and a resident of Atlanta. The use of the lake impacts me in many areas. It has become obvious over the years that the main purpose of Lake Lanier and the entire watershed has changed from flood control to providing drinking water. The new management plan needs to reflect this as the number one priority. By default then water for Atlanta would be the highest priority. Shipping, power generation and environmental issues are way behind in importance.

Comment ID: 682
Author Name: Bob Kruer
Organization:

Secondly, better control outflow to match use as drinking water and no other use until lake levels are too high.

Comment ID: 734
Author Name:
Organization:

At the end of the day, Water
Supply is the most basic, fundamental purpose of the Chattahoochee
river. Water Supply overrides transportation (navigation), recreation,
and power. While it does not override Flood control, it in no way
competes with this other purpose. Water Quality is also important.
While drinking water is important to Atlanta, so is it to other cities
along the river as well.

Comment ID: 743
Author Name:
Organization:

Water supply is the main purpose of the Chattahoochee River. Water supply should override recreation, transportation and power.

Comment ID: 808
Author Name: Barry Lucas
Organization:

The Water Control Manual update should be revised to reflect that water supply is the most important use of Lake Lanier. Do we have to exhaust our water supply and have a crisis for the importance of this issue to become painfully obvious? In my opinion there should be no consideration for maintaining a full lake for recreation purposes. Likewise, in my opinion any requirements to protect endangered or threatened species should come second to protecting the water supply for the residents of North Georgia. The same holds true for power generation - there are many ways to produce power and support electricity demands through the power grid; but there is only a very finite amount of fresh water to supply the 4 million plus residents of North Georgia. That water is stored in Lake Lanier. With the environmental regulations in place in this country today, it will be practically impossible to replace this resource with another option, such as constructing a state owned or locally owned reservoir. And if managed properly, Lake Lanier can continue to supply the water needs of the Atlanta/North GA region for the foreseeable future. But it must be managed as a water supply resource - not as a safety net for mussels and sturgeon. Those animals have survived for hundreds of thousands of years, and through severe droughts long before the lake was built. They don't need your man made lake to survive. But the tax paying citizens of Georgia do need the lake to survive, and to advance as a region economically. Make water supply for North Georgia the number one priority of the Lake Lanier management plan.

Public Water Supply-Atlanta (Water Resources)

Comment ID: 307
Author Name: Bob Zumwalt
Organization:

The Atlanta metro area developed where it did, based on the availability of water from the Chattahoochee River. Can you imagine what's going to happen if this area is without water, even for a day?

Comment ID: 368
Author Name: Jimmy Wilbanks
Organization: City of Dacula, GA

I attended your scoping meeting in Gainesville, GA. I wanted to comment on the concerns of the City of Dacula. We need to preserve our drinking water source for Gwinnett County.

Comment ID: 371
Author Name: Jonathon Heard
Organization: City of Cumming

* Metro Atlantas use of water in the ACF Basin is reasonable by any measure. Currently metro Atlanta uses only 1 to 2% of the water in the ACF Basin as measured by the flow at the Florida line. The new Water Control Plan should be designed to accommodate withdrawals consistent with projections contained in the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning Districts Water Supply and Conservation Plan.

Comment ID: 787
Author Name: David Vaughan
Organization:

Stop relying solely on the existing watershed for water supply. Explore alternatives such as an expanded watershed, other bodies of water [e.g., Tennessee River, as well as other creeks and rivers], and subterranean water. We should pursue other sources of water even if we have to buy it.

Require Atlanta to seek alternative sources of water and reduce the amount that they are permitted to withdraw from the system. Let the users and developers there pay for it.

Comment ID: 797
Author Name: Greg
Organization:

This is also the water supply for communities around the lake. Water availability and quality is becoming an issue.

There have been regular floods in areas not far from us. We ship gas and oil around the country surely we can find a way to manage water. Help floods in one area and low levels in another.

Comment ID: 798
Author Name: Greg
Organization:

Southeast and central US regions with floods and we are in need.
We ship oil and gas around the US surely we can find a way to move water from areas of surplus to areas of need.

Please do something and do it soon.

Comment ID: 809
Author Name: Tim Perkins
Organization: Forsyth County

Water supply is currently the most important need for the citizens of Forsyth County. Currently due to the water wars we are prohibited from providing reliable water supply for our growing area. We have been trying to get permission to get an intake and withdraw water from the lake for over 20 years. If the lake did not exist we would be allowed reasonable water for consumption from the river. Currently we are being forced to look for water from the river below the dam and pump it 19 miles back to our existing plant at an estimated cost of 20 million dollars. We have 20 square miles of the lake in our county but yet we cant get a permit from the Corps. I use to say that was un-American but now when I say that people tell me this could only occur in America. The lake has helped cause the people to move here and use it for recreation but at the same time we are not allowed the water to meet those demands.

Public Water Supply (Socioeconomics)

Comment ID: 37
Author Name: Carol A. Couch
Organization: GA EPD

1973, a group known as the Executive Group that consisted of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Atlanta Regional Commission, and the Georgia Mountains Planning Commission began the eight-year Metropolitan Atlanta Water Resources Study ("Study"). The Study was authorized by a resolution of the United States Senate Public Works Committee

adopted on March 2, 1972. The study was completed in 1981. The Study concluded that Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River should provide 89% of the water to meet projected demands of the Metropolitan Atlanta area. In 1978, an interim report of the Executive Group concluded that without a long-range water supply plan, "the economic growth of the Atlanta region would be adversely affected. The adverse impacts were later defined to include significant losses to the regional and national economics."

The 1978 interim report recommended further study on four alternatives for meeting future water demands from the Lake and River system: construction of a reregu1ation facility downstream of Buford Dam; raise the summer operating pool level at Lake Lanier above 1071 feet above mean sea level; increase storage capacity of Morgan Falls Reservoir; and reallocate storage in Lake Lanier from hydropower to water supply. The Executive Group studied the four alternatives from 1979 through 1981 and concluded that the National Economic Development ("NED") benefits calculated for the reregulation dam and reallocation of storage were very similar. The Corps subsequently reevaluated the NED benefits of the reregulation dam and reallocation of storage using a computer model and determined that reallocation of storage was the preferred NED plan. Accordingly, in 1989, the Corps proposed permanently reallocating 207,000 acre feet of storage in Lake Lanier from hydropower to water supply to meet year 2010 water supply demands. The Corps conducted an Environmental Assessment ("EA") on the proposal and issued a draft Finding of No Significant Impact ("FONSI"). The State of Alabama brought suit challenging the proposed reallocation. The Corps voluntarily withdrew the reallocation as part of settlement negotiations among the Corps and the States of Georgia, Alabama, and Florida.

Comment ID: 40
Author Name: Paul M. Flood
Organization:

7. Over the next ten to twenty years, the Southeastern United States will continue to grow economically and in population; particularly in Georgia, Florida and Alabama. Greater Atlanta alone is projected to grow from 5.5 million to over 7.5 million within the next ten to fifteen years. This is an increase of over 35%! There is a simple solution to insure that the water needs of all regions of the ACF are met. This includes Atlanta, the agricultural interests in South Georgia and Alabama, the real estate and
fishing industries in Florida, as well as a the economic development of North Georgia. Keep Lake Lanier full at all times! The solution? There are trillions of gallons of water within the boundaries of the State of Georgia. This water is better known as the Atlantic Ocean! The concept is simple - run a water pipe from Savannah to Gainesville and Lake Lanier along
the right-of-way of Interstate 20 and Interstate 85. Build a nuclear power plant near Savannah to desalinate the sea water, and then pump the desalinated water from the Atlantic to Lake Lanier to keep it full at all times. The Corps could sponsor a feasibility study to determine construction and annual operating costs of such a system. The City of Tampa, Florida could assist in determining the cost of a conventional desalinization plant, and the Southern Company could provide input into a nuclear-powered energy/desalinization plant. Colonial Pipeline could aid in determining the cost of constructing and maintaining the pipeline, as they have built oil and gas pipelines from Texas and Oklahoma to New England. The development and construction costs may be $2 billion to $10 billion dollars. However, this one-time cost may be relatively inexpensive compared to the annual cost of not doing it; particularly if one considers that the lack of an adequate water supply could hinder Atlanta growth by a whopping 50% in the next ten to fifteen years or longer! Based upon projections of an increase of two million people in the relative near future, this equates to lost growth of one million people. The economic impact on the Gross Domestic Product (GOP) of Atlanta could be almost totally disastrous, if you consider that 50% of the potential one-million people lost in population growth contributes to the working population of Atlanta; the others are spouses and children. The one-half million workers moving to the Atlanta would be coming here to take advantage of the many high-tech, research and development, marketing and manufacturing opportunities. These jobs could pay $60,000 or more

