



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE

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Savannah District

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Savannah District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is issuing a Notice of Availability of a Draft Integrated Water Supply Storage Reallocation Report/Environmental Assessment (IWSSRR/EA) and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, for Hartwell Lake in South Carolina and Georgia.

The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

OVERVIEW: USACE evaluated five alternatives, including the No Action Alternative (NAA) and Proposed Action Alternative to address the inadequate supply of water for Hartwell Lake requestors. Those requestors include: Anderson Regional Joint Water System, Pioneer Rural Water District, the City of Lavonia, and the Currahee Club. The USACE also evaluated the conversion of a water withdrawal contract to a reallocated water supply agreement for the City of Washington at Thurmond Lake.

Public Comment Period: USACE is pleased to provide the Draft IWSSRR/EA and FONSI for public comment. USACE had provided the Draft IWSSRR/EA and FONSI for public comment in April 2024. Since April 2024, USACE has updated the hydrologic modeling to account for new bathymetry data. Additionally, USACE has added the conversion of a water withdrawal contract at Thurmond Lake to the scope of the proposed action. For these reasons, USACE is providing a second public comment period for the Draft IWSSRR/EA and FONSI. The public comment period will span from November 3, 2025, through November 18, 2025. Those interested in or affected by this action are invited to share their concerns or comments.

Public comments may be submitted via email at CESAS-planning@usace.army.mil or mailed to the address below. Please include “Draft Hartwell Lake IWSSRR/EA” in the subject line.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District
Attn: Planning Branch, CESAS-PMP
100 West Oglethorpe Ave
Savannah, GA 31401**

All comments received will become part of the administrative record and are subject to public release under the Freedom of Information Act, including any personally identifiable information such as name, phone numbers, and addresses.

The Draft IWSSRR/EA and FONSI are available for public review and comment. The documents can be downloaded from the USACE website at <https://www.sas.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions-and-Offices/Planning-Division/Plans-and-Reports/>. Copies may also be obtained through email request to the following address: CESAS-planning@usace.army.mil.

The Public Comment Period Closes November 18, 2025.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAFT PROPOSED ACTION: The proposed action, or the Action Alternative, includes the reallocation of 14,973 acre-feet of conservation storage from the Hartwell Lake to water supply to meet present and near future water supply storage requests in the project area (**Figure 1**). Requestors include Anderson Regional Joint Water System, Pioneer Rural Water District, the City of Lavonia, and the Currahee Club. The USACE also proposed the conversion of the City of Washington's water withdrawal contract to a reallocated water supply storage agreement. The City of Washington would retain the same water usage, 2 million gallons per day (MGD) or 182 acre-feet with return flow credit (RFC) from the conservation storage.

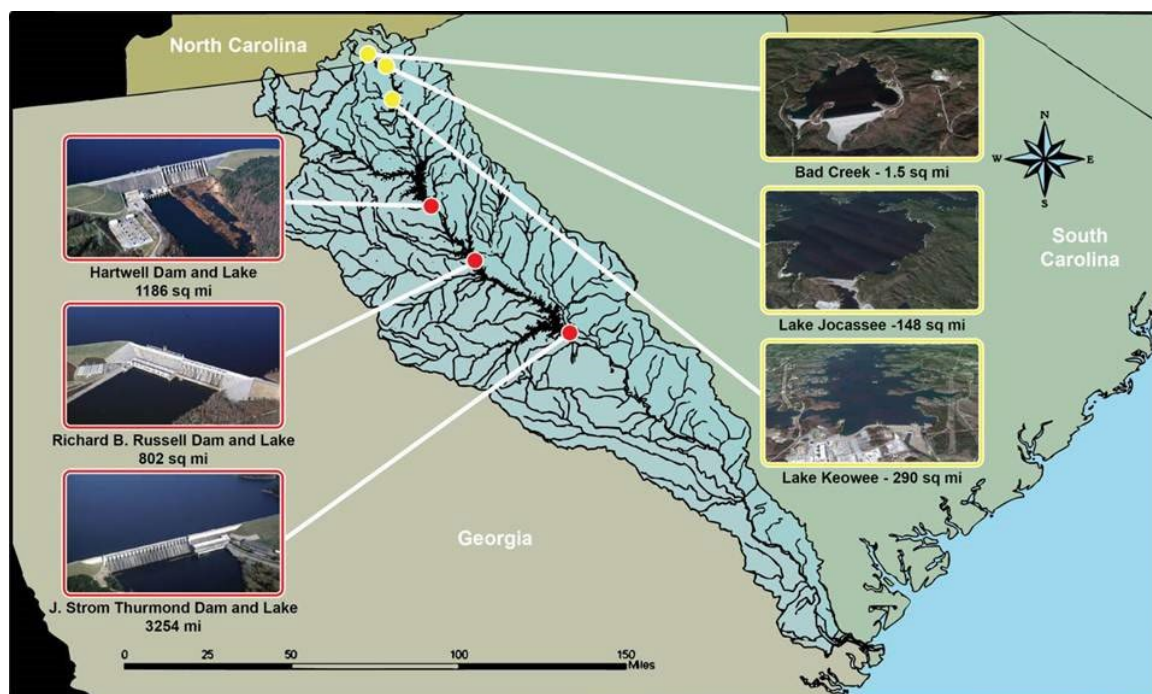


Figure 1. Savannah River Basin Project Map.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY EVALUATION:

Environmental Assessment: USACE has prepared a draft IWSSRR/EA for the proposed action in accordance with NEPA. The USACE has made a preliminary determination that the effects of the proposed action would not be significant and that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Threatened, Endangered and other Protected Species: USACE has determined that reallocation would have no effect on any threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. Therefore, Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended is not required.

Cultural Resources: USACE has determined that the proposed action of reallocation poses no adverse effect to historic properties located within the project area, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended. The USACE coordinated this determination under Section 106 of the NHPA with the South Carolina and Georgia State Historic Preservation Offices for concurrence.

Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 and 401 Water Quality Certification: The reallocation of water supply would not result in the discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the United States and would not violate any applicable state water quality standards. Therefore, the water supply reallocation would not require a Section 404(b)(1) evaluation or Section 401 Water Quality Certification. Currahee Club will be responsible for obtaining any required permits for the intake pipe.

Coastal Zone Consistency: Pursuant to Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, the project is outside of the Coastal Zone and has no indirect impacts to the Coastal Zone, compliance with CZMA is not applicable.

Consideration of Public Comments: USACE is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed action. Any comments received will be considered by the USACE in its deliberations on this action.

Comment Period: Please submit written comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District by midnight November 18, 2025. Written comments may be sent via email to CESAS-planning@usace.army.mil or to the mailing address below. Questions may be directed to Brian Choate, Plan Formulator at CESAS-Planning@usace.army.mil or by phone at (912) 652-5375.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District
Attn: Planning Branch, CESAS-PMP
Subject: Draft Hartwell Lake IWSSRR/EA
100 West Oglethorpe Ave
Savannah, GA 31401**

Mailed comments on this notice must be postmarked by the above expiration date. In your response, please refer to "Draft Hartwell Lake IWSSRR/EA." Should no response be received by the above expiration date, a "no comment" response will be assumed.