



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
696 VIRGINIA ROAD
CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01742-2751

REPLY TO:
ATTENTION OF:

March 16, 2009

Construction/Operations Division

Ms. Julia Khorana
Release Coordinator, A.M.C. and F.L.O.W.
3 Birch Hill Road
Stow, Massachusetts 01775

Dear Ms. Khorana:

The Corps of Engineers, New England District, has received your request for water releases dated 20 January 2009. After collaborating with various Resource Agencies, our Reservoir Regulation Section, and assessing potential impacts to our project operation requirements, I am pleased to inform you that most of the proposed whitewater events have been approved for the upcoming 2009 season. Where an individual release cannot be accommodated, an explanation is provided.

As in the past, there is no guarantee of the availability of water for a scheduled event, but we believe there is a high likelihood of at least a partial event. Our goal is to continue to support whitewater recreation in an environmentally responsible manner. The Corps has an obligation to maintain the natural flow regimes and minimize the impact our operations have on fisheries and other habitat, in both the reservoirs and rivers that we manage. The Corps intends to continue making releases for recreational water activities downstream of our dams, utilizing available water from our projects, consistent with our flood risk management mission and in a manner that sustains healthy river systems.

I urge the individual event coordinators to contact the appropriate Corps' project managers listed below just prior to the scheduled event to determine if suitable flows will be available.

West River - Ball Mountain and Townshend Dams:

For the requested water release on 25 and 26 April, water may not be available as we intend to draw the winter conservation pool down to an elevation of 25 feet during the week of 6-10 April to accommodate the downstream migration of Atlantic salmon smolt. Any event scheduled for the dates you requested will be contingent on the availability of natural runoff that will be passed through Ball Mountain and Townshend Dams. For scheduling/planning purposes, it should be noted that there is a low probability that a whitewater release will occur for the requested April dates.

Similarly, for the requested water release on 16 and 17 May, water may not be available as we intend to draw the winter conservation pool down to an elevation of 25 feet during the week of 6-10 April and will be maintaining a 25 ft pool elevation until 15 June when we begin raising the pool to return to the 65 foot summer conservation pool elevation. Any event

scheduled for the dates you requested will be contingent on the availability of natural runoff that will be passed through Ball Mountain and Townshend Dams. As indicated above, it is unlikely that a whitewater release will occur for the May dates.

For the requested water release on 26 and 27 September, available water stored in the reservoir will be released at the rate of approximately 1500 cfs. As in the past, we intend to begin releasing water early in the morning on Saturday, September 26 and continue until the water is no longer available. Under this scenario, water is usually available for a single-day release and should be planned for that this year; however, depending on runoff conditions and further review of our flow management procedures, there may be available water for the requested 2-day release.

For additional information regarding releases on the West River, contact Mr. Phil Morrison at Ball Mountain Lake (802) 874-4881.

Otter Brook - Otter Brook Lake:

For the requested water release on 28 and 29 March, available water stored in the reservoir will be released at the rate of approximately 300 cfs and continue until the water supply is depleted. We intend to begin releasing water at 9:00 on Saturday, March 28th.

For the requested water release on 25 and 26 April, available water stored in the reservoir will be released at the rate of approximately 300 cfs and continue until the water supply is depleted. We intend to begin releasing water at 9:00 on Saturday, April 25th.

For the requested water release on 2 and 3 May, related to the ACA New Hampshire Whitewater Championship, available water stored in the reservoir will be released at the rate of approximately 300 cfs until the water supply is depleted. If it appears that water will not be available to support a two-day release, we intend to begin releasing water at 9:00 on Sunday, May 3rd for your priority event.

For additional information regarding releases on the Otter Brook, contact Mr. Jim Lewis at Otter Brook Lake (603) 352-4130.

Ashuelot River - Surry Mountain Lake:

For the requested water release on 2 May, available water stored in the reservoir will be released at the rate of approximately 275 cfs until the water supply is depleted. We intend to begin releasing water at 5:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 2nd.

For additional information regarding releases on the Ashuelot River, contact Mr. Jim Lewis at Otter Brook Lake (603) 352-4130.

Westfield River - Knightville Dam and Littleville Lake:

For the requested water release on 18 and 19 April, related to the 56th annual Westfield River Wildwater races, available water stored in the reservoir will be released at the rate of approximately 1000 cfs from Knightville Dam and 300 cfs from Littleville Dam until the water supply is depleted. If it appears that water will not be available to support a two-day release, we intend to begin releasing water early on Saturday morning, April 18th for just a single-day event.

As previously conducted, we are planning to discharge the winter conservation pool at Knightville Dam beginning on the afternoon of Friday, 27 March to allow for downstream migration of salmon smolt. Water will be released over the weekend of 28-29 March until the water supply is depleted.

For additional information regarding releases on the Westfield River, contact Mr. John Parker at Knightville Dam (413) 667-3430 or Mr. Tom Wisnuckas at Littleville Lake (413) 667-3656.

Quinebaug River - East Brimfield Lake:

For the requested water release on 26 April, related to the Town of Sturbridge Lion's Club River Race, available water stored in the reservoir will be released at the rate of approximately 350 cfs until the water supply is depleted. We intend to begin releasing water beginning at 5:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 26.

For additional information regarding releases on the Quinebaug River, contact Mr. Keith Beecher at (978) 318-8405.

Blackwater River - Blackwater Dam:

Unfortunately, for the water release requested for 2 and 3 May, pool impoundments necessary to provide water for a scheduled whitewater event would adversely impact ongoing farming operations occurring in agricultural-lease fields surrounding the Blackwater Reservoir. Alternatively, if the whitewater event could be rescheduled to an earlier date such as April 18 and 19, agricultural impacts would not be a significant factor and the event could most-likely be accommodated.

For additional information regarding release on the Blackwater River, contact Mr. Victor Ranfos at Blackwater Dam (603) 648-6028.

Millers River - Birch Hill Dam and Tully Lake:

For the requested water release on 11 and 12 April, related to the 46th Annual River Rat Race, as well as for the Farley Flats event further downstream in Erving, MA, available water stored at the reservoirs will be released the rate of approximately 1100 cfs from Birch Hill Dam and approximately 300 cfs from Tully Lake until the water supply is depleted. If it appears that

water will not be available to support a two-day release, we intend to begin releasing water beginning on Friday evening, April 10th for a single Saturday event.

For information regarding releases on the Millers River, contact Mr. Jeff Mangum at Tully Lake (978) 249-9150 or Mr. James West at Birch Hill Dam (978) 249-4467.

If you need additional information, please feel free to contact Mr. Bruce Williams at (978) 318-8168 for project information or Paul Marinelli of our Reservoir Regulation Section at (978) 318-8630 for flow issues.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Carlson, P.E.
Chief, Construction/Operations Division