

## Relicensing Briefing Card

### ISSUE: OPERATIONS

**Brief: Georgia Power operates Bartletts Ferry in a modified-run-of-river mode to generate peak power.**

- A “run-of-river” project is operated such that project inflow and project outflow are always equal. In contrast, a large storage reservoir (e.g., Army Corps of Engineers’ (Corps’) West Point Dam) can store water for days and even years, and then release the water later as needed.
- Bartletts Ferry is operated in a modified-run-of-river mode. The Project uses a limited amount of storage to store water for hours and sometimes days for use in generating during peak power demand periods.
- Upstream Corps projects have significant storage volumes, as compared to Bartletts Ferry and other Georgia Power reservoirs on the Chattahoochee. The Corps’ significant storage allows them to manage the Chattahoochee River system. Approximately 82% of the annual inflow into Bartletts Ferry is controlled by the Corps’ West Point project. Only 18% of flows entering the Bartletts Ferry project come from local inflow and do not result from West Point releases. During dry parts of the year or drought, local inflow may be much less than 18%, making Bartletts Ferry more dependent upon West Point releases.
- Located upstream, West Point is a peaking power plant with a maximum flow of approximately 19,000 cfs and a minimum flow of 675 cfs. Normal operation at West Point is to pass minimum flow at all times, and use available excess water to peak for a number of hours each weekday. During normal operations, no peaking occurs on weekends.
- West Point peak releases take four to six hours to reach Bartletts Ferry.
- Over a period of one week at Bartletts Ferry, the average inflow is roughly equivalent to the average outflow.
- Bartletts Ferry normally operates between elevation 519 and 521 (full pool). The Project uses the storage in the top two feet to store inflows and generate during peak demand hours.
- Average daily fluctuations of the Bartletts Ferry reservoir are approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a foot.
- Bartletts Ferry has no minimum flow requirement because it discharges directly into the Georgia Power Goat Rock reservoir, with no intervening riverine reach or bypassed reach. Although there is no instantaneous discharge requirement, for the eleven year period 1997-2007 daily average discharges exceeded 0 cfs 99.9% of the time and 500 cfs 99.8% of the time.

**Bottom Line Take Away: Georgia Power proposes to continue operating Bartletts Ferry in a modified-run-of-river mode to generate peak power.**

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