per year, resulting in annual labor costs of $30 billion (500,000 X $60,000 per year). If labor costs are fifty percent of the goods and services produced, the annual Atlanta GOP lost is $60 billion each year! As previously indicated, the economic consequences of not having a full and clean Lake Lanier can be disastrous on Atlanta, North Georgia and the Southeastern United States. Therefore, it is vitally important the Corps of Engineers coordinate, develop and implement a plan in the immediate future to keep Lake Lanier full and clean on a year-round basis. I am a Board member of the Lake Lanier Association and Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee. Although I am not speaking for the Association in this letter, I know that LLA is more than happy to work with the Corps on this important endeavor. Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Flood, CMC

Comment ID: 188
Author Name: Janet Neal
Organization:

The lake needs to be maintained at a 633 to 635 MSL in order to support water quality for the population of West Georgia.

Comment ID: 196
Author Name: Matthew walker
Organization:

3) Again with the population growth in the metro-Atlanta area, there is already an increased pressure to look for other sources of water. One of those is Lake West Point. Again, this will affect demand on the lake and the lake level.

Comment ID: 280
Author Name: Joshua Norred
Organization:

Our local economy also depends on the consistent levels to help our tourism and our own hometown folks. Florida is more concerned about Mussels than about the people who depend on this water for drinking (thats a sad thought). Wake up people.. no water means no drinking water also
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Our local economy also depends on the consistent levels to help our tourism and our own hometown folks.

Comment ID: 305
Author Name: Nancy H. Green
Organization:

I am very concerned about the quality and future lack of water in this area, particularly with the unrestricted growth all through this region, especially in the Atlanta area and south through Troup County. The Corps should tighten the restrictions on growth around existing reservoirs and any that are planned in the future. It does no good to have water supplies and then have the area developed to the point that more and more water is required from the river. We have limited resources and someone will have to come to the conclusion that everyone that wants to cannot live along the Chattahoochee River. This River is stressed to the point of no return now.

Comment ID: 307
Author Name: Bob Zumwalt
Organization:

The Atlanta metro area developed where it did, based on the availability of water from the Chattahoochee River. Can you imagine what's going to happen if this area is without water, even for a day?

Comment ID: 311
Author Name: Stephen Scanlan
Organization:

I grew up in Tucker Georgia and sailed on lake Lanier as a young man, however when I hear that Atlanta needs to maintain the lake at greater levels to maintain property values on and around the lake or lake Lanier island resorts economic interests or new subdivision planned it sounds like a spoiled child not getting his or her way. If this is about sustaining human life due to fresh water issues that is more tolerable and understanding, but growing up in Tucker Georgia in the 1970's I saw fist hand how Atlanta never addressed its growth issues. Atlanta economically can easily win a court battle regarding this issue, however that will ultimately result in all of us loosing. Please do not allow the destruction of this great eco system by reducing the water flow to Accommodate a city that does not adequately plan for its population growth and its land developers.

Comment ID: 334
Author Name: Sarah Beth Mallory
Organization:

This lake is important to our area as a source of drinking water, recreation site, and economic opportunity. For West Point Lake to be sustainable body of water and offer opportunities for our citizens and visitors, an adequate level (635msl) of water must be maintained.

Comment ID: 371
Author Name: Jonathon Heard
Organization: City of Cumming

The City of Cumming and our main customer, Forsyth County, depend on Lake Sidney Lanier as our sole source of raw water supply. Forsyth County has been among the fastest growing counties in the nation for the past several years. Lake Lanier should be kept as full as possible so that citizens who live around the Lake will have an abundant supply of drinking water. Our City and County are continuous with this water supply and our rights to the water should be preserved. Human life and welfare should be protected and placed before the life of an obscure endangered muscle or fish.

Comment ID: 404
Author Name: L Levi
Organization:

Require future growth and development in Atlanta to demonstrate where water supply will come from to support planned growth - accountability for sustaining continued growth is needed.

Comment ID: 412
Author Name: Jerry Griffin
Organization: Association County Commissioners of Georgia

Serving as the water supply for 3 million residents in the metropolitan Atlanta region and generating 8 million visits per year (thus resulting in an economic impact of $5.5 billion to the regional economy) Lake Lanier must be more effectively managed to best serve the public interest.

Comment ID: 422
Author Name: Jerry Collins

Organization:

Lake Lanier is vital for the supply of water for North-Northeast Georgia. In addition, the lake is a vital economic engine for a large segment of the population surrounding Lanier.

Comment ID: 497
Author Name: Terri Johndahl
Organization:

The importance of Lake Lanier as a vital source of water for the metro Atlanta region must be fairly considered. Reservoirs are built to hold water.... Not to run dry. U.S. taxpayers do not spend millions of dollars on reservoirs to use them at only a fraction of their capacity. An unnecessarily low water level in Lake Lanier is surely a sign of poor management of priorities when there is likely enough water to meet all purposes in the basin. The negative impact of a questionable water supply on future economic development efforts must also be factored in. New industry and jobs cannot be attracted easily to a region that is notorious on national news for poor water management plans. We believe that scientific studies will bear out that there are ways to manage this increasingly scarce water resource and meet all requirements in the basin. Terri Jondahl CEO

Comment ID: 500
Author Name: Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce
Organization: Hall Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce and its 3000 business and citizen members are very concerned about the present condition of Lake Sidney Lanier....and the health and viability of Lake Lanier in the future. Gainesville I Hall County, Georgia, USA...has been fortunate to have Lake Lanier in its "back yard" for over 50 years....over 400 miles of its shoreline border this county. We are proud to have Lake Lanier as a recreational resource, water resource, power generator....plus a beautiful home setting. Lake Lanier is by far the most important economic engine for this county and this region. Of course, it is also important to the entire State of Georgia and our neighboring states. We certainly understand that we must share Lake Lanier's waters.

Comment ID: 503
Author Name: Kit Dunlap
Organization: Hall Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce and its 3000 business and citizen members are very concerned about the present condition of Lake Sidney Lanier....and the health and viability of Lake Lanier in the future. Gainesville I Hall County, Georgia, USA...has been fortunate to have Lake Lanier in its "back yard" for over 50 years....over 400 miles of its shoreline border this county. We are proud to have Lake Lanier as a recreational resource, water resource, power generator....plus a beautiful home setting. Lake Lanier is by far the most important economic engine for this county and this region. Of course, it is also important to the entire State of Georgia and our neighboring states.

Comment ID: 570
Author Name: Bradley Curry, Jr.
Organization:

Because of the growth of the Atlanta region, fundamental changes must be made to reflect Atlanta's need for a dependable water supply over the next 25 to 50 years.

Comment ID: 606
Author Name: William A. Cooper
Organization: Cobb Chamber of Commerce

The citizens and businesses of Metro Atlanta depend on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' management of Lake Lanier for most of the regions drinking water. With no alternative sources, careful management of this resource is critical.

Comment ID: 609
Author Name: Paul Kelman
Organization: Central Atlanta Progress/Atlanta Downtown Improvement District

Central Atlanta Progress, Inc. and Atlanta Downtown Improvement District, Inc. are private, nonprofit corporations located in Downtown Atlanta, Georgia. We represent business and institutional interests in the central business district of the largest metropolitan area in the ACF water basin. Within our area of interest there are millions of square feet of office space and retail uses, thousands of residents, millions of annual visitors and some of the most iconic structures and institutions in the United States. We are extraordinarily concerned about the Water Control Plan for the ACF River Basin. We are cognizant that three million residents in north Georgia rely on Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River as their sole major source of drinking water. The river and lake are literally our most important lifelines for our physical and economic health.

