

WALLACE DAM



Lake Oconee

VALUE OF HYDROPOWER BRIEF

- Hydropower provides a low-cost energy source. With no fuels to transport or burn, hydropower is cost competitive with other power resources. Its operating and maintenance costs are low and predictable.
- Hydropower is 100 percent renewable. In fact, hydro generation accounts for a major percentage of the nation's total renewable electricity generation.
- Hydropower is a clean, efficient, low-emission resource that generates no wastes for disposal. The use of hydropower to produce electricity avoids the release of carbon emissions, sulfur dioxides, and nitrogen oxides from the combustion of other fuels.
- As a purely domestic energy source, hydropower supports U.S. energy security by increasing our energy independence. The greater use of hydropower means less reliance on foreign energy sources.
- Hydropower can provide many non-power benefits as well. Non-power benefits include water supply, grid stability, and recreation. Hydropower projects also provide habitat for fish and wildlife, as well as natural view sheds and wildlife viewing opportunities.
- Hydropower is capable of being “turned-on” at the flip of a switch much more quickly than other generation sources.
- The Wallace Dam is the largest capacity hydropower generation asset for Georgia Power. For the most recent 20-year period from 1994-2013, the Wallace Dam produced approximately 66,000 Megawatt hours in conventional generation and 317,000 Megawatt hours in pumped generation. This total generation was the most energy produced by any Georgia Power hydro generation asset.
- Because of its large capacity, the Wallace Dam is a black-start facility for Georgia Power, meaning that it is capable of assisting in restoring electricity to the nearby system if another major generation facility goes off-line.

Summary: Hydropower is a valuable domestic, low-cost, efficient, and low-emission electric power resource for this century and beyond. The Wallace Dam, in particular, is a valuable asset to Georgia Power and an important component of the state's generation mix.

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