



11 March 2016

Barnett Reservoir increasing discharge

Barnett Reservoir officials increased the discharge at the dam Friday morning in advance of water coming down the Pearl River from heavy rainfall in the basin over the past 24 hours.

After a 10 a.m. conference call with the National Weather Service Jackson, the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center in Slidell and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Vicksburg, the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District opened its gates to allow a discharge of 30,000 cubic feet per second.

At that rate, the Pearl River will rise to 31.5 feet at Jackson within 12 hours. Flood stage is 28 feet at Jackson, but it takes 33 feet to enter streets and 35 feet before houses are threatened.

Increasing discharge Friday will create more storage space in Barnett Reservoir, which rose sharply overnight to 297.8 feet above sea level from six inches of rain directly on the lake. The plan will allow PRVWSD officials to reduce the ultimate river crests at locations downriver.

According to forecast models, which include rainfall predictions 48 hours ahead, the inflow at Barnett Reservoir should peak at around 45,000 cubic feet per second on Wednesday. At 10 a.m. Friday, the inflow was 24,000 feet.

The Pearl River is expected to crest at different locations above the reservoir on Monday and Tuesday. To track the river forecast online:

For Barnett Reservoir:

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=jan&gage=jsnm6>

For Jackson: <http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=jan&gage=jacm6>

For all locations: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/?n=pearlriverbasin>