Comment ID: 618
Author Name: Barry Smith
Organization:

As a tax paying citizen the negative economic impact combined with the drinking water needs to the Atlanta Metro Area need to be protected.

Comment ID: 619
Author Name:
Organization:

So many businesses and lifestyles have been erased because of the mismanagement of this lake, not to mention the seriously compromised reserve capacity for an entire cities water needs.

Comment ID: 620
Author Name: Jerry Griffin
Organization: Association of County Commissioners of GA

Serving as the water supply for 3 million residents in the metropolitan Atlanta region and generating 8 million visits per year (thus resulting in an economic impact of $5.5 billion to the regional economy) Lake Lanier must be more effectively managed to best serve the public interest.

Comment ID: 646
Author Name:
Organization:

Since this lake provides so much water to Atlanta and the surrounding areas, I would like to know that we will have water to live by and water to sustain the various industries whose livelihood depends on it.

Comment ID: 654
Author Name: Linda Raffield
Organization: FCSWA Secretary

The problem as we see it from this end is that this problem did not happen over night, and it is not just because of the drought. If it were there would be less opposition to the recommended water

levels and flow cutbacks. The man made problems of uncontrolled development which requires more water than is available without the least bit of concern for others in continuing development is more than we should or can be expected to swallow. We have been informed that while we are in a drought situation where there is limited water supply nothing has or will be done to detour further development to an already over burdened system.
Knowing this and the lack of consideration in industries which over the years would rather pay heavily in fines than adhere to environmental controls regardless of the consequence.
The added consideration of government who knowingly ignored the problem for almost thirty years is enough to anger the most humble.
All that aside where do we go from here?

Comment ID: 688
Author Name: arnold hall
Organization: none

I have lived here all my life and I see 2 events side by side here, on one side I can see people becoming unemployed, property values falling, businesses failing peoples livelihood vanishing, costing citizens millions of dollars a lake fading away that will devastate the future of several counties that depend of this lake for drinking water.

Comment ID: 691
Author Name: Brandon Shields
Organization:

It is imperative that all be done possible to restore Lake Lanier to its healthy level. This lake is such a valuable asset to Atlanta, not only as a water supply but a great family oriented recreational facility. So many issues appear to have been handled irresponsibly and that coupled with our severe drought has made for a disastrous situation. Great lengths need to be taken to rectify this result, assuring the future health of the lake. We need to work to make sure that future generations of Georgia will look back and know that all of this was handled correctly, safekeeping our water supply as well as our recreational areas

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Comment ID: 727
Author Name: Mike Sullivan
Organization: City Council for City of Sugar Hill

Atlanta has experience economic turmoil due to loss of jobs due to the 2007-08 drought. Companies went bankrupt, people lost their jobs. The Governor of Alabama said that Atlanta was making much to do about nothing. Loss of basic sanitation due to lack of water is an extremely scary thought, and at what point do people outside of Atlanta start to care?

Comment ID: 734
Author Name:
Organization:

Atlanta has experience economic
turmoil due to loss of jobs due to the 2007-08 drought. Companies went
bankrupt, people lost their jobs. The Governor of Alabama said that
Atlanta was making much to do about nothing. Loss of basic sanitation
due to lack of water is an extremely scary thought, and at what point do
people outside of Atlanta start to care?

Comment ID: 742
Author Name: Tim Arnold
Organization:

There is no doubt as a Civil Engineer from Georgia Tech that the limited watershed of the Lake Lanier basin is just as fragile, if not more, than any other part of the ACF basin. Lake Lanier has served as a major water resource for Atlanta metro for many years with no push back. Now that we're in drought mode, everyone is complaining about releases. Today, the lake is a huge economic generator for many people. To allow the lake the be dropped and ruin people's investments in business' and properties is ludicrous.

The COE needs to devise a plan that can look beyond drought times and settle the ACF basin issue for all interested parties. Adding elevation to the lake is probably prudent due to the future added water demands.

The new Water Control Manual Update must consider population and business growth for the metro-Atlanta area as priority One.

Comment ID: 743
Author Name:
Organization:

The endangered species act needs to be reformed. I totally agree endangered species should be put ahead of new development. However, putting endangered species above 3 million people having access to clean running water is ridiculous.

Real Time Monitoring at City of Atlanta Intake (Monitoring)

Comment ID: 339
Author Name: mike forster
Organization:

Can you provide Atlanta with the equipment to provide real time water flow past their intake rather than the 24hr after the fact current situation? I know that it would seem to be their cost to update but there doesn't appear to be any enthusiasm on their part to provide you with timely, accurate flow data.

Updating all measuring equipment on the ACF will allow you to release exactly what is needed rather than the current situation which seems to rely on computer models and non real time information from inaccurate gauges.

Our chief concerns are water quality and quantity.

Concern over Future Availability (Water Supply)

Comment ID: 30
Author Name: Joseph Parrish
Organization:

I would also like to tell you that should that come about that I will be in Washington D.C. fighting against that until such time they implement some kind of policy to control the unbridled growth. As was stated last year up there in the Congressional Subcommittee hearing that we had before Congress, the gentleman from the City of Atlanta stated that their population would go from 6.2 to 12 million in ten years, so their population is going to double. They are going to continue to consume a lot of water out of Lake Lanier, and a lot of this has to do with unbridled growth. I do understand that they are coming up with a water management district and a water management plans as we speak that they adopted back in January. They are about 40 years too late. They are

40 years behind the State of Florida, and they need to really look at what they are doing and come up with some concurrency laws. If you cannot handle your sewage, if you do not have adequate water supplies, then you should not be able to have explosive growth, and those are things that they need to really look at.

Comment ID: 37
Author Name: Carol A. Couch
Organization: GA EPD

Situated as the Atlanta area is toward the uppermost geographical confines of a relatively narrow upper Chattahoochee River drainage system, the options for solutions to regional water needs are very few in number. The crystalline rock geology underlying the region provides very little groundwater, limiting water supply choices almost exclusively to surface water options. In addition, the geography and topography of the upper Chattahoochee River basin are not conducive to additional large water supply reservoirs.

Comment ID: 196
Author Name: Matthew walker
Organization:

3) Again with the population growth in the metro-Atlanta area, there is already an increased pressure to look for other sources of water. One of those is Lake West Point. Again, this will affect demand on the lake and the lake level.

Comment ID: 269
Author Name: doug pauley
Organization:

I am concerned about water supply and water quality on this project

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Comment ID: 296
Author Name: Kathy Nguyen
Organization:

More than 3 million people depend upon Lanier and Chattahoochee River for Water Supply. With limited possibilities for future reservoirs and further impacts on strained river basins by these reservoirs the management of Lanier based upon sound science including a more aggressive look at water supply preservation during historical droughts is imperative.

Comment ID: 312
Author Name: Brant Meadows
Organization:

My other concern is that my county, Forsyth County, is looking at building a reservoir. It's going to cost my county tens of millions of dollars. First estimated cost, well over $70 million. I've said that there's a reservoir that's currently not being used, and that is Lake Lanier. The idea, very simply, would be that Lake Lanier would be used as a bank. So if my county was putting in water that's not derived from sources that are already going into the lake -- for instance, via wells or groundwater or underground aquifers, -- that if we're able to deposit a half a million gallons of water into Lake Lanier that we would be able to withdraw this back to the county. And, of course, the dispute in the county dealing with the county not having a withdrawal permit and only the city of Cumming having that, we go through a middle man. We'd like to have the ability to finish our own water. And in this case, all we're using is Lake Lanier as a temporary storage bank such that

we can put in a half a million gallons and we can get it back out.

Comment ID: 368
Author Name: Jimmy Wilbanks
Organization: City of Dacula, GA

I attended your scoping meeting in Gainesville, GA. I wanted to comment on the concerns of the City of Dacula. We need to preserve our drinking water source for Gwinnett County.

Comment ID: 402
Author Name: L Levi
Organization:

require upgrading and repair of those municipal water distribution systems that obtain water from ACF basin surface waters.

Comment ID: 404
Author Name: L Levi
Organization:

Require future growth and development in Atlanta to demonstrate where water supply will come from to support planned growth - accountability for sustaining continued growth is needed.

Comment ID: 568
Author Name: William E. Carrol
Organization:

2).5+million people rely upon Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River north of Atlanta as the primary source of drinking water for Metropolitan Atlanta. Also, many Metro Atlantans rely upon Lake Lanier to meet their recreational needs as evidenced by Lake Lanier being very heavily used for this purpose.

Comment ID: 570
Author Name: Bradley Curry, Jr.
Organization:

Because of the growth of the Atlanta region, fundamental changes must be made to reflect Atlanta's need for a dependable water supply over the next 25 to 50 years.

Comment ID: 645
Author Name:
Organization:

On Atlanta's water shortage, drastic measures need to be made for infrastructure in this overgrown metropolitan area immediately. It is the biggest development disaster in this country.

Comment ID: 646
Author Name:
Organization:

Since this lake provides so much water to Atlanta and the surrounding areas, I would like to know that we will have water to live by and water to sustain the various industries whose livelihood depends on it.

Comment ID: 647
Author Name:

Organization:

Since this lake provides so much water to Atlanta and the surrounding areas, I would like to know that we will have water to live by and water to sustain the various industries whose livelihood depends on it.

Comment ID: 778
Author Name: Philip Burton
Organization:

Population and current concentrations such as Atlanta near the ACFs headwaters with over 3.5 million people alone is a challenge for Lake Lanier along with its current project purposes.

Comment ID: 809
Author Name: Tim Perkins
Organization: Forsyth County

Water supply is currently the most important need for the citizens of Forsyth County. Currently due to the water wars we are prohibited from providing reliable water supply for our growing area. We have been trying to get permission to get an intake and withdraw water from the lake for over 20 years. If the lake did not exist we would be allowed reasonable water for consumption from the river. Currently we are being forced to look for water from the river below the dam and pump it 19 miles back to our existing plant at an estimated cost of 20 million dollars. We have 20 square miles of the lake in our county but yet we cant get a permit from the Corps. I use to say that was un-American but now when I say that people tell me this could only occur in America. The lake has helped cause the people to move here and use it for recreation but at the same time we are not allowed the water to meet those demands.

General Concern (Water Supply)

Comment ID: 30
Author Name: Joseph Parrish
Organization:

I would also like to tell you that should that come about that I will be in Washington D.C. fighting against that until such time they implement some kind of policy to control the unbridled growth. As was stated last year up there in the Congressional Subcommittee hearing that we had before Congress, the gentleman from the City of Atlanta stated that their population would go from 6.2 to 12 million in ten years, so their population is going to double. They are going to continue to consume a lot of water out of Lake Lanier, and a lot of this has to do with unbridled growth. I do understand that they are coming up with a water management district and a water management plans as we speak that they adopted back in January. They are about 40 years too late. They are 40 years behind the State of Florida, and they need to really look at what they are doing and come up with some concurrency laws. If you cannot handle your sewage, if you do not have adequate water supplies, then you should not be able to have explosive growth, and those are things that they need to really look at.
I'm definitely opposed to any increase of storage of Lake Lanier for MNI above the 15 percent until such time they do something about their unbridled growth. Having said that, I understand that the Corps of Engineers is not responsible for the state's growth polices, but you are responsible for maintaining that 15 percent storage for MNI, and the State of Georgia should be fully aware that you are not going to get anything any better with any higher storage unless you have a reauthorization from Congress.

Comment ID: 36
Author Name: Tony Owens

Organization: MeadWestvaco

Federal law allows local communities to contribute to the construction of Corps reservoirs and essentially reserve a portion of the project's storage for local consumption. At the time of construction of Buford Dam, the Corps was authorized to accept funds from states and their political subdivisions toward the construction of authorized flood control projects in order to "provide additional storage capacity for domestic water supply or other conservation storage," as long as "local agencies" incurred the increase in cost and agreed to "utilize such additional storage capacity in a manner consistent with Federal uses and purposes." Pub. L. No. 75-208, 50 Stat. 515, 518 (1937), codified as amended at 33 U.S.C. § 70lh. State and local interests might have taken steps then which would have eased the current difficulties to some extent. However, local authorities in Atlanta did not avail themselves of that opportunity. The sprawling development that has emerged in North Georgia since that time has done nothing to change the longstanding legal principles governing Lake Lanier and the other ACF reservoirs. Only Congress can do that.

Comment ID: 37
Author Name: Carol A. Couch
Organization: GA EPD

B. Lake Lanier Lake Lanier is located near the headwaters of the Chattahoochee River, and the flow in the Chattahoochee River into and below Lake Lanier in the upper portion of the ACF Basin is small, particularly in comparison with the much higher flows downstream in Middle and Southern Georgia and in Florida. Only 6% of the drainage area of the ACF Basin flows into Lake Lanier. Yet, Lake Lanier provides the majority of storage capacity (64%) among the federal reservoirs within the ACF Basin. As the Corps has repeatedly acknowledged, since Lake Lanier, when drawn down, can take a long time, even several years, to refill, particular care must be given to conserve and protect the water stored in it.

C. The Vital Role of Lake Lanier and the Upper Chattahoochee
River in Meeting Georgia's Water Supply Needs It is the policy of the State of Georgia that its waters are to be managed prudently to meet the needs of its citizens, and to protect and preserve Georgia's environment and natural resources. O.C.G.A. § 12-5-21(a). Georgia regulates municipal and industrial water withdrawals pursuant to a statutory framework that requires persons seeking to withdraw more than 100,000 gallons of water per day to obtain a permit from the State. O.C.G.A. §§ 12-5-21(b), 12-5-31. An applicant for a water withdrawal permit must submit detailed information to allow the State to determine, among other things, that the applicant's need for the withdrawal is reasonable, that the applicant will take appropriate measures to conserve water, and that the applicant's use of water will not have unreasonably adverse effects on other water users. O.C.G.A. § 12-5-31; DNR Rule 391-3-6-.07. In the Metropolitan Atlanta area, the State will not issue a permit for any new or expanded water withdrawal unless such withdrawal is consistent with the Water Supply and Water Conservation Plan of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District. O.C.G.A. § 12-5-584(d)(3). The State of Georgia has enacted a comprehensive statewide water plan that will guide regional water plans to be developed throughout the State. The Chattahoochee River is the primary source of water supply to the majority of Metropolitan North Georgia's more than 4 million people. Roughly 75% of the municipal and industrial water supply for the ten county region served by the Atlanta Regional Commission, for example, comes from the Chattahoochee River/Lake Lanier system. Current needs for water from the Chattahoochee River could not be met without withdrawals directly from Lake Lanier and coordinated releases from Lake Lanier that augment flows in the Chattahoochee River. In 2007, approximately 440 million gallons per day of water were withdrawn from the Chattahoochee River north of Whitesburg, Georgia, including Lake Lanier. In addition, approximately 257 million gallons per day of water were returned to the river and lake in that same area. Situated as the Atlanta area is toward the uppermost geographical confines of a relatively narrow upper Chattahoochee River drainage system, the options for solutions to regional water needs are very few in number.

Numerous water supply studies for the region dating back to the early 1960's have concluded that the Chattahoochee River/Lake Lanier system is the
most economically viable and environmentally protective alternative for meeting the water needs of the region.

1973, a group known as the Executive Group that consisted of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Atlanta Regional Commission, and the Georgia Mountains Planning Commission began the eight-year Metropolitan Atlanta Water Resources Study ("Study"). The Study was authorized by a resolution of the United States Senate Public Works Committee adopted on March 2, 1972. The study was completed in 1981. The Study concluded that Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River should provide 89% of the water to meet projected demands of the Metropolitan Atlanta area. In 1978, an interim report of the Executive Group concluded that without a long-range water supply plan, "the economic growth of the Atlanta region would be adversely affected. The adverse impacts were later defined to include significant losses to the regional and national economics."

