

Enclosure Three

Hydropower

Identified Issues:

Water is used in 14 hydroelectric power plants in the Savannah River Basin. Hydropower is one of many diverse water uses in the basin which competes with various other uses, such as fish and wildlife habitat and recreation. In the past, there have been impacts on water quality, fish and wildlife, recreation, and water supply from hydroelectric facilities. When this happens, operating procedures for hydropower facilities may be altered, which can impact the ability of power plants to meet power generation requirements. In examining the possibility of providing for other uses of current storage, the impacts to current storage levels for hydroelectric power production must be examined. However, it is entirely possible that some alternatives may maintain or increase current levels of hydroelectric power output.

With the possibility of changing the storage designated for hydroelectric power, the level of storage required to meet seasonal needs in other basin should be reassessed. Currently, the combined system of Altamaha/Chattahoochee/Flint (ACF), Alabama/Coosa/Tallapoosa (ACT), and SRB projects are used to meet the regional capacity and energy needs of the Georgia-Alabama-Carolina marketing area of Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA).

Alternative Plans and Evaluations: When evaluating other uses of current in-lake storage, the impacts to the water storage for hydropower should be examined, based upon economic and operational feasibility. A hydropower optimization study has been suggested for the feasibility phase.