

Mission Hydroelectric Project

Report on High Water Availability for Recreation and Recreation Opportunity Studies

The Mission Project is located on the Hiwassee River between the towns of Murphy and Hayesville in a rural setting surrounded by forests and limited residential development. It is situated about 14 miles below Lake Chatuge which is a hydroelectric impoundment managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and about 8 miles above Hiwassee Lake which is also managed by the TVA. The river arises in the mountains of north Georgia and has an annual runoff of about 661 cfs (based on long term mean at Lake Chatuge and Murphy, NC). River flow at the Mission Project is dependent on the release of water from Lake Chatuge and natural stream flow in this segment of river. Minimum flow from Chatuge is 60 cfs (at the re-regulation dam near Hayesville) with normal and maximum generation of 1320 cfs and 1450 cfs respectively. Information about generation from Chatuge is available through the Tennessee Valley Authority phone messaging system for the public interested in downstream recreation. These numbers are 800 238 2264 and 800 438 2264 (hearing impaired). Real time flow information can be obtained from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) gauge near Murphy (gauge number 03548500) on the USGS website.

The Mission Project does not significantly affect flow levels in the Hiwassee River below Mission Dam since it is a hydroelectric project with limited storage. Water either flows through the generator(s) and back into the riverbed below the 50-foot high dam or it runs over the dam or both. Since the Project has minimal effects on either river flows or reservoir levels, it also has no impact on angling and paddling recreational opportunities on the reservoir and downstream of the Project whether at low or high stream flows. Further information will be available from the Mission Plant Operation Plan currently being developed as part of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing of the Mission Project.

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