



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Savannah District

Media Advisory

Corps Schedules Drought Public Meetings

Release No: 07-49

Date: November 9, 2007

REMINDER FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

SAVANNAH, GA. -- The Savannah District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, will hold two public meetings in the upper Savannah River basin to discuss water management operations at Lakes Thurmond, Russell and Hartwell during the current drought conditions. The meetings will be held at the Julian Smith Casino, 2200 Broad Street, Augusta, Ga., on Nov. 13, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and at the Hilton Garden Inn, 115 Destination Blvd., Anderson, S.C., on Nov. 14 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Savannah District Commander, Colonel Edward J. Kertis, will make formal presentations at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at both venues.

Representatives with various agencies including the National Weather Service (NWS) will staff information booths to provide information and discuss public concerns. This "drop in" format will allow information to be presented throughout the meeting so the public may come-and-go at their convenience. Topics will include lake level predictions, water safety, water conservation management, hydropower production, and water management operation of the three lakes in the Savannah River system.

The three lakes entered Drought Contingency Level 2 on Aug. 15 resulting in limiting outflow from Thurmond Dam to a weekly average of 4,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). In recent weeks, the Corps water managers have reduced that amount to 3,600 to conserve more water in the lakes. Reducing outflow decreased the amount of electricity generated by the dams' power plants and conserved more water in the reservoirs.

As of 8:30 a.m., Nov. 9 Lake Hartwell was at 648.6 feet above mean sea level (ft-msl), Lake Russell was at 474.1 ft-msl, and Lake Thurmond was at 318.4 ft-msl. Both Lakes Hartwell and Thurmond are 10 feet below guide curve and six feet down from the average (normal) pool elevation for this time of year.

For more information on current lake levels and projections, contact the Savannah District Public Affairs Office at 912-652-5014/5279, or visit the District's website at <http://water.sas.usace.army.mil> featuring updated links to drought management information.

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