

Lake Allatoona Association
Revision of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Water Control Manual
General Guidance

Background

The Water Control Manual (WCM) is the Corps' guideline for the management of Lake Allatoona. The Corps writes the Manual with input from all interested parties (stakeholders). The Manual becomes operationally sacrosanct, is followed closely and/or used as a justification for actions or inaction. The Manual is infrequently updated. A stated reason for the infrequent updates is that proposed changes in Lake management must be scrutinized in an Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The EIS process is costly and that cost is used by the Corps as a principal reason for maintaining the status quo in lake operations.

The Lake Allatoona Association has been excited at the prospect that an update to the WCM is in progress and that the supporting EIS was undertaken and funded. The draft WCM and the draft EIS are now available for review and comment. Of concern is that the proposed operational changes in the management of the lake are minimal and, as a result, the EIS is very narrow in scope.

However, the LAA believes that this is a good opportunity for those who care about the Lake to let the USACE know what they think and to ask pointed questions that the USACE must answer in this legally-required, formal process. Hopefully, we can take advantage of this once-in-twenty-year opportunity to find out why the Corps does things the way that it does.

In no way, shape, or form does the LAA intend to recommend any changes that would increase the risk of flooding to downstream communities. We believe that, using current information and modern technology that the USACE could greatly improve its management of the Lake, primarily through the better management of the water level.

The USACE's Timeline

- April 2013 – DEIS Public Comment Period
- Summer 2013 – Publish final EIS
- Summer 2013 Record of Decision signed and Master Manual submitted for approval
- October 2013 – Master Manual approval

How to Comment

USACE invites all interested parties to submit comments. The public comment period began on March 1st and will end after 60 days (we assume that date is April 29th). Comments may be submitted via the following methods:

- Onsite at open houses through comment cards or the court reporter. The open houses will be as follows:
 - Georgia
 - Monday, March 25: 5:00 pm–8:00 pm at Cobb Conference Center, 755 Cobb Place Blvd, NW, Kennesaw, GA 30144
 - Tuesday, March 26: 5:00 pm–8:00 pm at The Forum Civic Center, 2 Government Plaza, Rome, GA 301901
 - Alabama
 - Wednesday, March 27: 4:00 pm–7:00 pm at the Senior Activity Center, 623 Broad Street, Gadsden, AL 35901
 - Thursday, March 28: 5:00 pm–8:00 pm at Auburn University-Montgomery, Center for Lifelong Learning, 75 Techna Center Drive, Montgomery, AL 36117
- Digitally by email or on the ACT Master Water Control Manual Update page:
<http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/PlanningEnvironmental/ACTMasterWaterControlManualUpdate>
- By letter addressed to: Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Attn: PD-EI (ACT-DEIS), P.O. Box 2288, Mobile AL 36628