The 1978 interim report recommended further study on four alternatives for meeting future water demands from the Lake and River system: construction of a reregu1ation facility downstream of Buford Dam; raise the summer operating pool level at Lake Lanier above 1071 feet above mean sea level; increase storage capacity of Morgan Falls Reservoir; and reallocate storage in Lake Lanier from hydropower to water supply. The Executive Group studied the four alternatives from 1979 through 1981 and concluded that the National Economic Development ("NED") benefits calculated for the reregulation dam and reallocation of storage were very similar. The Corps subsequently reevaluated the NED benefits of the reregulation dam and reallocation of storage using a computer model and determined that reallocation of storage was the preferred NED plan. Accordingly, in 1989, the Corps proposed permanently reallocating 207,000 acre feet of storage in Lake Lanier from hydropower to water supply to meet year 2010 water supply demands. The Corps conducted an Environmental Assessment ("EA") on the proposal and issued a draft Finding of No Significant Impact ("FONSI"). The State of Alabama brought suit challenging the proposed reallocation. The Corps voluntarily withdrew the reallocation as part of settlement negotiations among the Corps and the States of Georgia, Alabama, and Florida.

D. West Point Lake and Lower Federal Reservoirs West Point Lake is located on the Chattahoochee River approximately 155 miles southwest flake Lanier. West Point Lake, like Lake Lanier, meets vital water supply needs of citizens within the State of Georgia. The City of LaGrange withdraws water from West Point Lake for municipal and industrial needs. The City of West Point relies on withdrawals immediately downstream of West Point Dam for municipal and industrial purposes. Further downstream, the City of Columbus withdraws water from the Chattahoochee River and relies on the waste assimilative capacity of the Chattahoochee River to meet the needs of approximately 225,000 people.

Comment ID: 40
Author Name: Paul M. Flood
Organization:

7. Over the next ten to twenty years, the Southeastern United States will continue to grow economically and in population; particularly in Georgia, Florida and Alabama. Greater Atlanta alone is projected to grow from 5.5 million to over 7.5 million within the next ten to fifteen years. This is an increase of over 35%! There is a simple solution to insure that the water needs of all regions of the ACF are met. This includes Atlanta, the agricultural interests in South Georgia and Alabama, the real estate and
fishing industries in Florida, as well as a the economic development of North Georgia. Keep Lake Lanier full at all times! The solution? There are trillions of gallons of water within the boundaries of the State of Georgia. This water is better known as the Atlantic Ocean! The concept is simple -

run a water pipe from Savannah to Gainesville and Lake Lanier along
the right-of-way of Interstate 20 and Interstate 85. Build a nuclear power plant near Savannah to desalinate the sea water, and then pump the desalinated water from the Atlantic to Lake Lanier to keep it full at all times. The Corps could sponsor a feasibility study to determine construction and annual operating costs of such a system. The City of Tampa, Florida could assist in determining the cost of a conventional desalinization plant, and the Southern Company could provide input into a nuclear-powered energy/desalinization plant. Colonial Pipeline could aid in determining the cost of constructing and maintaining the pipeline, as they have built oil and gas pipelines from Texas and Oklahoma to New England. The development and construction costs may be $2 billion to $10 billion dollars. However, this one-time cost may be relatively inexpensive compared to the annual cost of not doing it; particularly if one considers that the lack of an adequate water supply could hinder Atlanta growth by a whopping 50% in the next ten to fifteen years or longer! Based upon projections of an increase of two million people in the relative near future, this equates to lost growth of one million people. The economic impact on the Gross Domestic Product (GOP) of Atlanta could be almost totally disastrous, if you consider that 50% of the potential one-million people lost in population growth contributes to the working population of Atlanta; the others are spouses and children. The one-half million workers moving to the Atlanta would be coming here to take advantage of the many high-tech, research and development, marketing and manufacturing opportunities. These jobs could pay $60,000 or more per year, resulting in annual labor costs of $30 billion (500,000 X $60,000 per year). If labor costs are fifty percent of the goods and services produced, the annual Atlanta GOP lost is $60 billion each year! As previously indicated, the economic consequences of not having a full and clean Lake Lanier can be disastrous on Atlanta, North Georgia and the Southeastern United States. Therefore, it is vitally important the Corps of Engineers coordinate, develop and implement a plan in the immediate future to keep Lake Lanier full and clean on a year-round basis. I am a Board member of the Lake Lanier Association and Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee. Although I am not speaking for the Association in this letter, I know that LLA is more than happy to work with the Corps on this important endeavor. Respectfully Submitted, Paul M. Flood, CMC

Comment ID: 42
Author Name: Tom Oliver
Organization: Hall County Government Board of Commissioners

To Whom it May Concern: The Hall County, Georgia Board of Commissioners is keenly interested in the outcome of the Anny Corp of Engineers work to revise their ACF Water Control Manual. We understand that this manual will have a significant effect on the Chattahoochee River Basin and Lake Lanier in Georgia. Listed below are a few points that the Hall County Commission would like for the Corp of Engineers to consider as they revise the Water Control Manual: 1. During the rainy season we would recommend the Corps of Engineers allow Lake Lanier to reach full pool no later than June 1st of each year;

Comment ID: 44
Author Name: Steve Leitman
Organization:

Although I understand the subtle
differences between space and water I have several questions relating to this distinction that I hope you can clarify for me in the process of updating the Water Control Manuals: 1) To begin, it is my understanding that space is allocated on a vertical plane, not on a horizontal plane, or in other words, the space is allocated so that a certain percentage of the conservation pool is available at all elevations in the storage pool. For example, if 15% of the conservation pool space at Lake Lanier is allocated to water supply then this allocation extends from the top of the pool at 1070/1071 NGVD to the bottom of the pool at 1035 NGVD. Is this correct? If not, how is storage space allocated? 2)

Comment ID: 58

Author Name: Caroline Weiler
Organization:

Firstly, I want to say that I am not outraged that Atlanta has been growing on water taken from Lake Lanier "illegally". That kind of emotion is counterproductive. I understand all the economic benefits from that growth.

Comment ID: 60
Author Name: Denesia Cheek
Organization: National Park Service

In addition, as a land management agency we are responsible for the following congressional authorizations: Water Supply Act of 1958, Endangered Species Act of 1973, and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958. We appreciate the opportunity to submit comments at this time and hope that you will take them into consideration. We will continue to be engaged in the process and appreciate opportunities to further collaborate. Should you have additional questions and/or comments, you can contact Denesia W. Cheek, NPS Southeast Regional Hydrologist at (404) 562-3113 ext. 510 or denesia_cheek@nps.gov.

Comment ID: 100
Author Name: Jack Carbone
Organization:

We need a solution to the water supply issue w/ the state of Georgia. The Apalachicola River and Bay are vital to the economic and cultural viability of the community. Twenty years of conflict over this is enough. Get the required scientific data and let's have a rational conversation about the various needs and how they can be met.

- Jack Carbone

Develop Additional Water Resources (Water Resources)

Comment ID: 128
Author Name: R.S. Windham
Organization:

Would like to see map of this area; therefore, see where new lake would be??

Comment ID: 435
Author Name: Nolton Johnson
Organization:

Alternatives should consider long term water supply needs of those local governments riparian to Lake Lanier/Chattahoochee River and existing water supply users, as well as waste assimilation needs downstream. Consumptive use (withdrawals minus returns)should be utilized. Also cold water releases for support of trout within reasonable distance downstream of Buford Dam should be considered.

Comment ID: 450
Author Name: Sidell Tilghman
Organization:

Since Alabama and Florida are located on the coast, why don't they make use of desalinization to alleviate their needs from the ACF system?

Comment ID: 466
Author Name: Kenneth Davis
Organization:

3. How can a lake the size of Lanier possibly supply the Atlanta metro area? If Nickajack Lake could be tapped the City of Atlanta should pay for the water and construction required to pipe it in.

Comment ID: 485
Author Name: George Ehrhardt
Organization:

At the meeting of the governors of Georgia, Florida and Alabama in the Spring of 2008, the governor of Alabama stated that his demands for water from Lake Lanier would be abated when the residents of that city were running out of water.....and that is fuzzy rhetoric. When the citizenry runs that low on water, there will be no other source of water available for them! You had best plan now for water availability for Georgians well into the 21st century.

Comment ID: 570
Author Name: Bradley Curry, Jr.
Organization:

Because of the growth of the Atlanta region, fundamental changes must be made to reflect Atlanta's need for a dependable water supply over the next 25 to 50 years.

Comment ID: 709
Author Name: Richard DeWitt
Organization:

Save Lake Lanier from the fate of Lake Meade at the Hoover Dam area. Cities down stream of Lake Lanier should work more on providing more of their own water needs than solely relying on lake water.

Comment ID: 729
Author Name: Mike Sullivan
Organization: City Council for City of Sugar Hill

I understand that the FLINT River has little to no reservoir capacity. In times of drought, this can result in an extra burden being put onto the Chattahoochee River. There are more reservoirs needed, hopefully the Flint river can have reservoirs built to help the ACF river basin in times of drought.

Comment ID: 743
Author Name:
Organization:

I am very worried over the future of my community's water supply. I live within a few miles of the Chattahoochee River and Lake Lanier. I think it's crazy that myself and my neighbors are worried we may not have access to enough clean running water in the near future.

Comment ID: 748
Author Name: Michael Ceigler
Organization:

Adding storage capacity on the Flint River will increase the total water storage capacity in the

ACF basin. It will reduce the need to empty storage facilities on the Chattahoochee River to meet the minimum flow requirements of the Apalachicola River.

Comment ID: 752
Author Name: Charles Cataldo
Organization: Arris Group

The Flint River needs a new reservoir badly, especially for times of extended drought. A well designed and implemented Flint River reservoir should be a key factor in taking some load off of the Chattahoochee River and the entire basin.

Comment ID: 760
Author Name: Mary Lou Dabbs
Organization:

From the presentations I saw at the meeting held in LaGrange, it seems that the Chattahoochee has to pull more than its share of the water control function of the basin. It seems that there are missed opportunities for additional water storage on the Flint River that could relieve some downstream issues that seem to drain our lakes (West Point and Lanier) dry.

Drought Effects on Water Supply (Water Supply)

Comment ID: 151
Author Name: Sondra bowie
Organization:

water supply became a great concern as we watched the lake level drop. please manage to supply adequate water for this community.

Comment ID: 218
Author Name: CHARLES
Organization:

If our lake levels drop then our water supply drops. We need water to survive! If it can be here naturally, then it needs to be left here. We do not need to be paying to pump water into our community for survival when it can be here naturally to be filtered through the water treatment plants. We already have to spend enough money treating the water due to our poor pollution effects and lifestyles that we do not need to spend more pumping it in.

Comment ID: 284
Author Name: James Bishop
Organization:

I am a resident in the area. I am concerned about the water supply in Lake Lanier. This drought has gone on for over three years. We can only hope and pray that it will end. We may have to eventually rely on interbasin transfers. Due to the pending Supreme Court review of the GA/AL/FL water problem. No one knows what the outcome of this will be. conservation is important in a time like this for sure; however, there is only so much we can conserve.
--
I am a resident in the area. I am concerned about the water supply in Lake Lanier.

Comment ID: 373
Author Name: Jonathon Heard
Organization: City of Cumming

For example, one of the City of Cumming's Raw Water Intake pipes was left "high and dry" last year due to the excessive drop in Lanier's elevation while other Lakes in the ACF enjoyed full pool status. The City has been forced to dredge the lake bottom and operate emergency bypass pumps to overcome the "disaster" created by the inefficient operation of the system. Because of this, the City of Cumming has spent millions of dollars from it's reserve funds to get to the water. We have dedicated ourselves to "chasing water" no matter how far it recedes. There has been a lack of "balance" in the operation of the system over the past 2 years.

Comment ID: 384
Author Name: Larry Preston
Organization:

release water from Lanier based on water received into Lanier, during drought conditions little or no water should be released , if the Corp had not released so much water in the past years the metro Atlanta area would not be in such bad shape as it appears to be in now with its water supply..

Comment ID: 485
Author Name: George Ehrhardt
Organization:

The states of Florida and Alabama are neither planning nor spending for a water infrastructure when they can just use the water in Georgia at no cost to them. Politicians only act in time of crisis..... and in the case of a water shortage in north Georgia, that will be much too late for any reasonable solution.

Comment ID: 692
Author Name: Leonard Montgomery
Organization:

This Bay MUST be preserved as in the past. The water supply from up river must not be restricted in any way. The loss of the oysters just can not happen.

Consider MNGWSPD Plans (Water Supply)

Comment ID: 37
Author Name: Carol A. Couch
Organization: GA EPD

C. The Vital Role of Lake Lanier and the Upper Chattahoochee
River in Meeting Georgia's Water Supply Needs It is the policy of the State of Georgia that its waters are to be managed prudently to meet the needs of its citizens, and to protect and preserve Georgia's environment and natural resources. O.C.G.A. § 12-5-21(a). Georgia regulates municipal and industrial water withdrawals pursuant to a statutory framework that requires persons seeking to withdraw more than 100,000 gallons of water per day to obtain a permit from the State. O.C.G.A. §§ 12-5-21(b), 12-5-31. An applicant for a water withdrawal permit must submit detailed information to allow the State to determine, among other things, that the applicant's need for the withdrawal is reasonable, that the applicant will take appropriate measures to conserve water, and that the applicant's use of water will not have unreasonably adverse effects on other water users. O.C.G.A. § 12-5-31; DNR Rule 391-3-6-.07. In the Metropolitan Atlanta area, the State will not issue a permit for any new or expanded water withdrawal unless such withdrawal is consistent with the Water Supply and Water Conservation Plan of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District. O.C.G.A. § 12-5-584(d)(3). The State of Georgia has enacted a comprehensive statewide water plan that will guide regional water plans to be developed throughout the State. The Chattahoochee River is the primary source of

water supply to the majority of Metropolitan North Georgia's more than 4 million people. Roughly 75% of the municipal and industrial water supply for the ten county region served by the Atlanta Regional Commission, for example, comes from the Chattahoochee River/Lake Lanier system. Current needs for water from the Chattahoochee River could not be met without withdrawals directly from Lake Lanier and coordinated releases from Lake Lanier that augment flows in the Chattahoochee River. In 2007, approximately 440 million gallons per day of water were withdrawn from the Chattahoochee River north of Whitesburg, Georgia, including Lake Lanier. In addition, approximately 257 million gallons per day of water were returned to the river and lake in that same area. Situated as the Atlanta area is toward the uppermost geographical confines of a relatively narrow upper Chattahoochee River drainage system, the options for solutions to regional water needs are very few in number.

Comment ID: 485
Author Name: George Ehrhardt
Organization:

I do not wish to sound like a complainer, but it is past time for common sense to be used in planning for the future of North Georgia with regard to water availability. A very small river with a tiny watershed area feeds Lake Lanier, and to think that that river can supply three states with water well into the 21st century is ridiculous. I wish the Corps well in its endeavors to come up with a Water Control Manual that will make good use of the water in Lake Lanier in planning for a water supply for North Georgia for the 21st century.

Comment ID: 501
Author Name: Russell Landscape Group
Organization: Russell Landscape Group

I additionally encourage the Corp to consider alternative operating plans to balance upstream needs with those downstream before adopting a New Water Control Plan. The ACF River Basin is sufficient enough to meet both regions water needs if managed properly. After all, the entire Metro Atlanta region currently uses less than 2% of water in the ACF Basin. As a citizen of this great area, I encourage you to consider a New Water Control Plan that accommodates withdrawals consistent with projections contained in the Metro North Georgia Water Planning Districts Water Supply and Conservation Plan. Thanking you in advance I remain Sincerely, William E Russell Ph-D President/CEO Russell Landscape Groups, Inc.

Comment ID: 502
Author Name: Grier Todd
Organization: 1071 Coalition of Lake Lanier

5) The new water control plan should be designed to accommodate withdrawals that are consistent with projections within the District's Water Supply and Conservation Plan.

Comment ID: 504
Author Name: Katheryn Dunlap
Organization: Metropolitan North GA Water Planning District

As a part of this project the Corps should consider the water supply needs of the region as identified in the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District's long range plans.

