

To: Lake Harding Homeowners, Columbus Boat Club and Other Interested Stakeholders

From: Lake Harding Association

Subject: Bartlett's Ferry Dam Relicensing

Georgia Power is in the process of Relicensing Hydro Power Generation at Bartlett's Ferry Dam with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). On April 13, 1978 FERC issued a new license to Georgia Power for hydropower operation that is set to expire on December 14, 2014. In 2008, Georgia Power began the relicensing project using FERC's Integrated Licensing Procedure, a process that continues to ensure adequate resource protections.

Under the relicensing process, Georgia Power was required to submit studies regarding such issues as fish and aquatic resources, geology and soils, recreation and land use, and endangered species. Beginning in 2009, Georgia Power has given notice of and held public meetings regarding these studies.

Many rumors have recently circulated among homeowners regarding the impact that the relicensing procedure may have on lake levels. We want to take this opportunity to share with you what we currently know.

#### **The Rumors**

- Georgia Power is preparing to drop the lake eight feet-**UNTRUE**
- The whitewater project in Columbus, GA is going to cause lake levels to drop-**UNTRUE**
- Georgia Power does not care at what lake levels they operate as long as they are generating electricity-**UNTRUE-the hydro power generation works best with a full lake**
- The US Army Corps of Engineers is going to tell Georgia Power how to operate the lake-**UNTRUE**

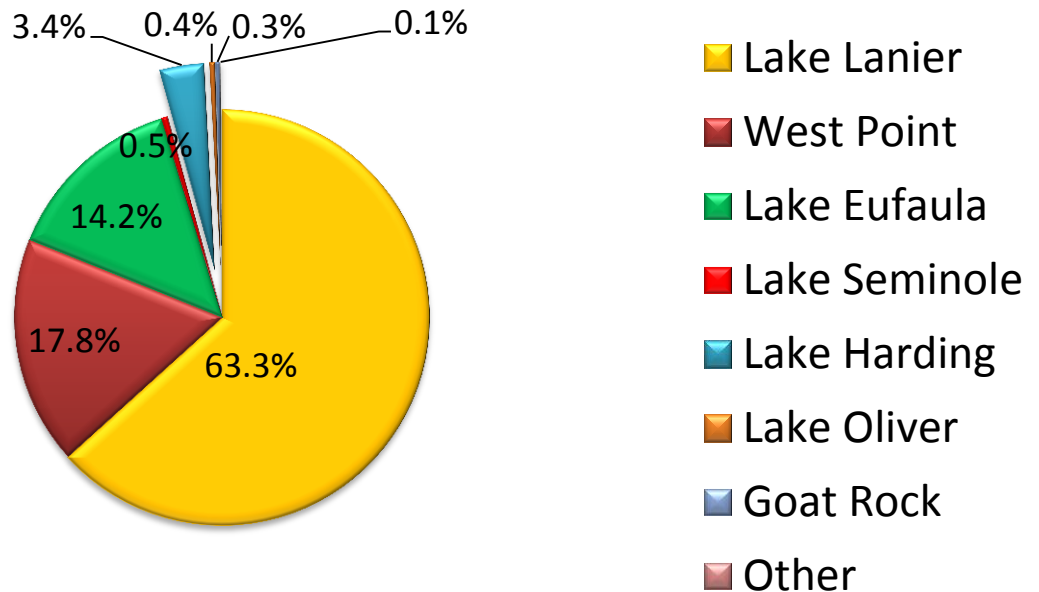
#### **The Facts**

- As part of the relicensing studies, Georgia Power was asked by FERC to develop an Operation and Drought Management Plan in order to assess the existing water storage in Lake Harding.
- In the Bartlett's Ferry Operation and Drought Management Plan Study (March 2011) submitted in response to this request, Georgia Power has stated that it proposes to continue operating Lake Harding and Bartlett's Ferry Dam as it is currently operated.
- Regarding lake levels, Georgia Power has operated the lake at elevations of 518-521 feet above sea level 99.7% of the time except for maintenance draw downs. The normal daily fluctuation of Lake Harding is about 0.75 feet

#### **Lake Harding's Role in the Chattahoochee River Flow**

- Lake Harding is a modified run-of-the river reservoir (i.e. inflow=outflow over 7 day period), not a water storage reservoir. It has only about 3.4% of the total water conservation storage on the Chattahoochee River. **See Chart Below.**
- Lake Lanier, West Point Lake, Lake George (Lake Eufaula) and Lake Seminole were built as federal water storage reservoirs with specific authorizations from the United States Congress. They have large water storage conservation pools for releases that are required by federal law.
- These federal reservoirs were built with taxpayers' money while Lake Harding was built with money from private investors.

## Chattahoochee River Water Conservation Storage



### What is Next

- On **March 6-7, 2012** Georgia Power will conduct Preliminary Licensing Proposal meetings. These meetings are not required by FERC's Integrated Licensing Procedure but are being offered by Georgia Power for additional stakeholder education and input.
- By July 17, 2012 Georgia Power will file their Preliminary Licensing Proposal with FERC.
- By **October 15, 2012 Public Comments are due to FERC** on the Preliminary License Proposal.
- By December 14, 2012 Georgia Power will file their license application. FERC has two years to issue the final license and operating parameters.

### Need for Lake Harding's Input

- For several years the City of LaGrange, West Point Lake Coalition and several other organizations have been exerting pressure on the Corps of Engineers, the State of Georgia and FERC regarding the operation of the dams in the Chattahoochee River system during times of drought, and in particular Lake Harding's participation in water releases.
- As homeowners and land owners, boat club members, fishermen, boaters, campers, homeowner association members, realtors and businesses just to name a few, the time has come for all of us (stakeholders) to begin working for the benefit of our lake. **We can begin by making sure that the March 6-7, 2012 meeting is well attended by all Lake Harding stakeholders.** We will keep you apprised of our efforts to coordinate an effective strategic plan to protect our lake, its levels, and the economic welfare of the region.