



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Savannah District

NEWS RELEASE

Evaluation continues in river flow reduction assessment

Release No: 08-39

October 31, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAVANNAH, GA. – Planners and environmental specialists with the Army Corps of Engineers continue their evaluation of a request to reduce water discharges from the J. Strom Thurmond Dam on the Georgia-South Carolina border.

The states of Georgia and South Carolina requested the Corps of Engineers to reduce outflows from the Thurmond Dam from the current 3,600 cubic feet per second (daily average) to 3,100 cfs to retain more water in the three reservoir system on the upper Savannah River. The Corps of Engineers began an expedited public comment period that ended Oct. 27. State officials had requested a flow reduction from Nov. 1, 2008, through Feb. 28, 2009.

Due to the large number of comments and due to requirements to allow other agencies and governments a full 30-day comment period, the decision on reducing outflows can be completed no earlier than mid- to late November.

“Our commitment is to follow the letter and spirit of the law and thoroughly evaluate this change,” said Col. Ed Kertis, the commander of the Savannah District of the Army Corps of Engineers. The Savannah District operates Hartwell, Russell and Thurmond dams.

The on-going drought in the Southeast has led to record low levels in the reservoirs managed by the Savannah District. District officials voluntarily reduced the outflow from the Thurmond Dam to 3,600 cfs in October 2007. In mid-August the reservoirs reached drought contingency level 3 which limited outflows to 3,600 cfs.

-30-