Comment ID: 606
Author Name: William A. Cooper
Organization: Cobb Chamber of Commerce

6] Metro Atlanta currently uses only 1 to 2% of the water in the ACF Basin as measured by the flow at the Florida line. We believe this is reasonable by any measure and the new water control

plan should be designed to accommodate withdrawals that are consistent with projections within the District's Water Supply and Conservation Plan. 7] Metro Atlanta is committed to aggressive water conservation. The Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District is far ahead of the rest of the basin in these efforts and is currently revising its Water Supply and Conservation Plan to be even more aggressive. Thank you for your consideration of this request, the Cobb Chamber stands ready to assist you in this effort in any way we can. Sincerely, William A. Cooper President and CEO

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6] Metro Atlanta currently uses only 1 to 2% of the water in the ACF Basin as measured by the flow at the Florida line. We believe this is reasonable by any measure and the new water control plan should be designed to accommodate withdrawals that are consistent with projections within the District's Water Supply and Conservation Plan.

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6] Metro Atlanta currently uses only 1 to 2% of the water in the ACF Basin as measured by the flow at the Florida line. We believe this is reasonable by any measure and the new water control plan should be designed to accommodate withdrawals that are consistent with projections within the District's Water Supply and Conservation Plan.

Lack of Congressional authority (Water Supply)

Comment ID: 36
Author Name: Tony Owens
Organization: MeadWestvaco

Water Supply Is Not an Authorized Purpose of Lake Lanier. As noted above, the primary purposes of Lake Lanier are hydropower, flood control, and support of downstream navigation. According to the Corps' report as reprinted in House Document 300, the provision of hydropower and downstream navigation on a cost-effective basis... . . . cannot be secured by the plants below Columbus proposed herein unless a considerable storage be provided upstream to increase the minimum regulated flow and the firm capacities at those plants; without such upstream storage, the development would not be economically justified. The best development for that purpose is that at Buford proposed herein. H.R. Doc. No. 80-300 at 39 (1946) (emphasis added). In other words, the Buford project was necessary to support navigation and hydropower production below the fall line, and was constructed for the purpose of maintaining minimum flows sufficient to support hydropower and downstream navigation. Congress approved House Document 300 and authorized the Buford project on that basis. Pub. L. No. 79-525,60 Stat. 634, 635 (1946)). Congress anticipated that Lake Lanier and the other reservoirs would likely serve other purposes as well, including water supply. House Document 300 states that releases from Buford should be sufficient "so as to insure at all times a flow of Atlanta not less than 650 second-feet." H.R. Doc. No. 80-300 at 34 (1946). That flow level was deemed necessary "to meet the estimated present needs of the city, and to prevent damage to fish, riparian owners, and other interests by complete shutdowns" during off-peak hydropower production times. Id. (emphasis added). However, by addressing only the "present" needs of the city, House Document 300 clearly signaled to Atlanta more than 50 years ago that Lake Lanier would not indefinitely provide ever-increasing supplies of water for local consumption. To the contrary, use of Lake Lanier for water supply was authorized only to the extent consistent with the primary project purposes. Again, according to House Document 300, Lake Lanier "would ensure an adequate municipal and industrial water supply for the Atlanta area, would produce large benefits in the way of recreation, fish and wildlife conservation, and similar matters," but only "[incidentally" to the service of the reservoir's primary purposes. Id. at 39 (emphasis added). Section 301 of the federal Water Supply Act of 1958 also requires the Corps to provide water for local consumption only to the extent possible without compromising the primary authorized purposes. Pub. L. No. 85-500, Title III, § 301, 72 Stat. 297, 319-20 (1958), codified as amended at 43 U.S.C. § 390b. According to that statute: Modifications of a reservoir project . . . to include storage . . . which would seriously affect the purposes for which the project was authorized, surveyed, planned, or constructed, or which would involve

major structural or operational changes shall be made only upon the approval of Congress as now provided by law. 43 U.S.C. § 390b (d) (emphasis added). The Corps has long interpreted Section 301 to limit allocation of storage for water supply to the lesser of 15% of a project's total storage or 50,000 acre-feet. ER 1105-2-100, ~ 3.8.b (5). That is an accurate reflection of longstanding federal policy to view water supply as primarily a local, not federal, responsibility.

Federal law allows local communities to contribute to the construction of Corps reservoirs and essentially reserve a portion of the project's storage for local consumption. At the time of construction of Buford Dam, the Corps was authorized to accept funds from states and their political subdivisions toward the construction of authorized flood control projects in order to "provide additional storage capacity for domestic water supply or other conservation storage," as long as "local agencies" incurred the increase in cost and agreed to "utilize such additional storage capacity in a manner consistent with Federal uses and purposes." Pub. L. No. 75-208, 50 Stat. 515, 518 (1937), codified as amended at 33 U.S.C. § 70lh. State and local interests might have taken steps then which would have eased the current difficulties to some extent. However, local authorities in Atlanta did not avail themselves of that opportunity. The sprawling development that has emerged in North Georgia since that time has done nothing to change the longstanding legal principles governing Lake Lanier and the other ACF reservoirs. Only Congress can do that.

Comment ID: 51
Author Name: Billy V. Houston
Organization: Tri Rivers Waterway Development District

. Water Supply Is Not a Primary Congressionally Authorized Purpose. Congress has established the primary purposes of the ACF reservoirs, as described more fully above. All other purposes, including local water supply, are secondary. The Corps may not allow any secondary use of the ACF reservoirs that would interfere with those primary purposes without further Congressional approval. Specifically, according to the statutes governing the Corps' reservoir operations: Modifications of a reservoir project heretofore authorized, surveyed, planned, or constructed to include storage . . . which would seriously affect the purposes for which the project was authorized, surveyed, planned, or constructed, or which would involve major structural or operational changes shall be made only upon the approval of Congress as now provided by law. 43 U.S.C. § 390b(d). The Corps has interpreted this statutory provision to limit allocation of storage for water supply to the lesser of 15% of a project's total storage or 50,000 acre-feet. ER 1105-2-100, ¶ 3.8.b(5). The statute and the Corps' regulations are consistent with longstanding federal policy to view water supply as primarily a local and not a federal responsibility. Because local water supply is not among the primary project purposes established by Congress, federal law imposes strict limits on the Corps' authority to allow water diversions for local consumption

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Comment ID: 67
Author Name: Jeff Lukken
Organization: Mayor of LaGrange

West Point Lake has no Congressional authorization to provide water to supplement lost or reduced flows resulting from agricultural demands or drawdown's impacting the Flint river. All calculations for flows at Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam (JWLD) must be predicated only on available flows from the Flint. If agricultural interests are adversely impacting flows on the Flint it is improper to make up those lost flows using waters impounded in West Point La1ce. Congress made no authorization to use West Point to supplement agricultural consumptive use. Thus any operating plan design that is based the use of West Point waters to make up for water consumed on the Flint must be eliminated.

Comment ID: 69
Author Name: Jeff Brown

Organization: Troup County Chamber of Commerce

West Point Lake has no Congressional authorization to provide water to supplement lost or reduced flows resulting from agricultural demands or drawdown's impacting the Flint River. All calculations for flows at Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam (JWLD) must be predicated only on available flows from the Flint. If agricultural interests are adversely impacting flows on the Flint, it is improper to make up those lost flows using waters impounded in West Point Lake. Congress made no authorization to use West Point to supplement agricultural consumptive use. Thus any operating plan design that is based the use of West Point waters to make up for water consumed on the Flint must be eliminated.
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Water Quality (Water Supply)

Comment ID: 37
Author Name: Carol A. Couch
Organization: GA EPD

D. West Point Lake and Lower Federal Reservoirs West Point Lake is located on the Chattahoochee River approximately 155 miles southwest flake Lanier. West Point Lake, like Lake Lanier, meets vital water supply needs of citizens within the State of Georgia. The City of LaGrange withdraws water from West Point Lake for municipal and industrial needs. The City of West Point relies on withdrawals immediately downstream of West Point Dam for municipal and industrial purposes. Further downstream, the City of Columbus withdraws water from the Chattahoochee River and relies on the waste assimilative capacity of the Chattahoochee River to meet the needs of approximately 225,000 people.

Comment ID: 148
Author Name: Sondra bowie
Organization:

when the lake level was extremely low, chemicals had to be added for safe water consumption. I don't like the taste nor the idea of these chemicals. please maintain adequate level for safe water consumption.

