Corps to cork Hartwell flow to let lake fill

Level up a foot, but still 13 feet below normal

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CLEMSON — The Army Corps of Engineers will stop outflow from Lake Hartwell for three to six weeks so the lake can continue to fill, a corps spokesman said Thursday.

Outflow could cease within the next few days and possibly as early as today because the three Upstate corps lakes — Hartwell, Russell and Thurmond — have become out of balance, said corps spokesman Billy Birdwell.

Downstream flow will come from the Thurmond dam, but Hartwell will be allowed to fill during this time to bring it back into balance, Birdwell said.

Recently flow was stopped for several days from the Thurmond dam, but water was taken during that time from Hartwell to Russell.

The rain and snow last weekend brought Hartwell up another foot, to 646.93 feet above mean sea level Thursday, according to corps data.

Lake Hartwell remains 13 feet below full pool as drought continues in the Upstate.