



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

For Immediate Release:
March 29, 2011
News Release No. 11-17

Contact:
Billy Birdwell, Public Affairs Officer, 912.652.5014/5279
billy.e.birdwell@usace.army.mil
Joyce McDonald, Corporate Communication Officer, 912.652.5777
joyce.a.mcdonald@usace.army.mil

After hours: 912-677-6039

CORPS OF ENGINEERS BANS SUBMERSIBLE PUMPS AT HARTWELL LAKE

SAVANNAH, Ga. – The [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District](#) recently banned the use of submersible pumps on [Hartwell Lake](#) for withdrawing water for individual domestic use.

Officials instituted the ban to increase safety for users of the reservoir following the near-electrocution of a swimmer in 2010. An investigation determined a submersible pump delivered the shock to the swimmer.

“Submersible pumps are not designed for use in open water or where swimmers may be present,” said [Col. Jeffrey Hall](#), Savannah District commander, who authorized the change to the Hartwell Lake Shoreline Management Plan. “We updated our policy to increase the safety of visitors to Hartwell Lake.”

Individuals with withdrawal permits may continue to use water from the reservoir but may not use submerged pumps. Pumps must be ashore on private property or, if on a permitted dock, must remain above water. Only non-conductive (non-metal) hoses or pipes may enter the water from the pump.

Individuals with pump permits will receive a letter from the Corps of Engineers outlining the policy change and giving them until May 8 to remove any submersible pump. The Corps of Engineers will waive all permit modification fees associated with this policy change but permit holders must bear the cost of removing or replacing submersible pumps. Hartwell Lake staff will coordinate and document the removal of the pumps.

This policy change brings Hartwell Lake in line with other Corps reservoirs including [Thurmond Lake](#). Private shoreline use permits are not allowed at the Savannah District’s [Russell Lake](#).

Hartwell Dam and Lake is on the upper Savannah River at the confluence of the Seneca and Tugaloo Rivers and is near Anderson, S.C., and Hartwell, Ga.

– 30 –

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ [Savannah District](#) manages [three lakes and hydroelectric dams](#) along the Savannah River. It also oversees a multi-billion dollar [military construction](#) program at 12 Army and Air Force installations in Georgia and North Carolina. Corps’ projects range from barracks, hospitals and clinics to equipment shops, headquarters buildings and aircraft hangars. The Savannah District also has oversight and maintains additional civil works projects – from the Savannah and Brunswick harbors to the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway.