



United States Army Corps of Engineers  
Wilmington District  
P.O. Box 1890  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-1890

# News Release

Contact: PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
Phone: (910) 251-4626

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## Heavy rains a benefit, not a worry, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says

**WILMINGTON, North Carolina**—Federal water resources managers at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, say heavy rains resulting from Tropical Depression Dennis will add badly-needed water to reservoirs without threatening serious flooding. According to Terry Brown, the water control manager at the Wilmington District, both Falls and Jordan Lakes, located near Raleigh, North Carolina, and John H. Kerr Lake at Boydton, Virginia, will benefit from rains.

“We are monitoring stream levels carefully, and releases from Jordan and Falls Dams have been minimum,” Brown said. “We will not start increasing releases from our reservoirs until we are certain that downstream flows have peaked and are receding.” Brown expects that B. Everett Jordan Lake will begin making increased releases late today or early tomorrow, and that Falls Lake will begin to make controlled releases tomorrow, the 8<sup>th</sup> of September.

“We ensure that we conduct increased releases in a controlled and orderly fashion,” Brown said. “We expect Falls Lake to peak at about 254.5 feet tomorrow. That’s good news. The reservoir would have to rise ten feet more before we could say we have a major concern.” In the case of Jordan Lake, which is expected to peak tomorrow at about 220 feet, that level will still be 20 feet below the spillway.

John H. Kerr Reservoir is expected to rise to near 294 feet, msl over the next few days. That level is still five feet below the normal operating level at this time of year. “But even this small rise in Kerr is much better than the continual fall we have been seeing over the past weeks. Inflows to Kerr Reservoir were only running about 20 percent of normal before Dennis,” Brown said.

“The weekend’s rains may have put a damper on many holidays,” Brown said, “but the addition to our reservoirs is more than welcome after a summer of severely dry conditions.”

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