



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 2288  
MOBILE, AL 36628-0001  
MAY 22 2009

Executive Office

Honorable Michael W. Sole  
Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection  
Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building  
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Dear Secretary Sole:


This letter is in response to your recent letters of May 8 and May 18, 2009 concerning operations under the revised interim operations plan (RIOP) for releases at Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam.

We have reviewed our operations and believe they are consistent with the RIOP. My staff follows the intent of the RIOP in its entirety, thus making decisions during drought operations on the first of each month in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. On May 1, 2009, there were 1,239,804 acre-feet of composite conservation storage in our reservoirs, leaving the storage level in Zone 3. Taking this into account along with the climatic and hydrologic conditions and meteorological forecasts at that time, we concluded drought provisions would remain in effect until the next assessment occurs on June 1<sup>st</sup>. As you point out in your letters, conditions in the basin have continued to improve to the point that composite conservation storage rose from Zone 3 to Zone 2 on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Accordingly, as we announced on the May 21<sup>st</sup> drought call, it is likely that when we make our next assessment on June 1<sup>st</sup>, drought operations will no longer be warranted under the conditions specified in the RIOP.

In your May 8<sup>th</sup> letter you also ask for clarification regarding our plans for a reallocation study. As we have consistently maintained, our efforts to update the Water Control Manual for the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint basin will focus on current project operations under existing authorizations taking into account changes in basin hydrology and consumptive demands, new and rehabilitated structural features, and environmental issues. Inherently this effort must recognize and document the current withdrawals from Lake Lanier that occur. Thus, it is our intent to

concurrently perform a reallocation study for these withdrawals while we update the Water Control Manual. I recognize Florida does not share our view with regard to our authority to provide water supply storage. Should the court rule differently than our interpretation of our authority, then we will adjust our plans at that time.

Sincerely,



Byron G. Jorns  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander