

Multipurpose Reservoir Management in the Savannah River Basin

Presented by
Stan Simpson
Feb, 2024



US ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SAVANNAH DISTRICT



Multi-Purpose Projects



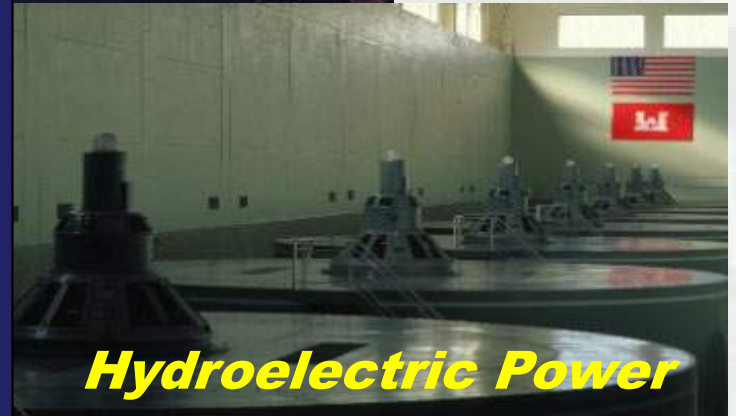
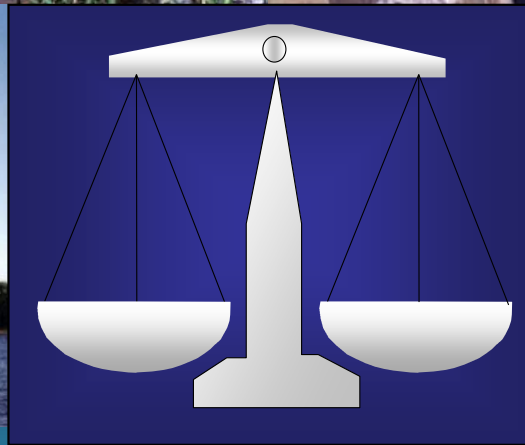
Fish & Wildlife



***Water Supply
Water Quality***



Navigation



Hydroelectric Power

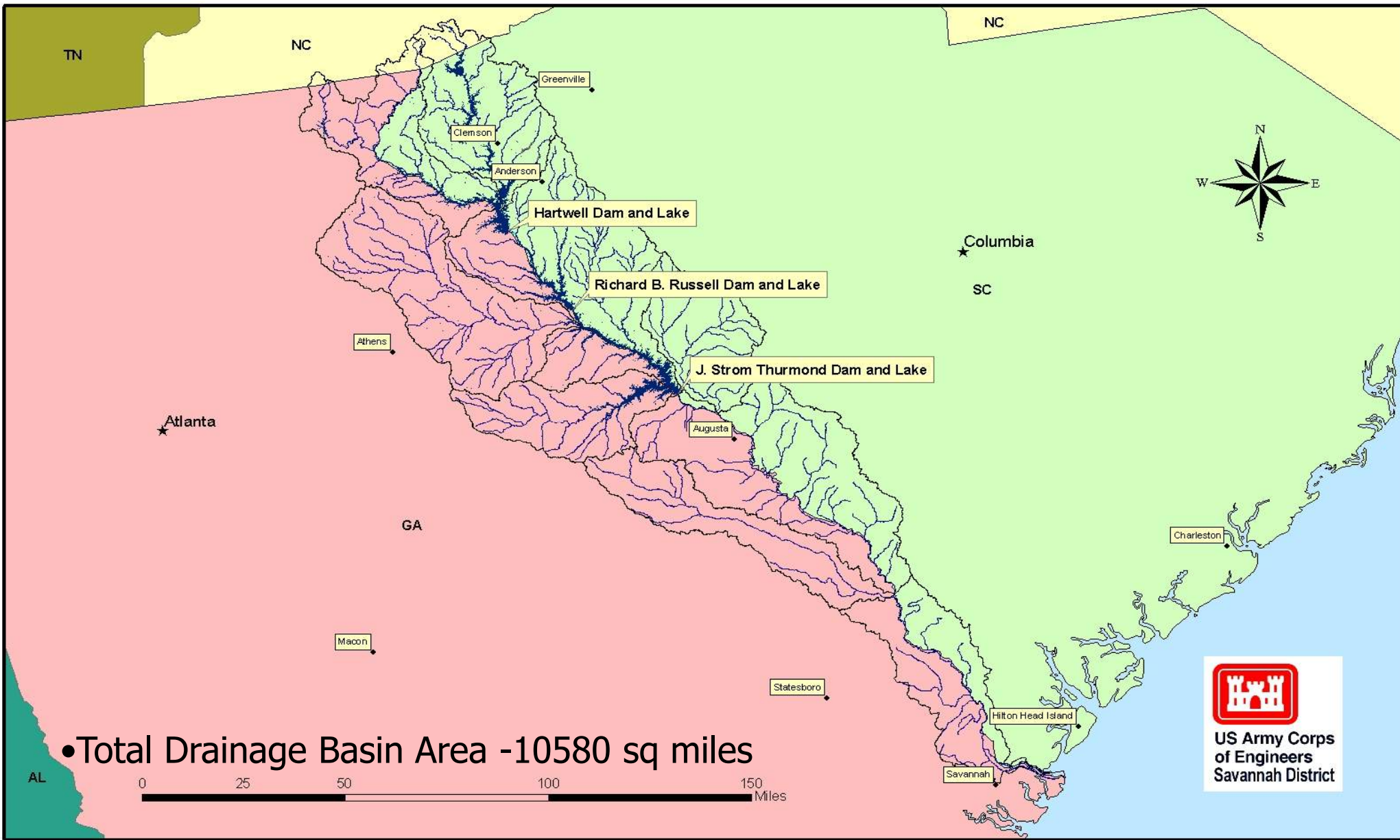


Recreation



Flood Risk Management





The Savannah River Basin



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Congressional Authorization

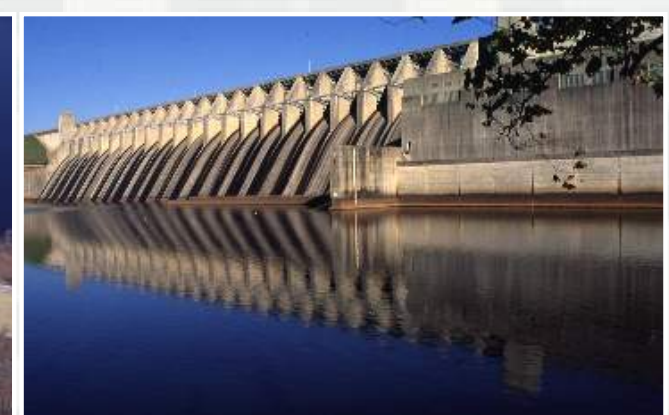
Congressional Authorization			
Authorized Purpose	Hartwell	Russell	Thurmond
Flood Damage Reduction	Flood Control Act of 1950	Flood Control Act of 1966	Flood Control Act of 1944
Hydropower		No Navigation Authorization	
Navigation			
Water Supply	Water Supply Act of 1958		
Water Quality	Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972		
Fish and Wildlife	Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965	Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965, WRDA 1986	WRDA 1986
Recreation		Federal Water Project Recreation Act of 1965	

Hartwell

Russell

Thurmond

3rd most-visited Corps project in the Nation - 10.1M visitors/year	Largest Corps power plant east of Mississippi River	8th most-visited Corps project in the Nation-6M visitors/year
Completed in 1962	Completed in 1984	Completed in 1952
56,000 acres (660 ft), 962-mile shoreline	26,653 acres (475 ft), 540-mile shoreline	71,100 acres (330 ft), 1200-mile shoreline
5 turbines , 422 MW	8 turbines, (4 as pump-back) 648 MW	7 turbines, 364 MW
85 Recreation areas (50 Corps operated)	32 Recreation areas (3 Corps operated)	55 Recreation areas (35 Corps operated)
Largest shoreline management program in the Corps		



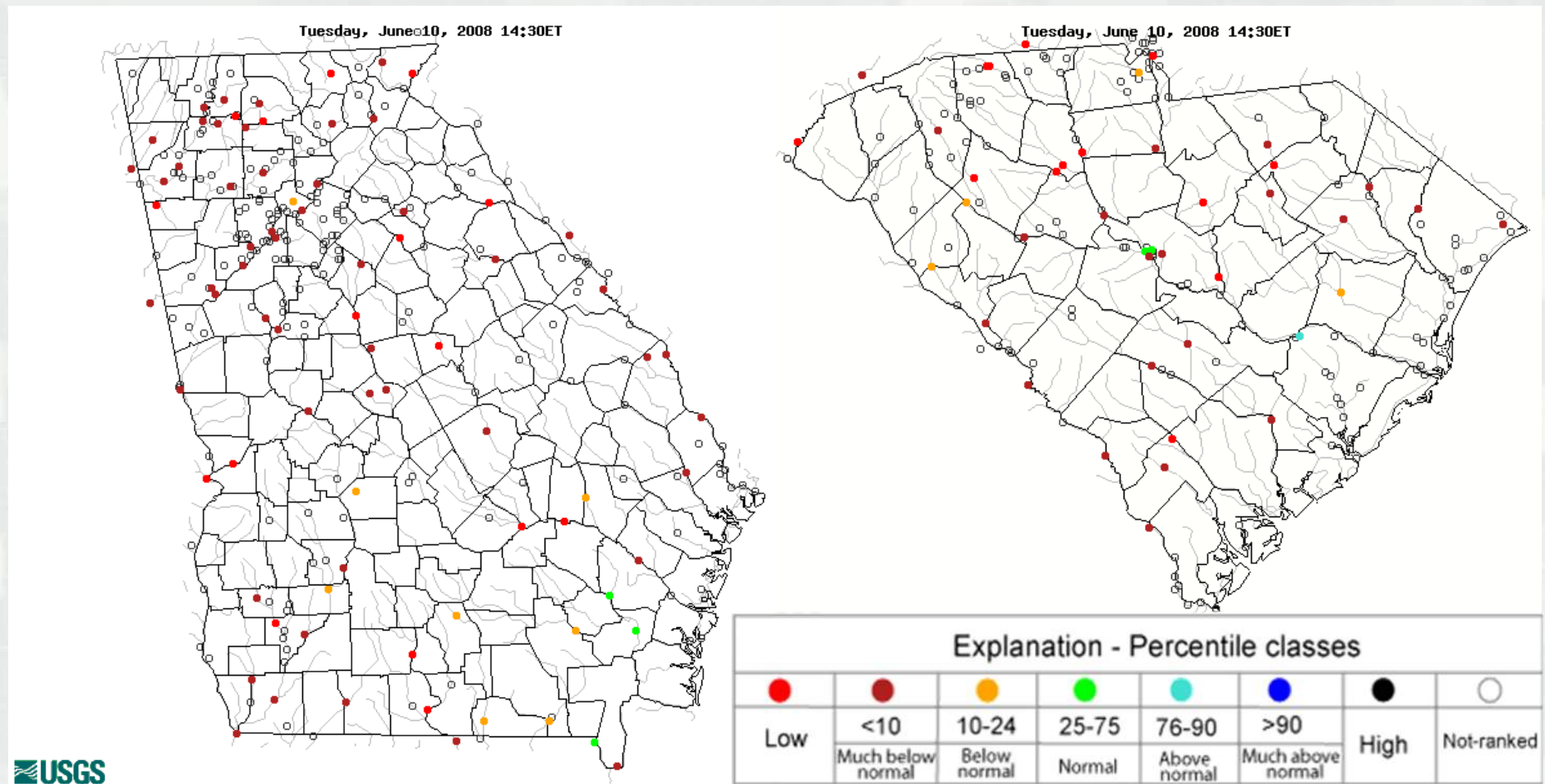


**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Savannah District

Partners



Stream Gage Networks



Drainage Basins

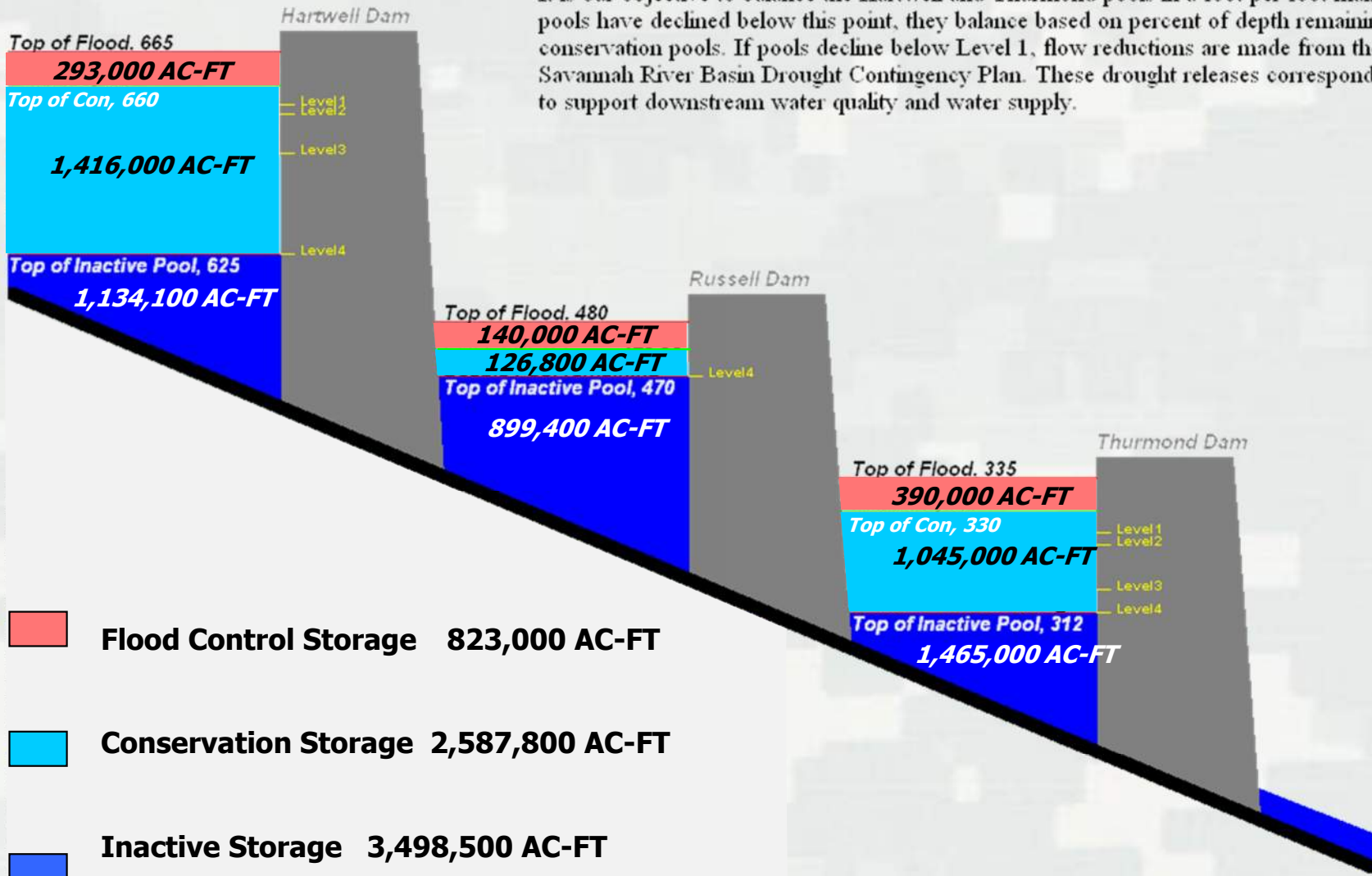
- **Hartwell = 1294 Square Miles** (Local Basin Area)
1" Runoff = 1.2' pool elevation @ 660.0
- **Russell = 802 Square Miles** (Local Basin Area)
1" Runoff = 1.5' pool elevation @ 475.0
- **Thurmond = 2890 Square Miles** (Local Basin Area)
1" Runoff = 2.2' pool elevation @ 330.0



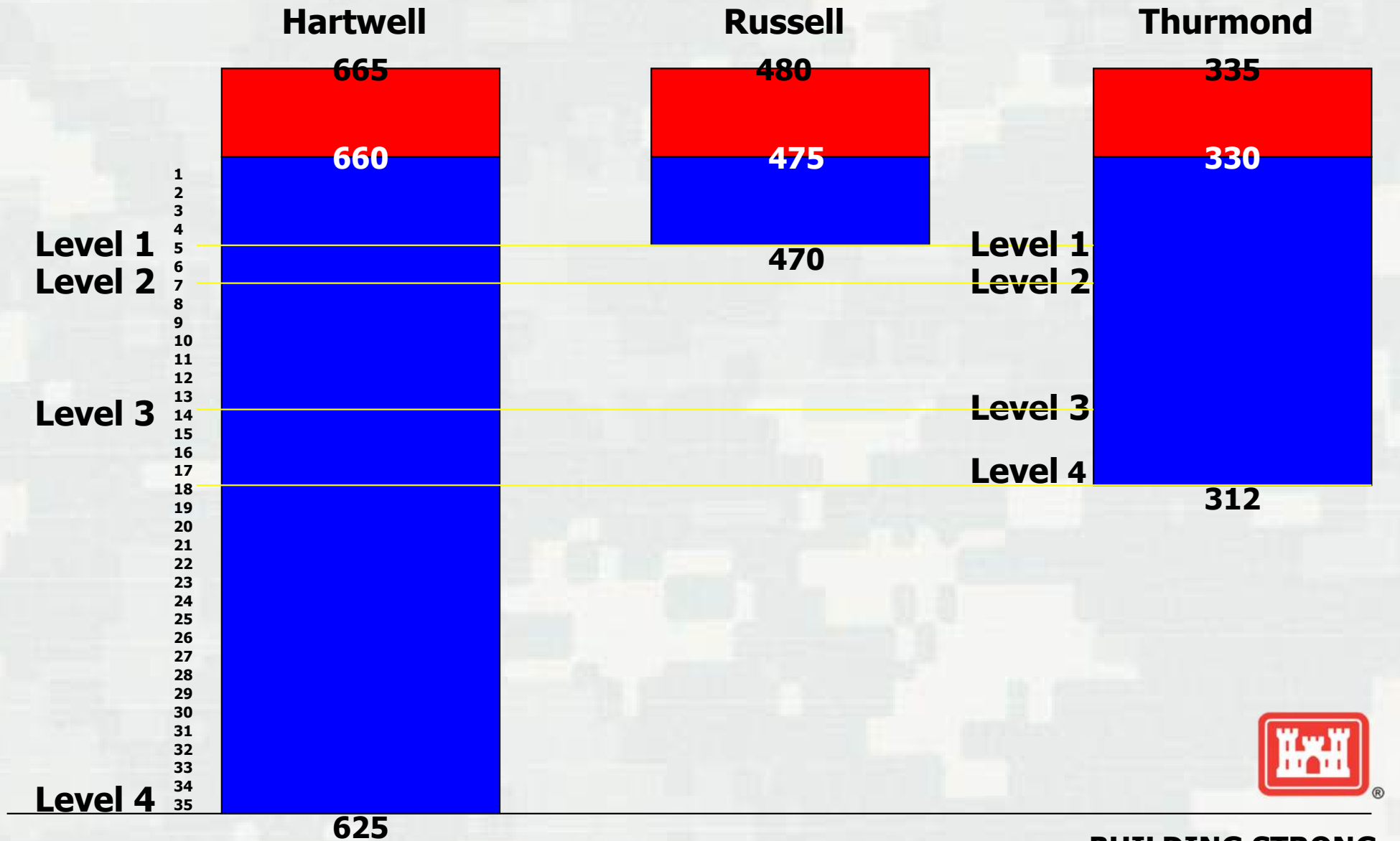
Savannah River Reservoir System

Pool Schematic

It is our objective to balance the Hartwell and Thurmond pools in a foot per foot manner for the top 15 feet. Once the pools have declined below this point, they balance based on percent of depth remaining in their respective conservation pools. If pools decline below Level 1, flow reductions are made from the system in accordance to the Savannah River Basin Drought Contingency Plan. These drought releases correspond to the minimum flows needed to support downstream water quality and water supply.

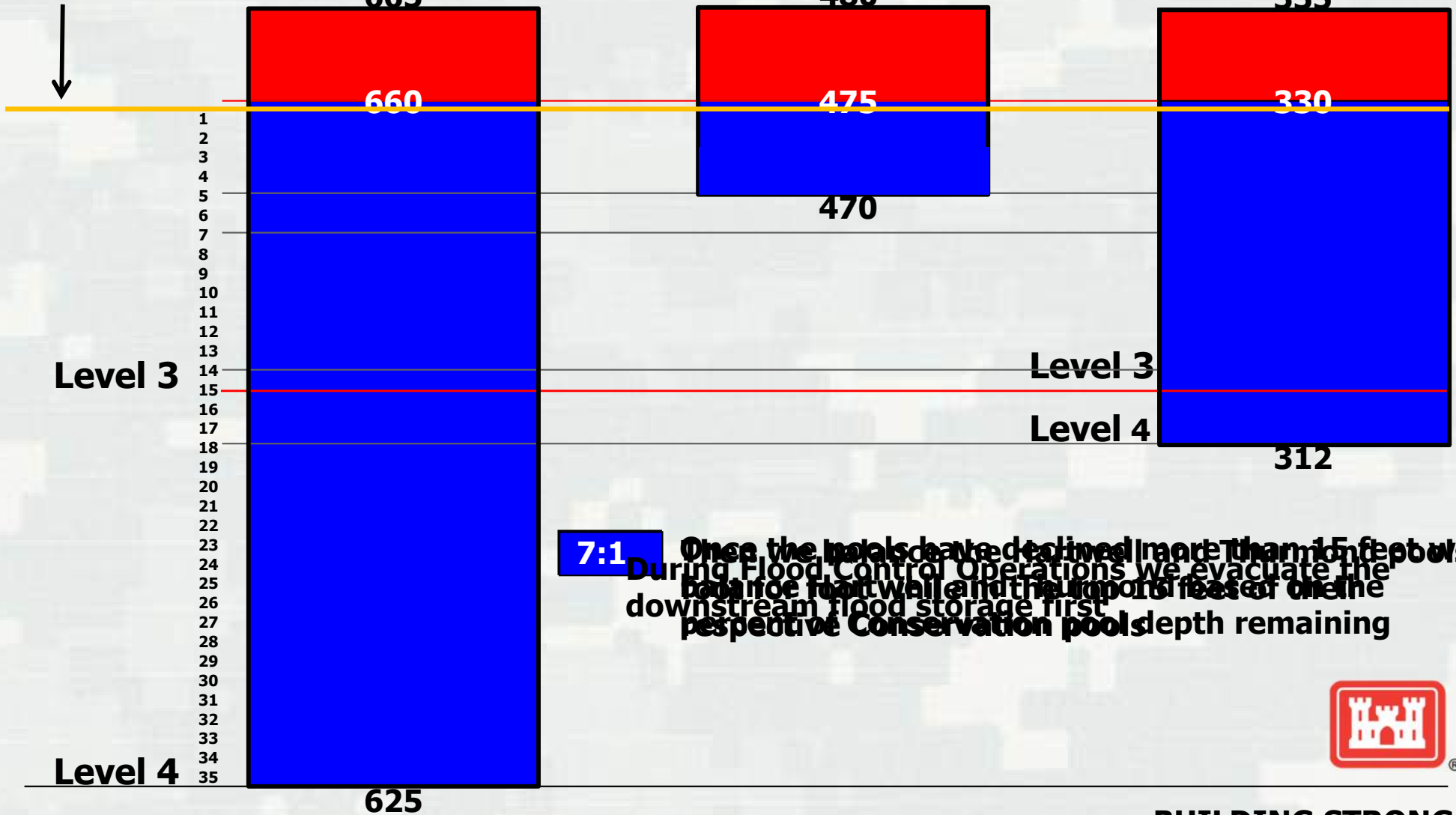


Pool Comparison



Pool Balancing Procedure

Current
Water Level



7:1 Once the pools have declined more than 15 feet below
 During Flood Control Operations we evacuate the
 bed of Hartwell and the impoundment of the
 downstream flood storage first
 respective Conservation pools depth remaining



Reservoir System Operations

- **Flood Control** (Water Control Plan)
Public Safety & Flood Damage Reduction
- **Hydropower Production** (SEPA Contract)
Control Area Concept
- **Drought Management** (Drought Contingency Plan)
Balanced Impacts
- **Environmental Releases** (Incidental to Flood Management)
Adaptively Manage Storage
- **Navigation Windows** (Incidental to Flood Management)
Plan and Manage Storage Requirements



Typical Operating Range

- Flood Operations (30,000 cfs Channel Capacity)
- Normal Operations (3800 cfs – 30,000 cfs)
 - ▶ In-Lake Fish Spawn (keep pools up in spring)
 - ▶ Meet Ecological Flow Needs
- Drought Management
 - ▶ Level 1 Limit Max Weekly Average 4200 cfs
 - ▶ Level 2 Limit Max Weekly Average 4000 cfs
 - ▶ Level 3 Limit Max Daily Average 3800 cfs



Drought Plan History

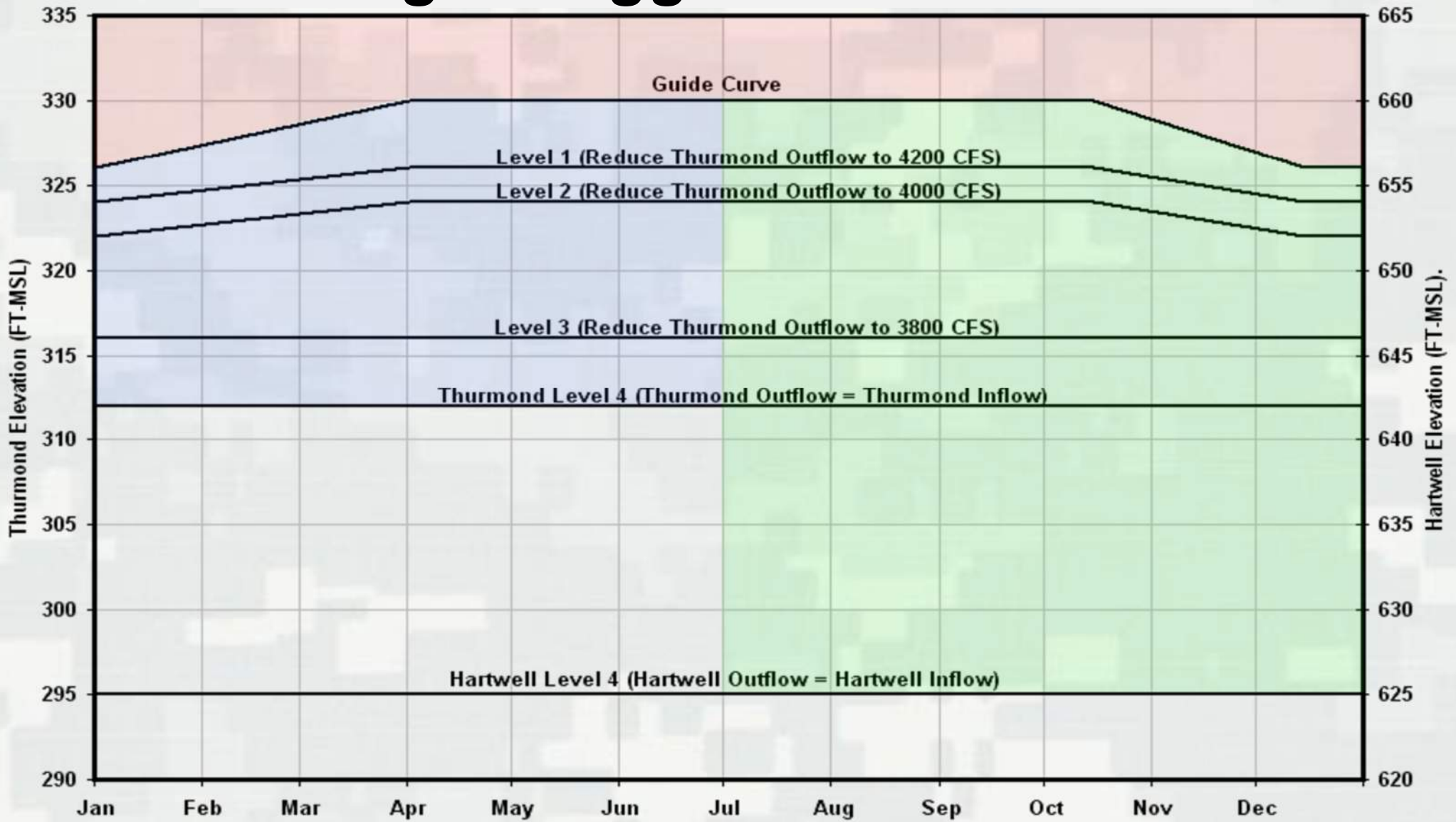
Event	Action	Description
1986-1989 Drought (New Drought of Record)	1989 Drought Contingency Plan	Introduced flow restrictions Level 1 – Safety Advisory for boaters Level 2- Max weekly average 4500 cfs Level 3- Specified 3600 cfs daily average at Thurmond
1998-2002 Drought (New Drought of Record)	2006 Drought Plan Update Environmental Assessment - (Step 1 Savannah River Basin Comprehensive Study)	Level 1 – Max weekly average 4200 cfs Level 2- Max weekly average 4000 cfs Level 3- Specified 3800 cfs daily average at Thurmond
2007-2009 Drought (New Drought of Record)	Temporary deviation to 3600cfs at Thurmond Oct2007-May2009 (supported by Federal and State agencies without an EA)	Reduction occurred at Drought Level 2 (Hartwell @ 649.85/ Thurmond@319.76)
	Temporary Deviation to 3100cfs Dec2008-Jan2009 (supported by Federal and State agencies without an EA)	Used adaptive management to maintain 3600 min @ Savannah River at Augusta gage
	Drought Level 4 Study and Environmental Assessment	Developed standard operating procedure for inactive storage (Level 4)
2011-? Drought	2012 Drought Plan Revision Environmental Assessment	Evaluation and modification of the 2006 EA rules in the 2007-2009 drought and temporary deviations

- ✓ Plan to allow pools to refill above guide curve up to summer full pool
- ✓ Seeking resource agency concurrence to hold 3,800 cfs during refill

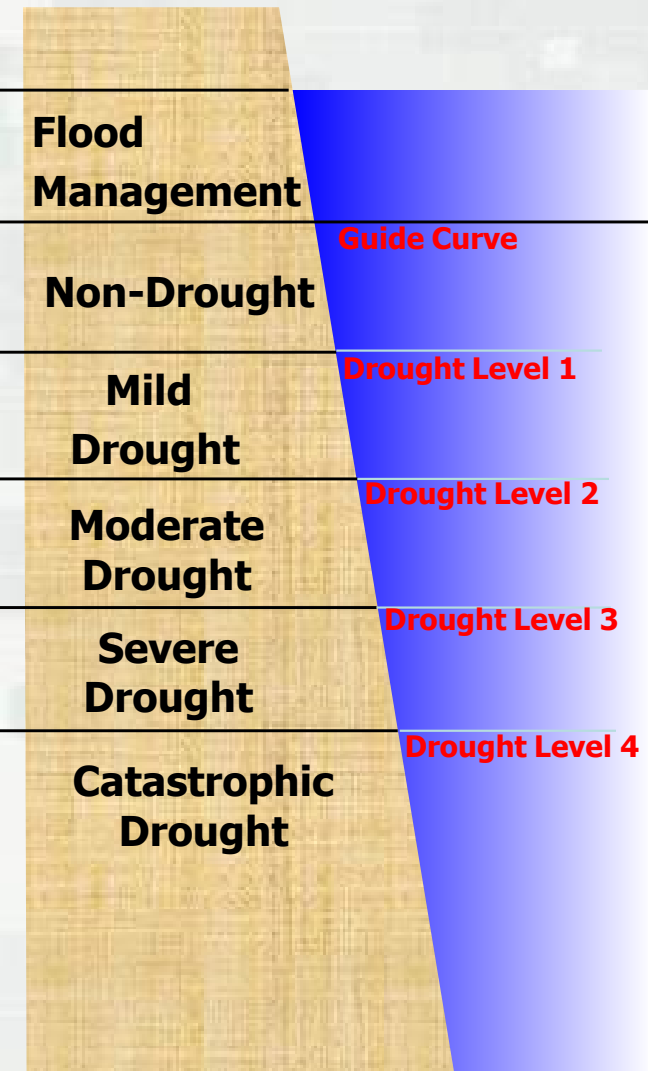
2012/14 Drought Plan

Trigger Level	Time of Year	Drought Response
1	Jan 1 - Dec 31	IF BR index >10%, Target 4200 cfs (daily average) release at Thurmond Dam IF BR index <10%, Target 4000 cfs (daily average) release at Thurmond Dam
2	Feb 1 - Oct 31	IF BR index >10%, Target 4000 cfs (daily average) release at Thurmond Dam IF BR index <10%, Target 3800 cfs (daily average) release at Thurmond Dam
	Nov 1 - Jan 31	Target 3600 cfs (daily average) release at Thurmond Dam
3	Feb 1 - Oct 31	Target 3800 cfs (daily average) release at Thurmond Dam
	Nov 1 - Jan 31 (Feb 1 – Feb 28 w/NMFS approval)	Target 3100 cfs (daily average) release at Thurmond Dam
4	Feb 1 - Oct 31	Target 3600 cfs (daily average) release at Thurmond Dam
	Nov 1 - Jan 31 (Feb 1 – Feb 28 w/NMFS approval)	Target 3100 cfs (daily average) release at Thurmond Dam

Drought Trigger Action Levels



Balancing Management Objectives



Flood Risk Management
Navigation
Hydropower
Recreation
Fish and Wildlife
Water Quality
Water Supply



Flood Management

Channel Capacity = 30,000 cfs (850 cms)

Seasonally Varying Flood Storage

- ▶ (Hartwell and Thurmond)

Operate as a system

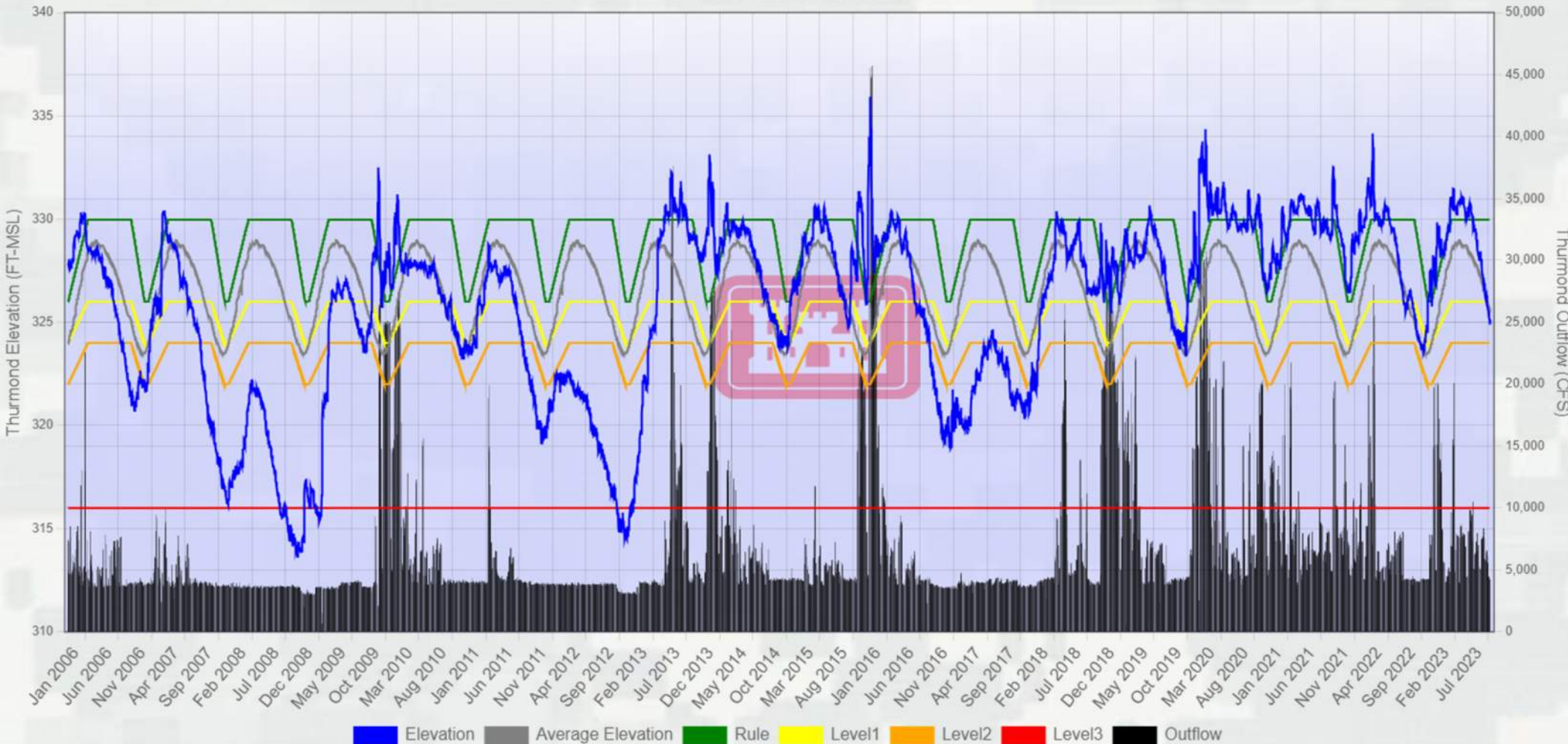
- ▶ Minimize Downstream Flooding
- ▶ Evacuate Flood Storage in most downstream project first
- ▶ Induce Flood Surcharge Storage if necessary

Flood Damages Prevented (Cumulative)

- ▶ Hartwell \$68,887,000
- ▶ Russell \$23,545,000
- ▶ Thurmond \$114,639,000



THURMOND PROJECT



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Weekly Declaration

To: SEPA To: CESAD From: (CESAS-EN-H)		1 Week Declaration SAVANNAH RIVER SYSTEM Revised 2/7/2024 10:40															1 Reset=0	Iteration Increment				
		0:00 SOP POOL (FT-MSL)	RULE CURVE (FT-MSL)	STARTING STORAGE (AC-FT)	NET TOTAL INFLOW (CFS)	LOCAL IN (CFS)	NATURAL IN (CFS)	GEN TOTAL OUT (CFS)	TOTAL SPILL (CFS)	EST GEN (MWH)	DAILY TOTAL MIN GEN (MWH)	DAILY TOTAL MAX GEN (MWH)	EST PUMP (AC-FT)	ENDING STORAGE (AC-FT)	COMP ENDING POOL (FT-MSL)	RAINFALL (INCHES)	T Gen (Sched/Observed) Allowed Imbalance					
																	Usable Pump Window(HRS)	0.99				
																	10.00	0.00				
																	HART Inf	RBR Inf	JST Inf			
H A R T W E L L	Wed 31-Jan-2024	659.75	657.29	2535750	5157	5157	5157	14712	0	4808			n/a	2510774	659.41		660.00	475.00	330.00			
	Thu 01-Feb-2024	659.75	657.33	2535750	8288	8288	8288	8847	0	2913			n/a	2534640	659.73		1500	100	1200			
	Fri 02-Feb-2024	659.73	657.38	2534642	2707	2707	2707	8857	0	2910			n/a	2522429	659.51		0	100	1200			
	Sat 03-Feb-2024	659.51	657.42	2522454	2512	2512	2512	6705	0	2204			n/a	2514127	659.36		1.00	1.00	1.00			
	Sun 04-Feb-2024	659.36	657.47	2514144	5237	5237	5237	6635	0	2204			n/a	2511368	659.31		1.0	1.0	1.2			
	Mon 05-Feb-2024	659.31	657.51	2511374	3476	3476	3476	6272	0	2110			n/a	2505822	659.21							
	Tue 06-Feb-2024	659.21	657.56	2505834	1561	1561	1561	6872	0	2213	250	250	n/a	2495287	659.02							
	Wed 07-Feb-2024	659.02	657.60	2495308	2802	1500	2802	6470	0	2130	1880	2380	n/a	2488024	658.89							
	Thu 08-Feb-2024	658.89	657.64	2488024	2802	1500	2802	6250	0	2087	1807	2307	n/a	2481177	658.76							
	Fri 09-Feb-2024	658.76	657.69	2481177	2802	1500	2802	6250	0	2087	1807	2307	n/a	2474331	658.64							
R U S S E L L	Sat 10-Feb-2024	658.64	657.73	2474331	5761	4458	5761	0	0	0	250	n/a	2485772	658.85	1.25							
	Sun 11-Feb-2024	658.85	657.78	2485772	8224	6921	8224	0	0	0	250	n/a	2502104	659.14	0.50							
	Mon 12-Feb-2024	659.14	657.82	2502104	9086	7784	9086	5815	0	1914	1664	2164	n/a	2508600	659.26	0.50						
	Tue 13-Feb-2024	659.26	657.87	2508600	6293	4991	6293	5817	0	1915	1665	2165	n/a	2509546	659.28							
	Wed 14-Feb-2024	659.28	657.91	2509546	5302	3999	5302	5817	0	1915	1665	2165	n/a	2508523	659.26							
	Thu 15-Feb-2024	659.26	657.96	2508523	4706	3403	4706	5817	0	1915	1665	2165	n/a	2506316	659.22							
	Fri 16-Feb-2024	659.22	658.00	2506316	4199	2896	4199	5817	0	1915	1665	2165	n/a	2503101	659.16							
	NET LOC NAT GEN MIN MAX	474.62	475.00	1016153	14761	49	5295	17432	0	4666			0	1010849	474.42		PUMP HR	PUMP CFS	AVL UNITS			
	Wed 31-Jan-2024	474.42	475.00	1010872	9758	912	9200	9761	0	2619			0	1010867	474.42		0	0	2			
	Thu 01-Feb-2024	474.42	475.00	1010872	9390	533	9390	9800	0	2634			0	1010057	474.39		0	0	2			
T H U R M O N D	Sat 03-Feb-2024	474.39	475.00	1010082	6197	-508	2004	10450	0	2803			0	1001636	474.07		0	0	2			
	Sun 04-Feb-2024	474.07	475.00	1001681	8862	227	5464	10424	0	2792			0	994606	473.80		0	0	2			
	Mon 05-Feb-2024	473.80	475.00	0994634	6917	645	4121	10201	0	2739		250	0	988113	473.55		0	0	2			
	Tue 06-Feb-2024	473.55	475.00	0988143	6508	-364	1197	10164	0	2721		250	0	980881	473.27		0	0	2			
	Wed 07-Feb-2024	473.27	475.00	0980910	6570	100	2902	9199	0	2487	2217	2717	0	975289	473.07		0	0	2			
	Thu 08-Feb-2024	473.07	475.00	0975689	6350	100	2902	9199	0	1676	1426	1926	0	975888	473.07		0	0	2			
	Fri 09-Feb-2024	473.07	475.00	0975688	6350	100	2902	9199	0	1676	1426	1926	0	976087	473.08		0	0	2			
	Sat 10-Feb-2024	473.08	475.00	0976087	333	333	6094	0	0	0	0	250	0	976747	473.11	1.25	0	0	2			
	Sun 11-Feb-2024	473.11	475.00	0976747	944	944	9168	0	0	0	0	250	0	978623	473.18	0.75	0	0	2			
	Mon 12-Feb-2024	473.18	475.00	0978623	8495	2680	11767	3229	0	866	616	1116	0	989082	473.59	0.50	0	0	2			

SOP POOL	RULE CURVE	STARTING STORAGE	LOCAL IN	NATURAL IN	TOTAL OUT	TOTAL SPILL	EST GEN	MIN GEN	MAX GEN	EST PUMP	ENDING STORAGE	ENDING POOL	HART	0.27	THUR
(FT-MSL)	(FT-MSL)	(AC-FT)	(CFS)	(CFS)	(CFS)	(CFS)	(MWH)	(MWH)	(MWH)	(AC-FT)	(AC-FT)	(FT-MSL)	Gen/Q	Gen/Q	Gen/Q
Local this week ==>			4134	213	4048	18652	4670						0.33	0.27	0.25
Weekly Generation Totals	Sat 10-Feb		Hartwell	Russell	Thurmond										
for week beginning			4155	2308	7320										
Weekly Average Discharge			4155	2308	7320										
Previous Week Gen Total Targets			17172	21154	31782										

Week ending Fri 09-Feb-24
26714 (MW-HR) Contracted
70078 Originally Declared
58319 Generated

Week ending Fri 16-Feb-2024
26714 (MW-HR) Contracted
26715 (MW-HR) Declared
Ending Pool Balance 0 ft
80 unit-hours Contracted next week
0 unit-hours Pumping next Week



10 Week Projection

HARTWELL PROJECT



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10 Week Projection

THURMOND PROJECT



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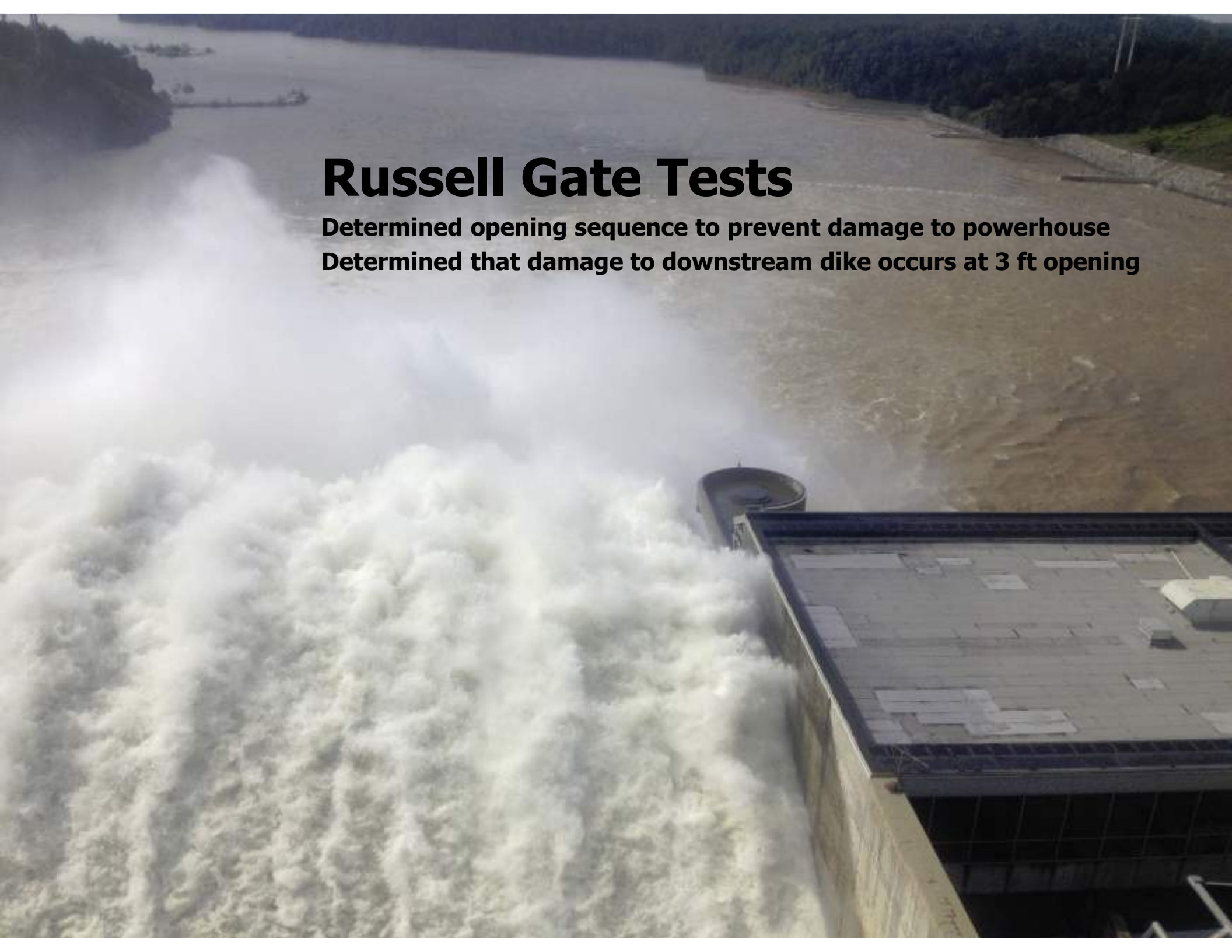
Hartwell Gate Operations

July 2013



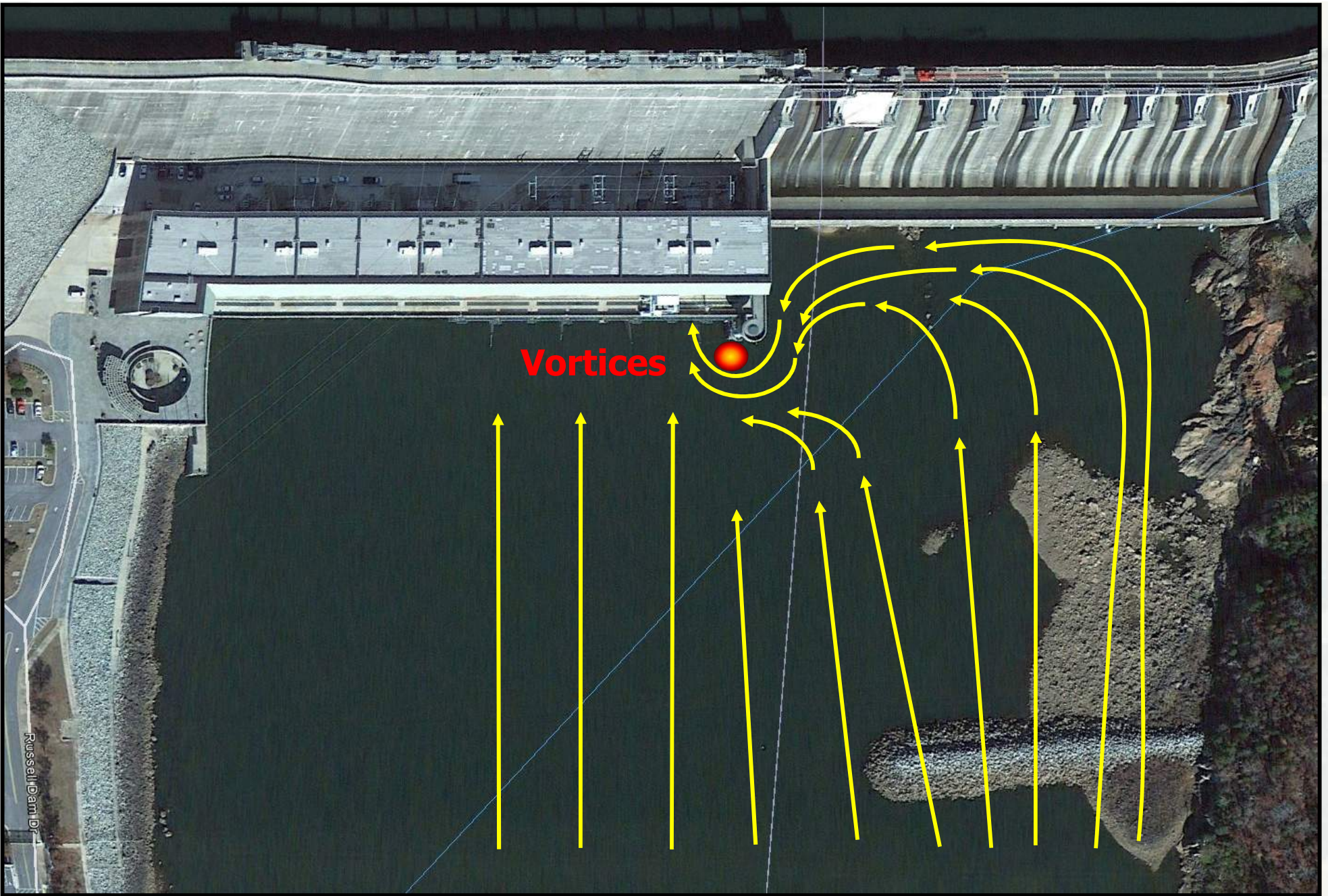
Russell Gate Tests

**Determined opening sequence to prevent damage to powerhouse
Determined that damage to downstream dike occurs at 3 ft opening**



Russell Gate Tests





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Thurmond Gate Tests

Upper Augusta

July 2013

38,000 cfs



River North Subdivision



Augusta Shoals

River Mile 202.8



Upper end of Augusta Levee

Stevens Creek Dam

South Carolina Electric & Gas
River Mile 208.1

Augusta City Dam

Start of Augusta Canal
River Mile 207.0

Augusta Canal

Head Gates

Ninety Nine Islands

Carroll Sanders Hwy

Evans to Locke Rd

Stevens Creek Rd

Riverwatch Pkwy

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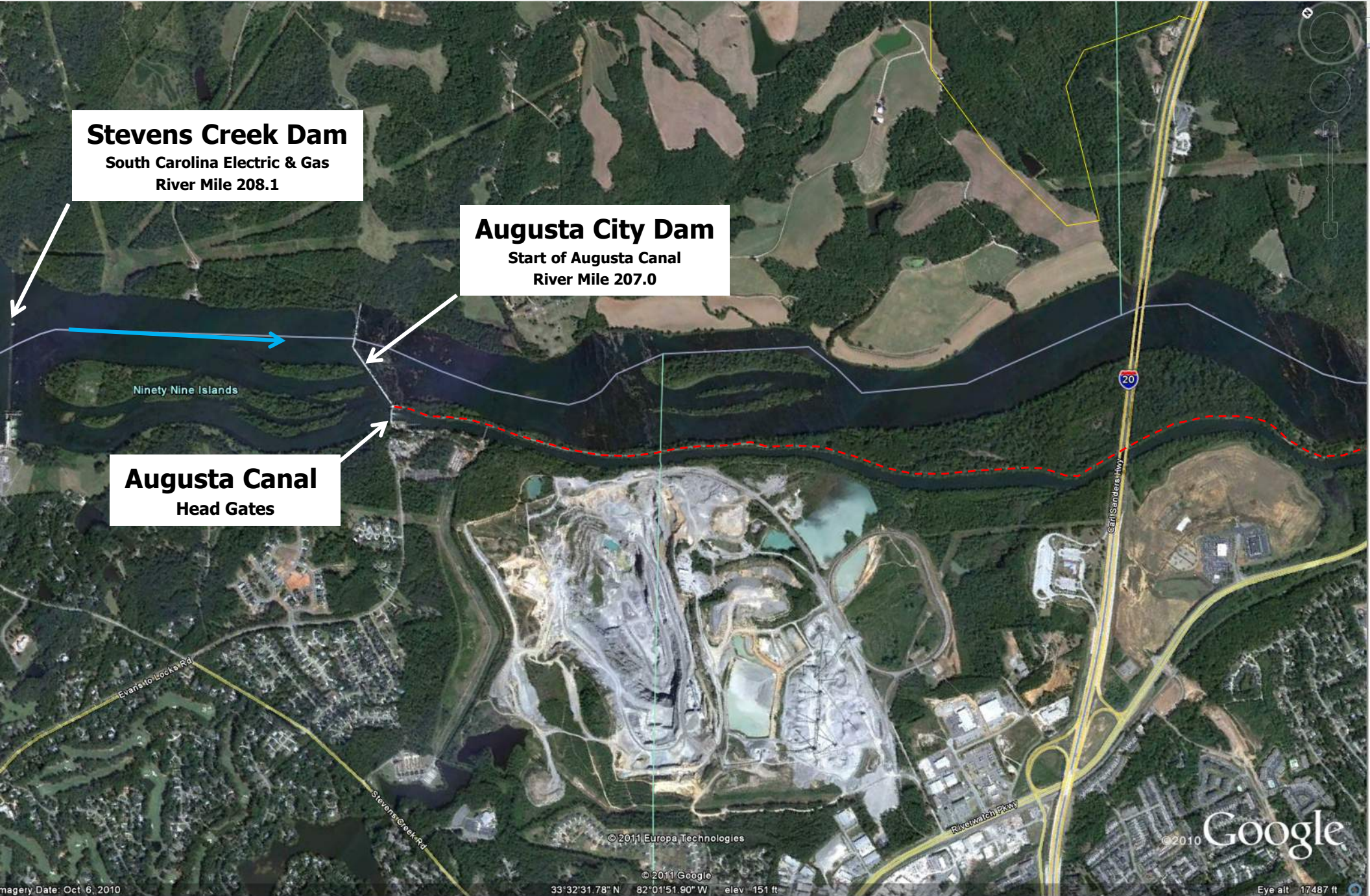
© 2011 Google

33° 32' 31.78" N 82° 01' 51.90" W elev 151 ft

© 2010 Google

Eye alt 17487 ft

imagery Date: Oct 6, 2010



Operational Procedures for Emergencies – Appendix C

- Possible Failure of Hartwell
 - ▶ Rapidly Developing Condition
 - Draw Hartwell down as fast as possible to prevent failure.
 - Minimize releases at Duke and GA Power projects.
 - Notify Emergency Management
 - ▷ Initiate closure of Augusta Levee breaches
 - ▷ Begin downstream evacuations.
 - Initiate Maximum Releases from Russell.
 - Set Thurmond Discharge to...
 - ▷ 30,000 cfs for 2 hours
 - ▷ then increase to 60,000 cfs.
 - Then match Thurmond pool with top of gates as pool rises.
 - Lower Lock & Dam Pool to minimum normal operating level.



Operational Procedures for Emergencies – Appendix C

- Possible Failure of Thurmond
 - ▶ Slowly Developing Condition
 - Minimize upstream releases
 - Lower Lock & Dam Pool to minimum normal operating level.
 - Notify Emergency Management
 - ▷ Initiate closure of Augusta Levee breaches
 - ▷ Begin downstream evacuations.
 - Draw Thurmond down to level where failure is not likely to occur.
 - ▷ Initially set Thurmond discharge to 30,000 cfs for 2 hours.
 - ▷ Then increase Thurmond releases to 60,000 cfs for next 4 hours to allow levee closure is complete.
 - ▷ (Then continue to lower pool to spillway crest in 5 days or less)
 - Maintain minimum of 150,000 cfs until failure is not likely to occur.
 - If Engineering Division cannot give estimate of time of failure
 - ▷ Assume “Rapidly Developing Condition”.



Operational Procedures for Emergencies – Appendix C

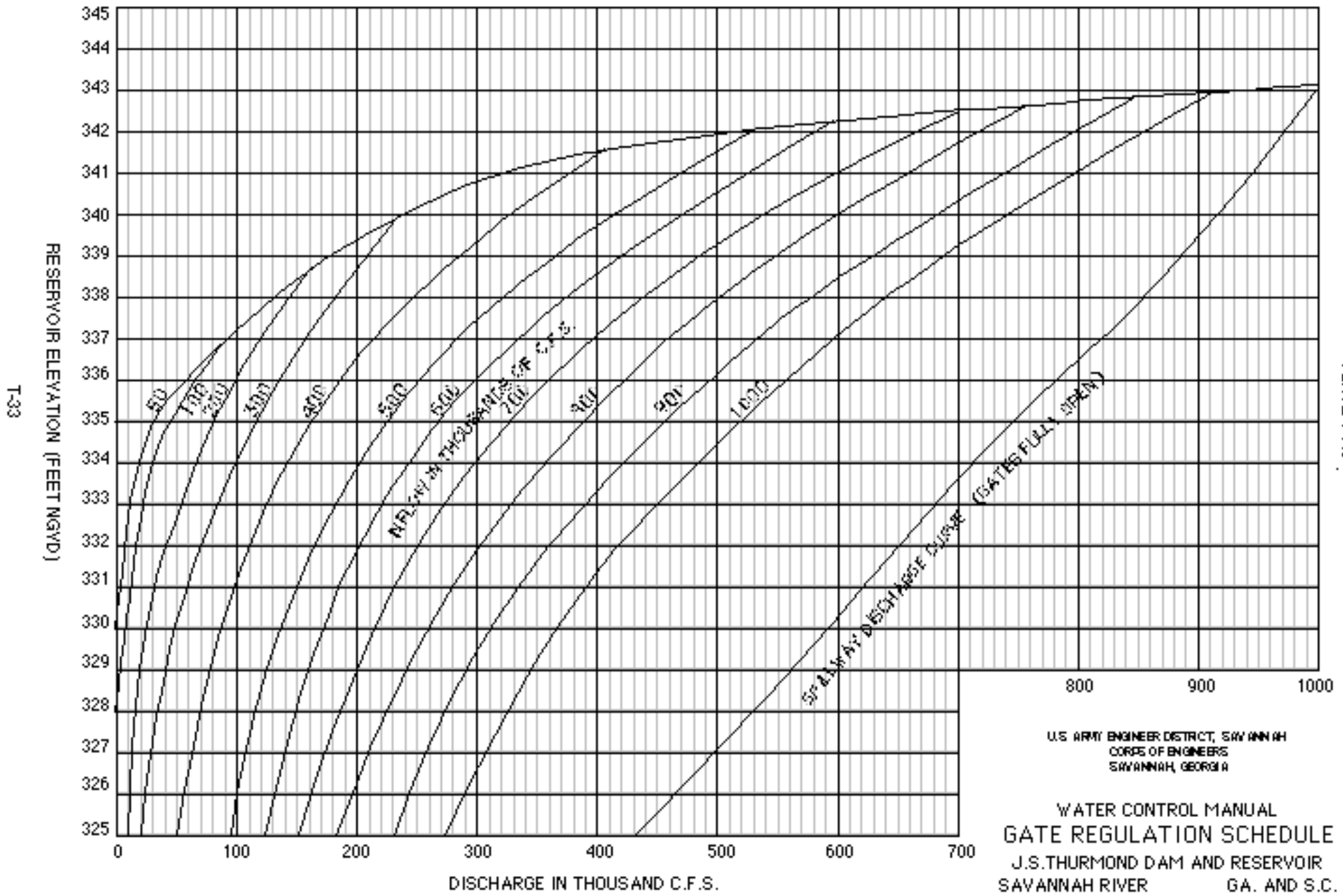
■ Possible Failure of Thurmond

▶ Rapidly Developing Condition

- Notify Emergency Management
 - ▷ Initiate closure of Augusta Levee breaches
 - ▷ Begin downstream evacuations.
- Minimize upstream releases
- Lower Lock & Dam Pool to minimum normal operating level.
- Set Thurmond releases...
 - ▷ Initially set Thurmond release to 30,000 cfs for 2 hours.
 - ▷ Then increase Thurmond release to 60,000 cfs for next 4 hours to allow levee closure.
 - Relocate non-essential personnel to top of dam.
 - ▷ Then increase Thurmond Discharges to 500,000 cfs.



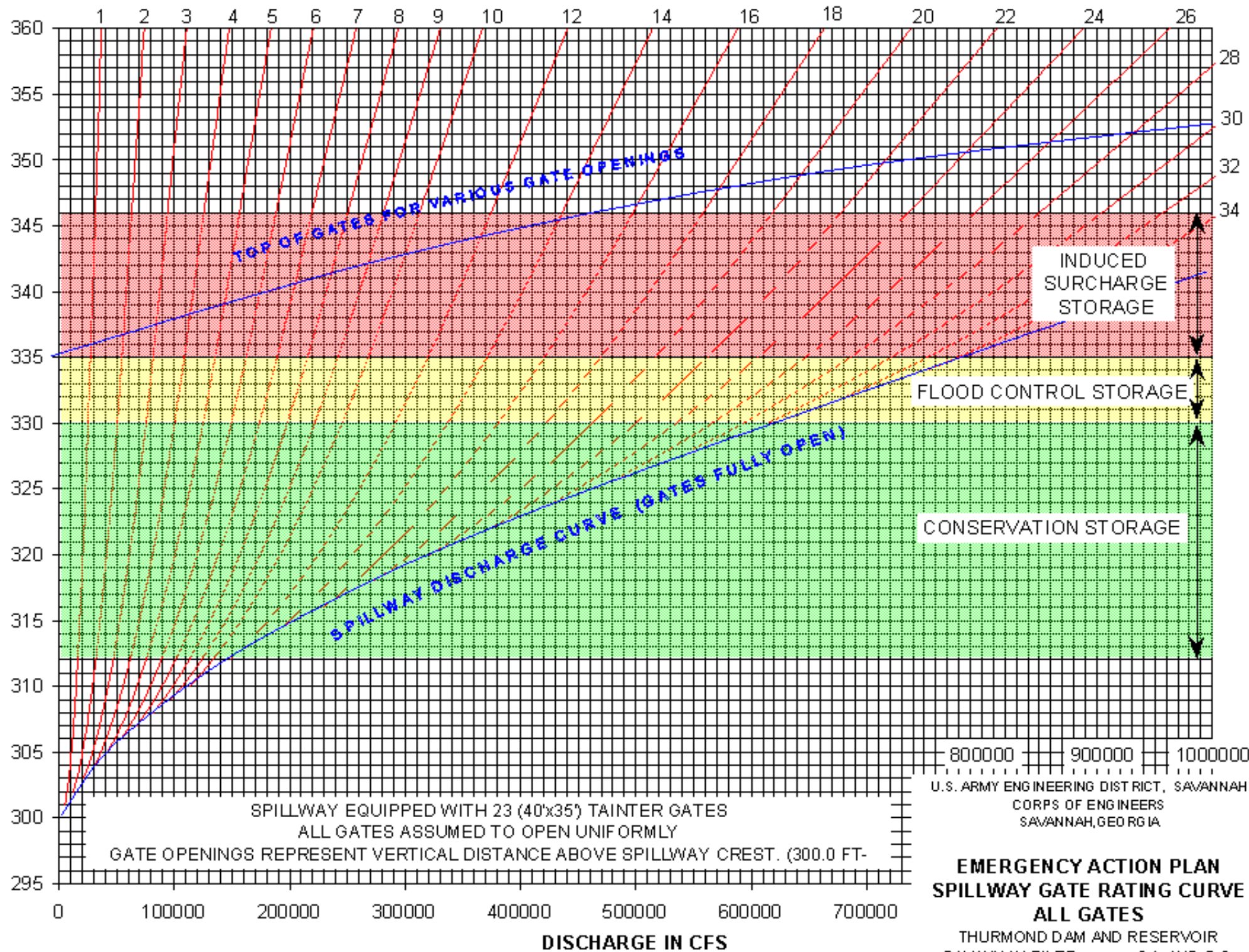
Thurmond Spillway Gate Regulation Schedule



U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SAVANNAH
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

WATER CONTROL MANUAL
GATE REGULATION SCHEDULE
J.S. THURMOND DAM AND RESERVOIR
SAVANNAH RIVER GA. AND S.C.

RESERVOIR WATER SURFACE ELEVATION (FEET-NGVD)



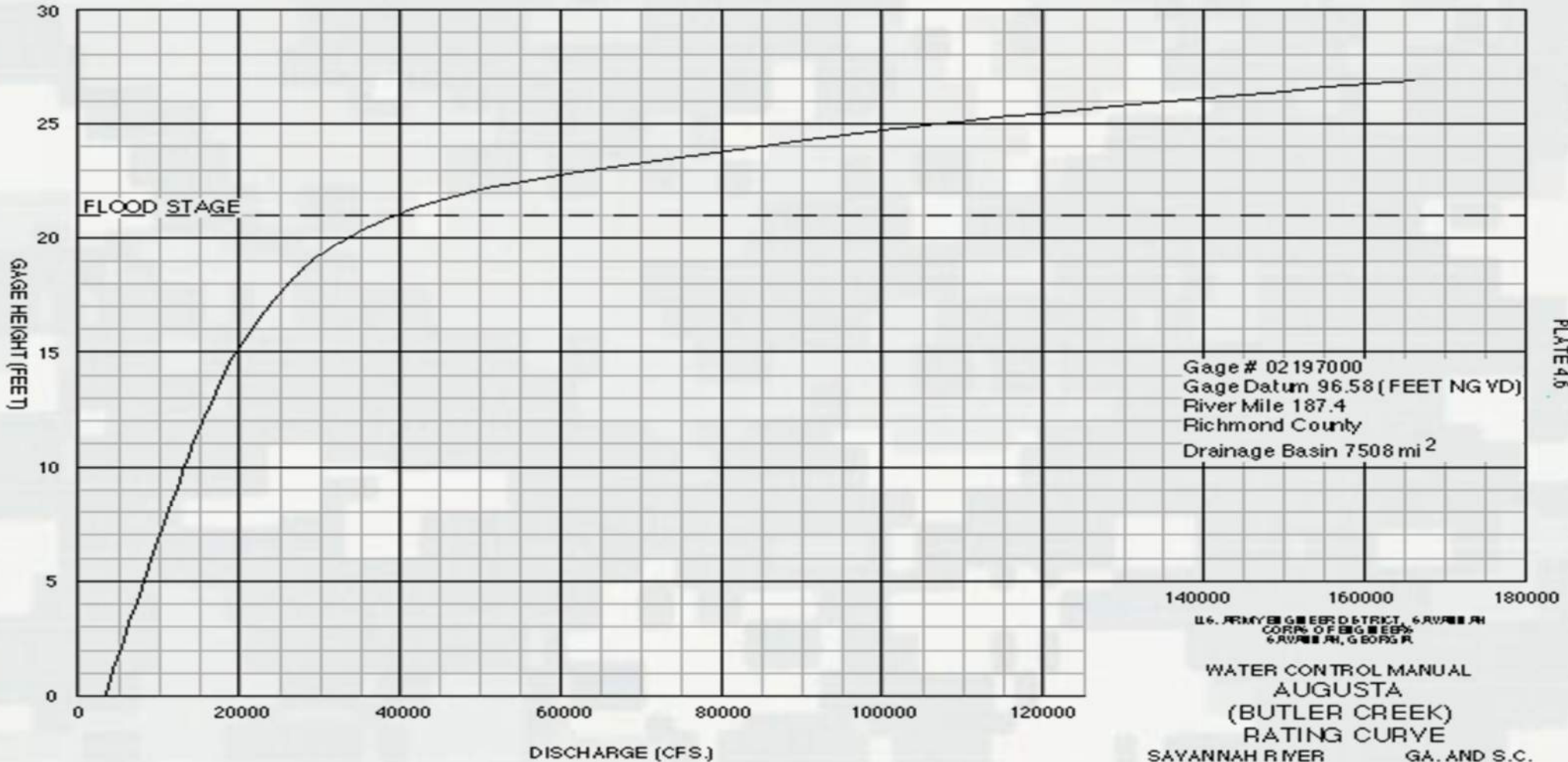
SPILLWAY EQUIPPED WITH 23 (40x35') TAINTER GATES
ALL GATES ASSUMED TO OPEN UNIFORMLY
GATE OPENINGS REPRESENT VERTICAL DISTANCE ABOVE SPILLWAY CREST. (300.0 FT-

800000 900000 1000000
U.S. ARMY ENGINEERING DISTRICT, SAVANNAH
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN
SPILLWAY GATE RATING CURVE
ALL GATES
THURMOND DAM AND RESERVOIR
SAVANNAH RIVER GA. AND S.C.

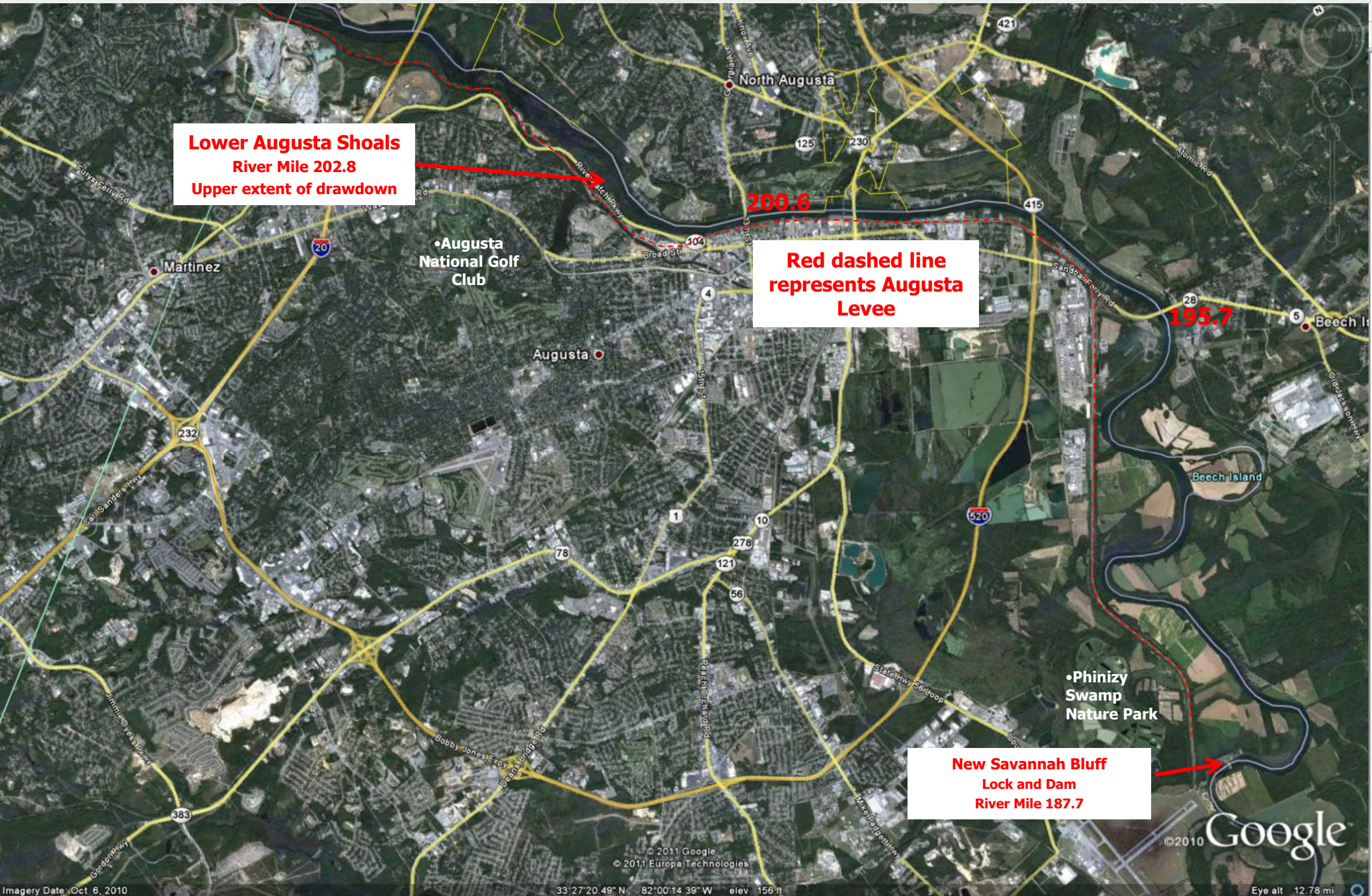
When do damages occur?

(It depends on where you are)



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Savannah River at Augusta



Augusta Shoals

River Mile 202.8



**Augusta's
Hydro-mechanical
Water Supply
Intake**

Upper end of Augusta Levee

Stevens Creek Dam

South Carolina Electric & Gas
River Mile 208.1

Augusta City Dam

Start of Augusta Canal
River Mile 207.0

Augusta Canal Head Gates

Ninety Nine Islands

Carroll Sanders Hwy

20

Google

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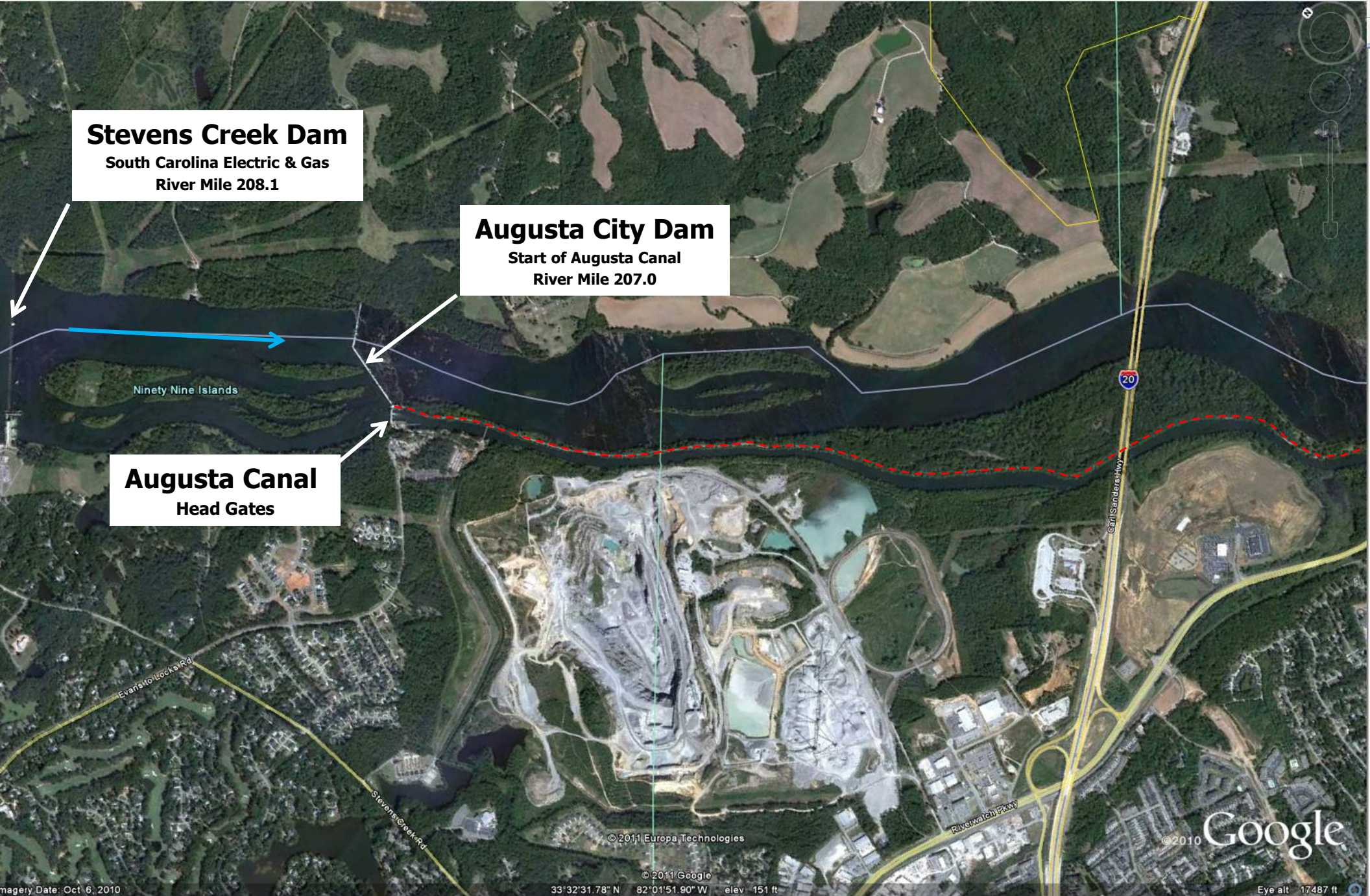
© 2011 Google

33° 32' 31.78" N 82° 01' 51.90" W elev 151 ft

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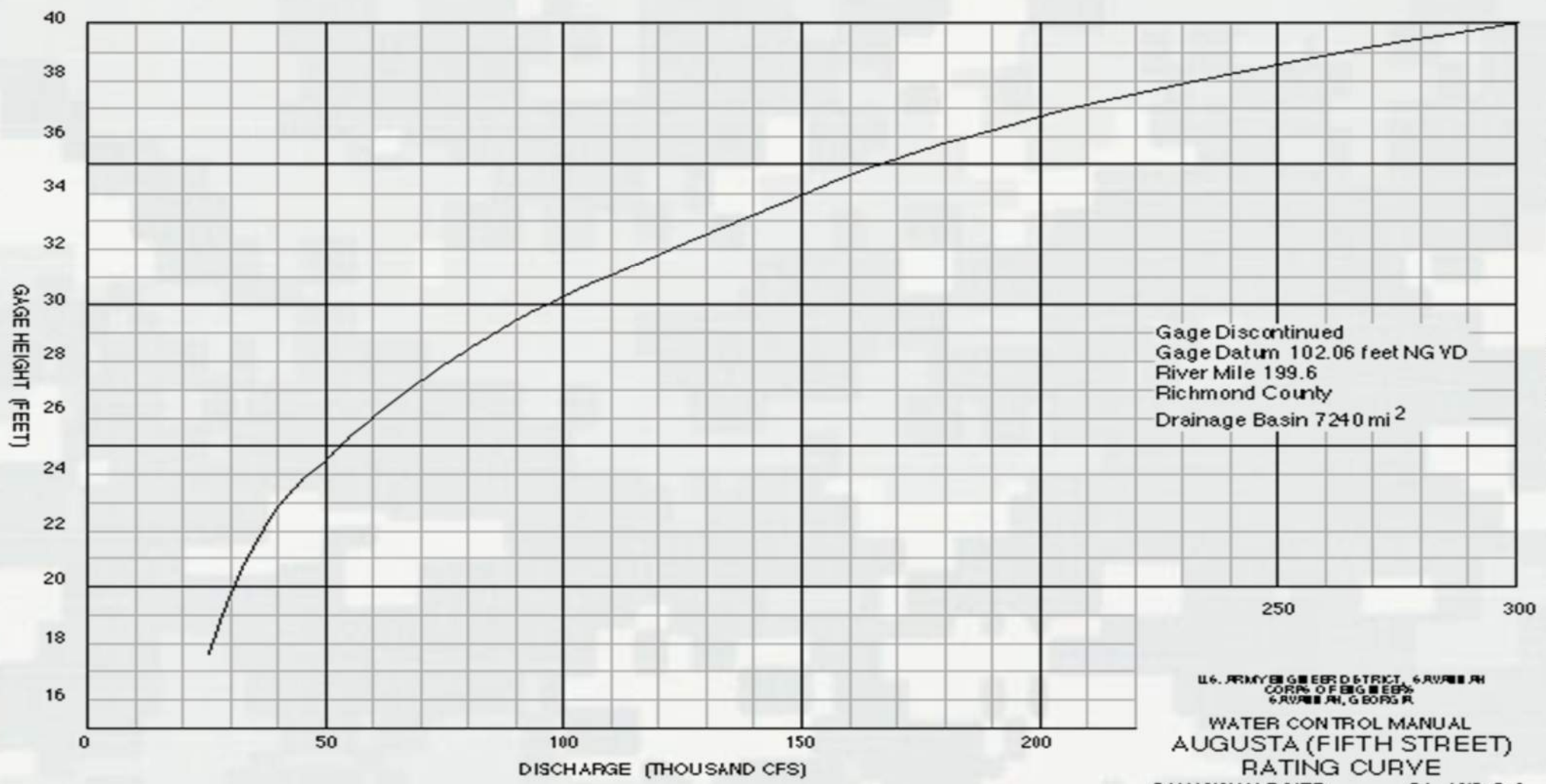
Eye alt 17487 ft

imagery Date: Oct 6, 2010



•Top of Levee ~ 52 ft, 154 ft-msl, (550,000 cfs)

5th Street Downtown Augusta

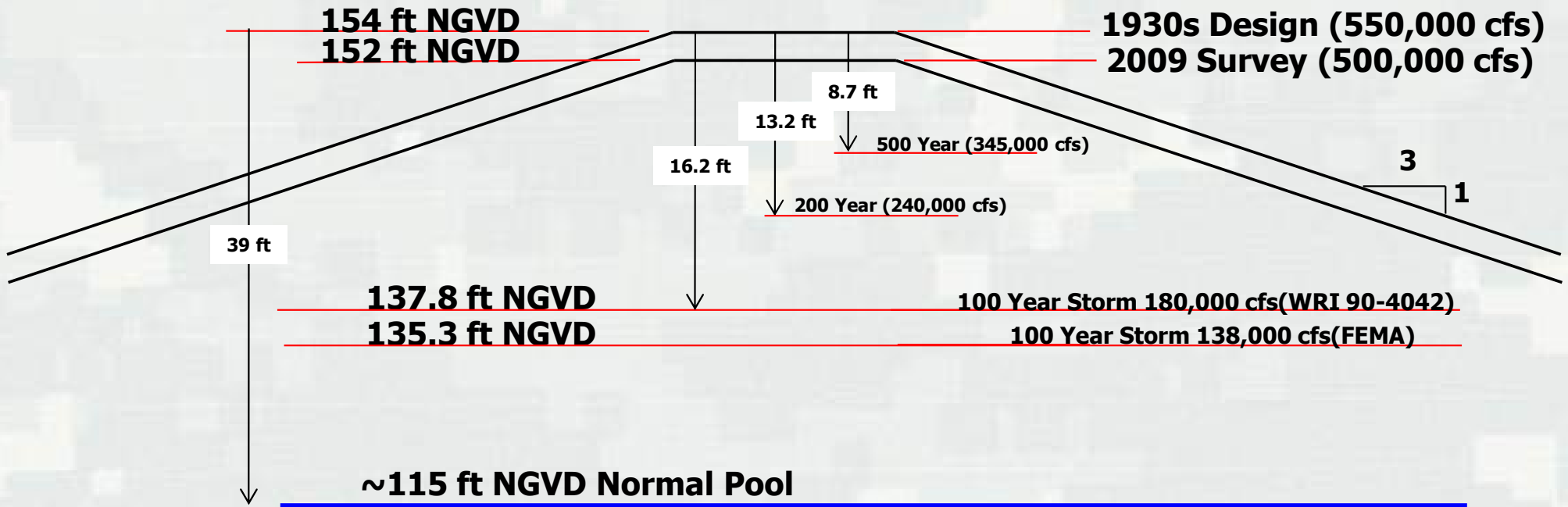


•Normal Pool ~ 15 ft, (<30,000)



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Condition of the Augusta Levee



500,000 cfs unregulated = 0.1 % exceedance (1000 yr)

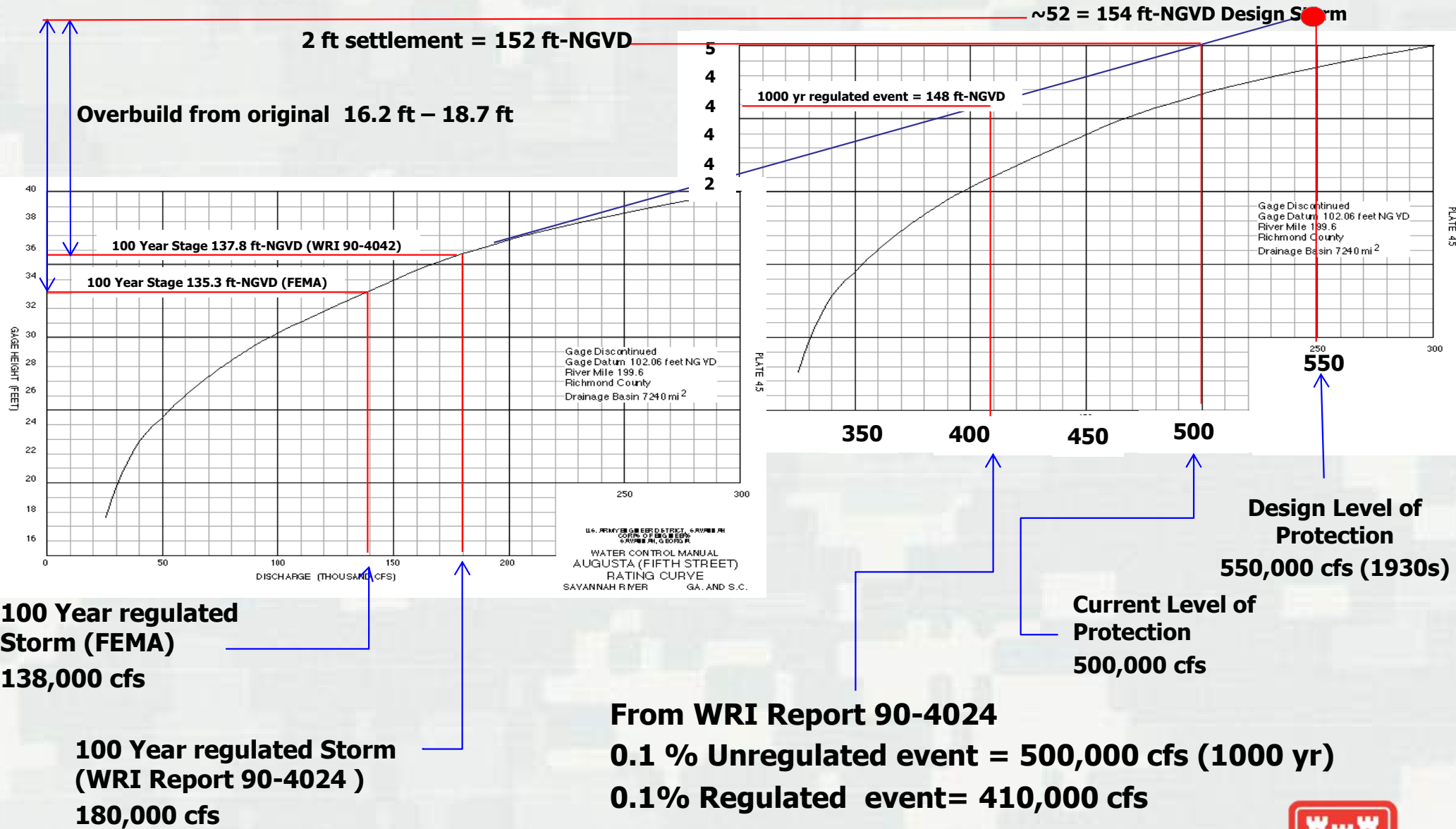
0.1 % exceedance regulated = 410,000 cfs (1000 yr)

0.2 % exceedance regulated = 345,000 cfs (500 yr)

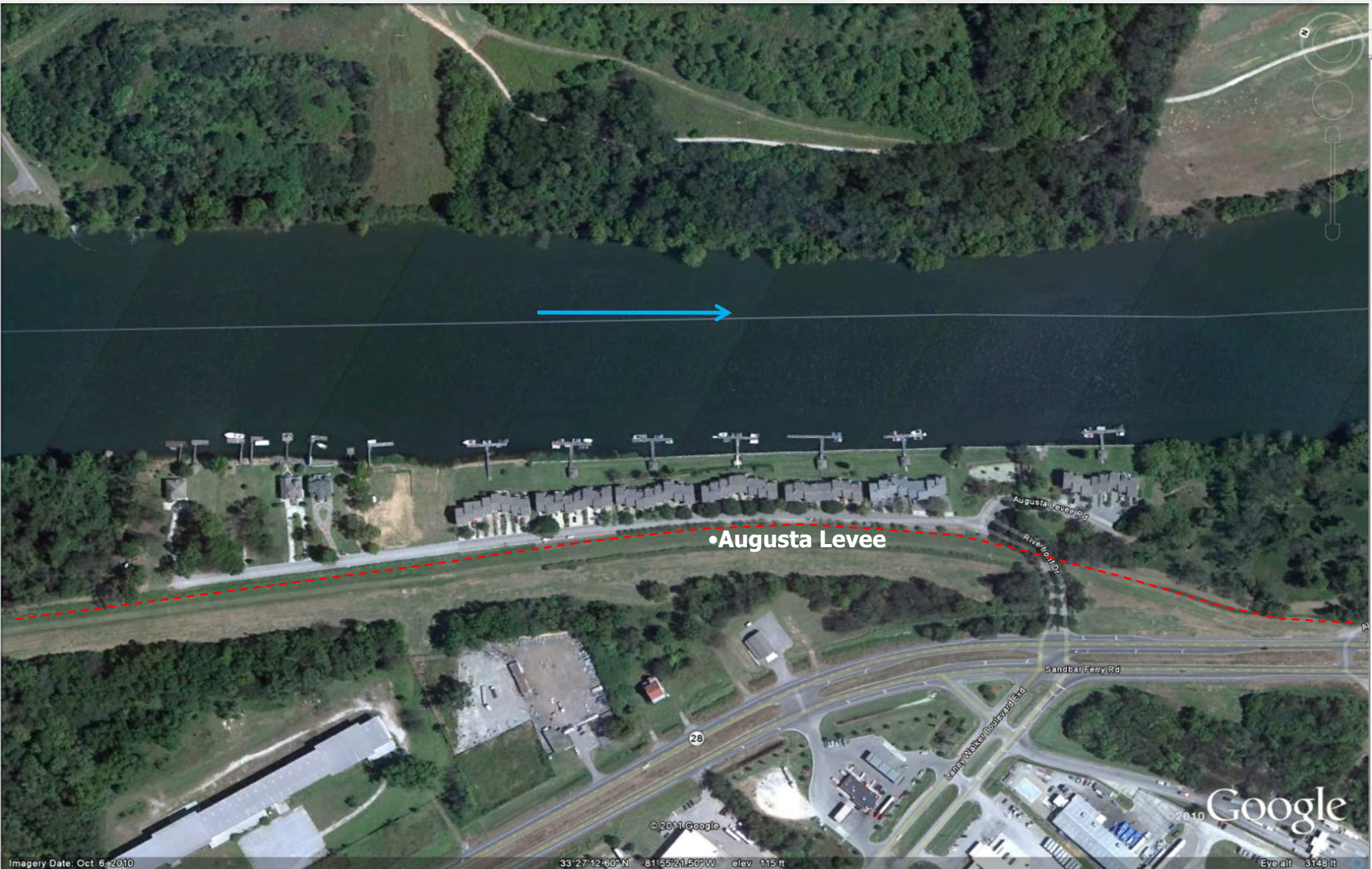
0.5 % exceedance regulated = 240,000 cfs (200 yr)



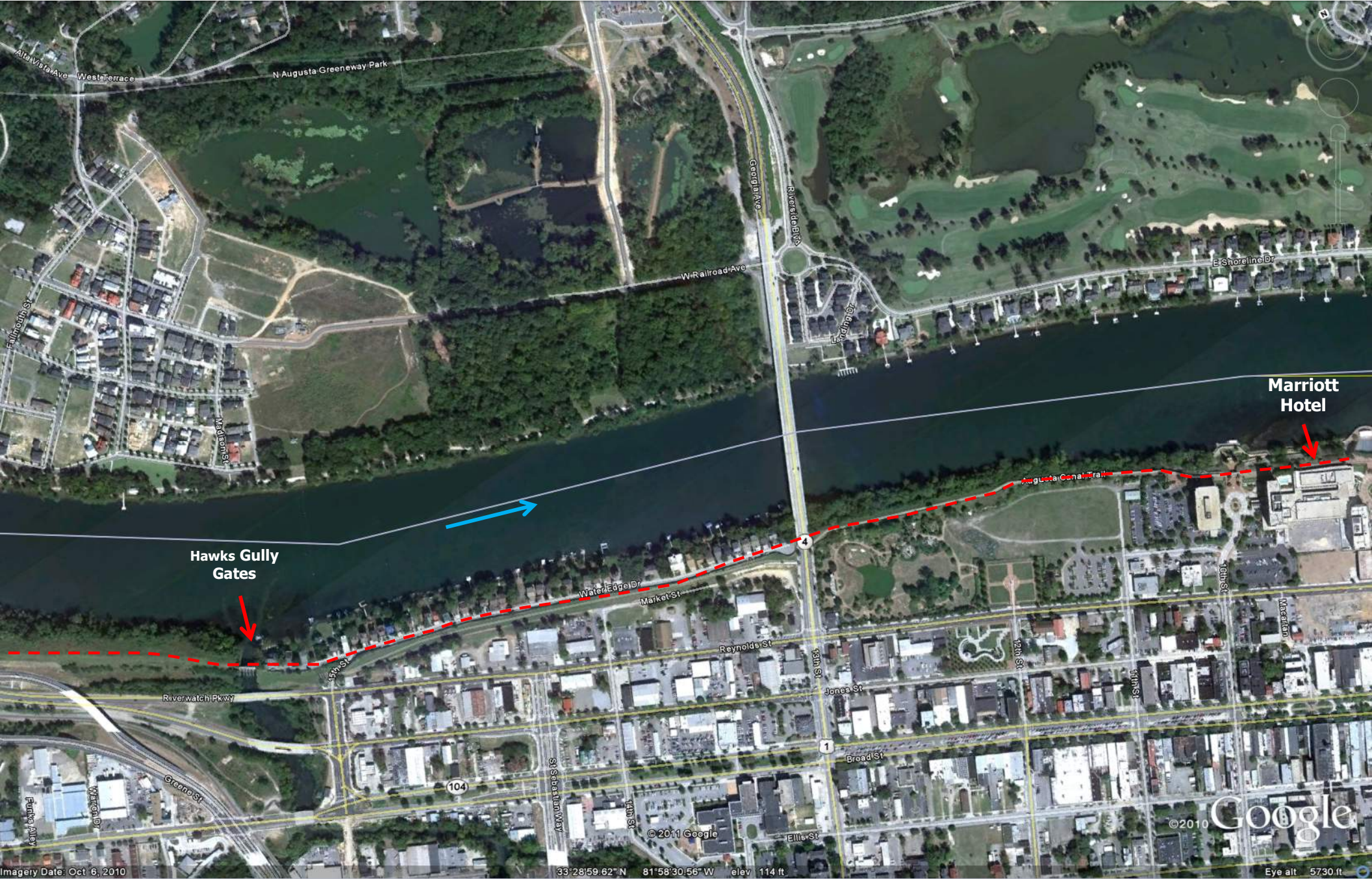
Condition of the Augusta Levee



Encroachment into floodplain



Dropped from Federal Levee Program



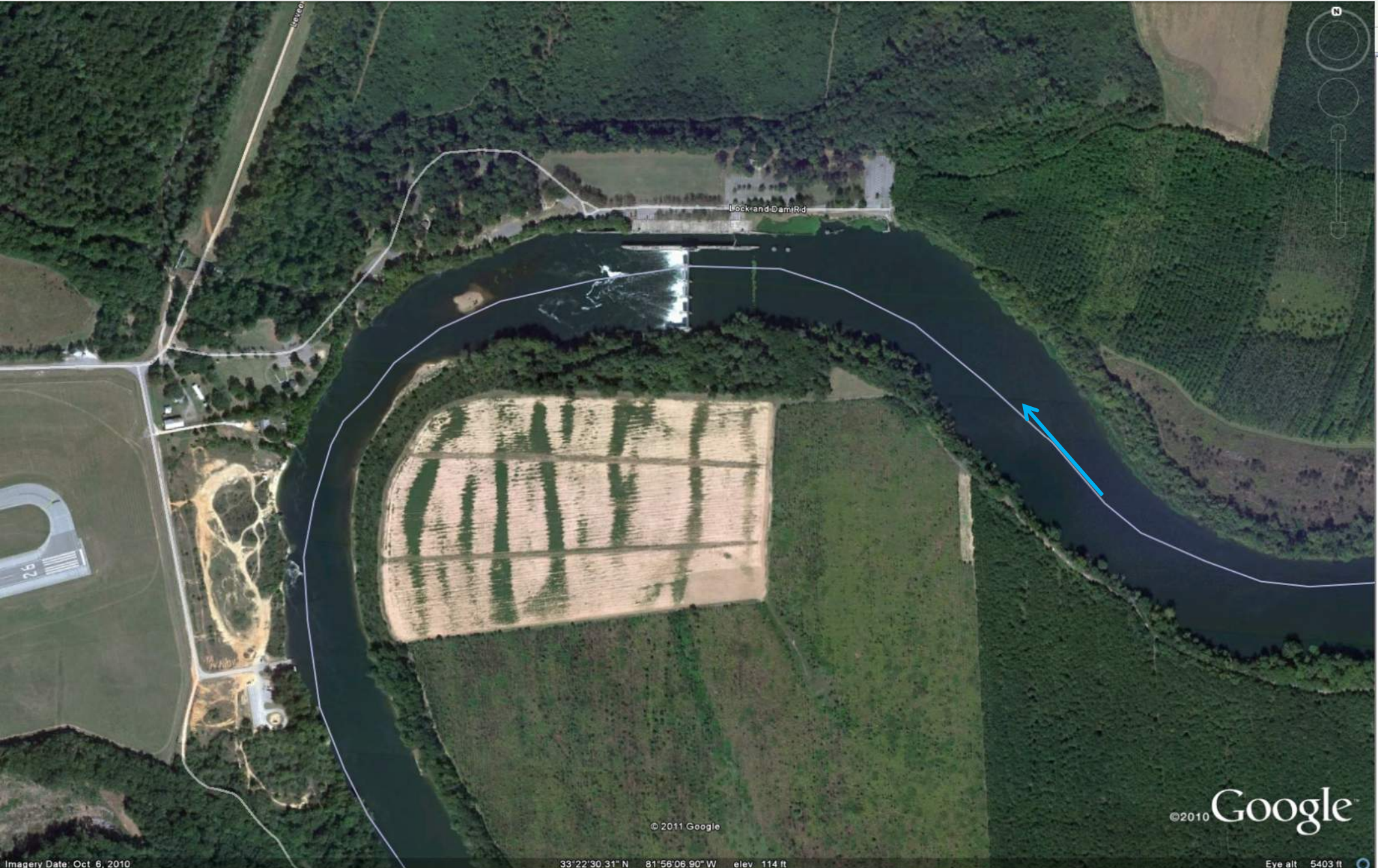
Hawks Gully Gates

Marriott Hotel

© 2010 Google

New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam

Obstacle to fish Migration



© 2011 Google

© 2010 Google

Imagery Date: Oct 6, 2010

33°22'30.31" N 81°56'06.90" W elev 114 ft

Eye alt 5403 ft

Hydropower at the Corps Projects

- SEPA South Eastern Power Administration
 - ▶ US Department of Energy
- Market Hydropower at the Corps of Engineers Projects for the Southeastern U.S.
 - ▶ Georgia Alabama System (10 projects)
 - ▶ Savannah System > 60% of total
- Dedicated to providing power to the Rural Communities



Shortnose Sturgeon

Although this population of shortnose sturgeon was once one of the largest in US waters, construction of New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam (NSBLD) in 1929 impeded access to historical shortnose sturgeon spawning habitat.



BUILDING STRONG®



Shortnose Sturgeon

Acipenser brevirostrum (brevi – short, Rostrum – beak, snout)

Spawning may occur 1-16 years after reaching maturity (females at age 6) and may skip 3-10 years between spawning

Amphidromous – spawn in freshwater but move between fresh and saltwater to feed

Spawning takes place in February in swift moving freshwater rocky or gravel substrates



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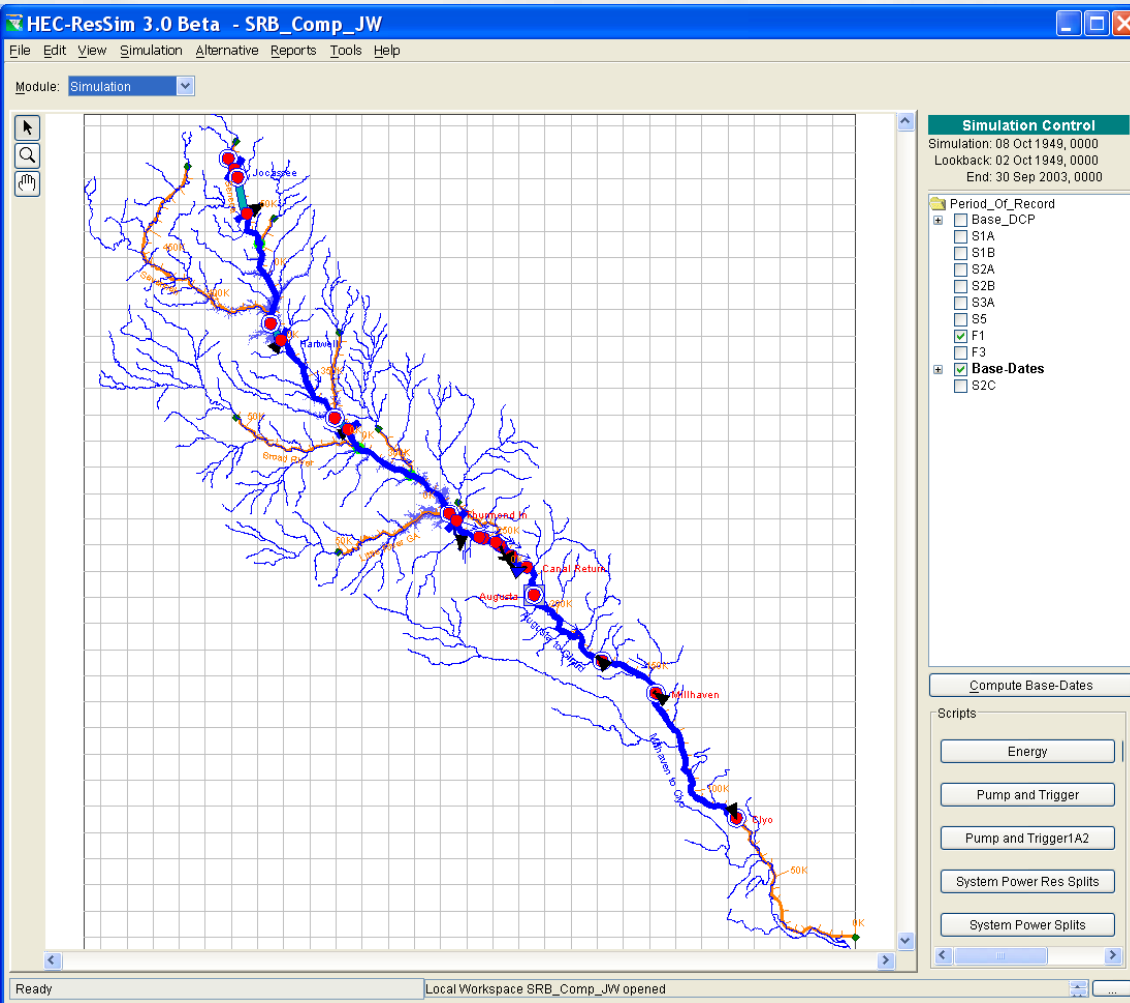
Controlled Flood Pulse vs. Flood Control



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USACE Modeling Tools

HEC-ResSim



Reservoir Operation Model

**Helps evaluate tradeoffs
with new reservoir
operation criteria**



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Water Management Web Page

<https://water.sas.usace.army.mil>



US Army Corps of Engineers

Savannah District Water Management

Jan 25, 2023 11:04	HARTWELL	RUSSELL	THURMOND
Current Pool Elevation	657.92	473.96	328.70
Guide Curve Elevation	657.02	475.00	327.02
Average Elevation	656.04	474.09	325.01
Today's Precip (in)	0.30	0.10	0.11
Monthly Precip (in)	6.39	5.69	5.71

MORNING REPORT							
HOURLY PROJECT DATA							
DECLARATIONS							
POOL SCHEMATIC							
OBSERVED RAINFALL							
Rainfall Forecast Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	1-3		4-5			6-7	
	1-5			6-7			
	1-7						
DROUGHT PLAN INFO							
HISTORIC DATA							
MISCELLANEOUS PRODUCTS							
WATER CONTROL MANUAL							
PUBLIC PAGE							
OTHER USEFUL LINKS							
AUGUSTA INUNDATION MAPS							
MOBILE PAGE							

