



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3640

April 29, 2009

Executive Office

Mr. Herb Burnham
President, Lake Hartwell Association, Inc.
103 Andrea Point
Anderson, South Carolina 29625

Friends of the Savannah River Basin
Harry and Barb Shelley
143 Ashland Drive
McCormick, South Carolina 29835

Dear Mr. Burnham and Mr. and Mrs. Shelley:

This letter is responding to your March 30, 2009, inquiry regarding a reduced flow environmental assessment (EA) and also to your April 2, 2009, letter regarding your three phase proposal for management of water in the Savannah River Basin.

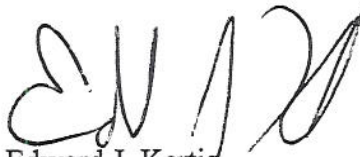
Regarding your Phase 1 proposal to continue the flow rate deviations, the Corps does not have any deviations limiting the maximum discharges from Thurmond to 3,600 cfs except while the system is in Level 3 Drought Conditions. The current deviation allows a minimum discharge of 3,600 cfs until this current drought is over. In addition, we will consider requesting another deviation to maintain a maximum 3,600 cfs until the pools refill. However, this may require an EA and concurrence from the resource agencies due to impacts on other project purposes. We are currently in the process of preparing an EA that examines reducing the flows in the fall and winter of 2009 into 2010.

Regarding your Phase 2 proposal to expedite the environmental assessment (EA) that we are preparing for a fall/winter flow reduction, the District has initiated the process to evaluate the biological data in order to assess the maximum duration of a flow reduction that would be environmentally acceptable. We have requested information from the natural resource agencies on the minimum biological flow requirements.

Regarding your Phase 3 proposal to expedite revisions to the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP), we have stated that we plan to revise the DCP after the present drought is over. However, any change to the guide curves requires a reallocation of storage and possibly approval by Congress. This would require an EA at a minimum and possibly an Environmental Impact Statement. This action should be part of the Phase II Savannah River Basin (SRB) Comprehensive Study.

If I can be of any further assistance, please contact me. A copy of this correspondence is being furnished to Representatives Broun and Barrett, Brigadier General Schroedel, Georgia Environmental Protection Division Representatives Dr. Couch and Mr. Larson, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Representatives Messrs. Hunter and Wilson, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Representatives Messrs. Frampton, Rentiers, Dr. Badr and Mr. Waldrep.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. J. Kertis', written in a cursive style.

Edward J. Kertis
Colonel, US Army
Commanding