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News Release

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PRESS ADVISORY

Corps coordinates Falls releases with downstream emergency managers

WILMINGTON, North Carolina-Working with city and county emergency managers in the Lower Neuse Basin to monitor river levels and weather conditions, the US Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District projects a gradual increase of releases from the Falls Dam and Reservoir beginning tomorrow.

Water releases from Falls Dam have been near minimum for several days. Two recent heavy rainfalls have produced rising levels in the Neuse River from Goldsboro and Kinston. "We can't stop the flooding from rainfall that falls downstream of Falls Dam, but we are using the storage behind the dam to capture almost all of the floodwaters from upstream," said Dan Emerson, Water Control Manager for the Falls Dam project. "We will only make releases of these stored flood waters when levels downstream permit," Emerson added.

"We have been working with Wayne and Lenoir County Emergency Managers, and with the City of Goldsboro this afternoon. We are coordinating our releases from Falls Lake with them and with the Southeast River Forecast Center in Atlanta."

Today, Falls Lake is at 259.4 feet above mean sea level or about eight feet high, and is near peak. The Corps expects that improving weather conditions for the next several days will permit an increase of releases from today's 540 cfs to 1,000 cfs tomorrow.

"We constantly gather and evaluate actual and forecast weather and river data to adjust our operations," Emerson said. Current lake levels and releases for Corps projects in the Wilmington District are available on the internet at <http://epec.saw.usace.army.mil>.