Comment ID: 250
Author Name: Rich Gibson
Organization:

I have two children under seven (7) years old and I am concerned about water quality during periods of low lake levels. Last year, the West Point Lake dropped close to Dead Pool. This creates less dilution and thus requires additional chemical treatment. I am concerned about my children having to drink this type water.

Comment ID: 324
Author Name: CARL STEKELBURG
Organization:

I'm concerned about the water quality of West Point Lake. I'm on the Harris County water system which buys water. When the water gets low in Harris County they buy it from Muskogee County. So it’s running water out of West Point Lake. And getting a lot of oil it right now. A lot of times we’ll taste oil in it. I'm concerned that we let the water level get so low that the oil is getting in the mixture of things. I think we need to keep the water level up a little higher.

Cumulative Effects (Water Supply)

Comment ID: 55
Author Name: Brian Atkins
Organization:

Corps must also assess whether the proposed operations under the revised water control plan will be consistent with applicable
federal laws, including, but not limited to, the Water Supply Act and the Flood Control Act. This step requires an assessment of other proposed reallocations of water storage in the federal storage projects to water supply and potential reservoir construction within the ACF Basin. The State of Georgia has developed a water supply plan that includes various assumptions and projections regarding the use of federal reservoirs for water supply purposes over the next several years. To date, the Corps has not reviewed any of the potential efforts within the State of Georgia to increase the amount of water storage available for water supply at Lake Lanier. Failure to consider the impact of these assumptions and projections upon the potential future operations of Lake Lanier would violate the Corps' obligations to consider the cumulative impacts of known and foreseeable future actions. The Corps should consider these potential reallocations of storage in the environmental impact statement under NEPA, but should also consider the extent to which these reallocations may require Congressional approval prior to implementation.

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population growth (Water Resources)

Comment ID: 570
Author Name: Bradley Curry, Jr.
Organization:

Because of the growth of the Atlanta region, fundamental changes must be made to reflect Atlanta's need for a dependable water supply over the next 25 to 50 years.

WATER SUPPLY MONITORING

Monitoring Water Use (Monitoring)

Comment ID: 316
Author Name: Bonny Putney
Organization:

I really think that the biggest problem is the fact that we don't have a lot of science to back up any of the things that we're doing here. And if we had more monitoring up and down the rivers so that we could see exactly who's using what water and how much water is needed in each area, I think it would be a lot easier to justify who gets the water and why they're getting the water. I just fell like there should be a lot more signs, a lot more monitoring on the river basin so that people will feel confident in what we're doing as far as releases go.

Comment ID: 669
Author Name: Blair Anderson
Organization:

Please give more weight to the current overall water release scheme that is currently in place. I would think as most residents do, that the potential negative affects of this "new" policy of continual release at these low levels is completely non-sensical or in better terms, unreasonable. The needs of the people and the many residents surrounding such a 'once' beautiful lake far outweigh the needs of fish life, mussels. When water levels go down further aren't we

endangering our own Lake's water life endangering the fish that live here as well as the safety and value of lake resident's property?? ..let alone possibly cutting off water supplies to 12 million+ people?

I am sure you have heard these comments before and hope that you are now not rolling your eyes as you read yet another letter from a taxpayer inquiring about what is going on with current policy. Please take these comments, feedback seriously. The responsibility you have at the Corps is great. I appreciate the great responsibility, and yes, respect it greatly. As most people, I cannot fathom all the complexities that go into your management duties. Most of us out here are not asking you to re-invent the wheel of how the Corps does things. I think if you had the ear of some of us and wanted to more strategically curtail responses/letters/inquiries of what the heck is going on, a refinement of your communication is what is in order. Maybe you are doing everything right. I wouldn't know because your(the Corps) bureaucratic communication has not hit me. Is there any possibility that the Corps can communicate clearly what it is currently doing, what it has been doing in the past, what has changed since 2006/2007 full pool lake levels? Maybe open and straight talk about where you, the Corps are at, will help justify what you are doing, why you are doing it, why it is not a catch-22, and why/how the lake level will come back. All Georgia Americans/taxpayers are reasonable and support their federal and state run agencies when things are well explained and appear justified. Helping our neighbors in trouble (compassion)is a good thing but there comes a time when those that help (their resources) start to end and the extent of help (the reaching out and giving) must end. Compassion overload has set in with the mussels and the other states that are screaming for Georgia's Lake Lanier water. What about us in Georgia who plan on relying on this water as humans? Haven't we helped out enough down stream from Lanier? If it isn't enough, tell us why it isn't enough and we may support the continued policy. If you can't reasonably justify what you are doing to the people (citizens) whom are paying for your services/offices/resources/salaries maybe it is time to change your policy to a policy that does reasonably justify what is happening to Georgia's resource. I take seriously the word reasonably and do not feel I have enough information to justify to my neighbor why the lake is where it is at with water levels. Does that seem right to the Corps directors? If there is some link to a reasonably worded update on where the Corps policy is on water management specific to our great Lake Lanier? I would as well as many of my neighbors would love to see it. I request this as I have an interest in this as I am an adjacent landowner indirectly paying for the corps oversight.

Nothing helps greater in understanding than communication.

If someone can respond great, if not, fine...

Instream Flow Monitoring - General (Monitoring)

Comment ID: 121
Author Name: Jack Struble
Organization:

Keeping the lake at this level can be accomplished without any concern for flooding if the gauges are monitored and the upstream flow is also monitored.

Comment ID: 222
Author Name: Lillian Ford
Organization:

There has to be a better way to monitor the water levels of this water way. Tenn seemed to have near full reserve of water when we were near dry. Who makes decisions on draining a water way without using your eyes? What will fix this?

Comment ID: 441

Author Name: Miller Stevens
Organization:

Please Watch Your Gauge

Comment ID: 445
Author Name: David Sargent
Organization:

* Measure some Chat River in White Co against release volume. Don't release more than you take in (Do not use rain amount as excuse for past mistakes)

Comment ID: 603
Author Name: Wm T Schwendler Jr
Organization: part-time resident, boater

2.Communications and accurate data. In late February I was in the Corps office next to Lake Walter F George on Navy league business. Looking out the window I could see 1 foot diameter oak tree apparently growing out of the water no more than 100' from the building. Oaks will die if they have consistently wet feet, so my guess is that Lake George was at least 3-4' above full pool. When we left Atlanta that morning the AJC had reported that Lake George was 1-2' below full pool. My guess is that Lake George was 4-6' higher than reported in the newspaper. I don't know where the data came from that was in the newspaper, but clearly there was a disconnect. Either your data collection system is faulty, or not timely by weeks, or someone is misrepresenting the truth.

Comment ID: 660
Author Name:
Organization:

5)Is there a minimum flow rate and water level gauge reading, at any point in the Chattahoochee River between Buford Dam and West Point Lake, that water from Lake Lanier is expected to always maintain regardless of any drought conditions?

Comment ID: 759
Author Name: Billy R. Mayes
Organization: Dothan Utilities

3. Existing gauging stations are updated and additional gauging stations are installed to determine the condition and flows of the river basin on a continuous basis. New locations need to be established to ensure that good data is obtained and true conditions of the river basin can be determined. These stations, at minimum, need to include rain sensors, river levels and flows, water temperatures and other water quality parameters.
4. SCADA system to be installed to continuously monitor the condition of the river basin with real-time data from all the stations, withdrawal locations and permitted effluent locations. Monitoring data to be used in model to help determine daily, weekly, monthly and annual adjustments to the flows and levels in the river basin. Soil moistures need to be considered in the model.

Comment ID: 763
Author Name: James H. Phillips
Organization: Middle Chattahoochee Water Coalition

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Monitoring Use of Storage (Water Supply)

Comment ID: 44
Author Name: Steve Leitman
Organization:

2) How does the Corps of Engineers monitor compliance with allocated space for a given use? For example, how is it decided how much of the storage space for water supply has been allocated and when this allocation has reached its limit? 3) Next, what happens once this limit is reached? Does the Corps of Engineers refuse further allocations of the storage pool for this purpose? Does this mean that if a community intended to make withdrawals which would exceed the storage space available for water supply that the Corps of Engineers would reject the request? 4) Finally, assuming that my understanding of how space is allocated is correct, why are municipalities allowed to install water intake structures which are above the bottom of the conservation pool?