



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Savannah District

NEWS RELEASE

Army Corps of Engineers to reduce outflows from Savannah River reservoirs

Release No: 08-41

Nov. 24, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SAVANNAH, GA. – Water managers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin on Nov. 24 to reduce outflows from the J. Strom Thurmond Dam near Augusta, Ga., as part of their ongoing effort to conserve water in three major reservoirs.

Lakes [Hartwell](#), [Russell](#), and [Thurmond](#), all on the upper end of the Savannah River provide water to communities from Greenville, S.C., to Savannah, Ga., as well as several industries and utilities. They also provide recreation to millions of visitors annually. Water managers will reduce the outflows from the three-reservoir system from 3,600 cubic feet per second (cfs) daily average to 3,100 cfs in a phased approach over seven days.

In response to the severity of the ongoing drought, natural resource officials from Georgia and South Carolina requested a flow reduction. [Col. Ed Kertis](#), Commander of the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, approved an environmental assessment allowing the flow reduction to begin.

Reduced flows will continue through January and could be extended through February if further study indicates no impact to shortnose sturgeon spawning. Federal, state, and non-government specialists will monitor the Savannah River for indications of unanticipated impacts of the reduced flow. Under an adaptive management process, water managers will move quickly to restore flows if needed.

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