

MEDIA CONTACT:
George Porter
(540) 985-2968
gaporter@aep.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HEAVY RAINFALL IN ROANOKE RIVER WATERSHED EXPECTED TO AFFECT SMITH MOUNTAIN PROJECT WATER LEVELS

ROANOKE, Va. April 13, 2020 -- Appalachian Power, operator of the Smith Mountain Project hydroelectric facility in southwest Virginia, is cautioning shoreline property owners and visitors that the Smith Mountain Reservoir will exceed its full pond elevation because of recent heavy rainfall in the project's watershed.

Currently, Smith Mountain Lake has reached its full pond level of 795 feet. The project's lower reservoir, Leesville Lake, is below its full pond level of 613 feet.

Flow levels above and below the project are high. To prevent additional flooding downstream, Appalachian expects the Smith Mountain Reservoir to exceed full pond 1.5 – 2 feet within the next 24 hours.

Shoreline property owners are urged to be attentive to local and National Weather Service reports and to make sure that property around the lake is secure.

The lakes being affected by water levels above full pond is rare, but an increase of only inches could make walking docks unsafe, cause unsecure water craft and floating docks to float away into navigation channels and wash loose items from the shore.

Current lake levels and inflow/discharge information is available anytime at www.aep.com/recreation/hydro. The project website is www.SmithMountainProject.com.

Smith Mountain Project is a 636-megawatt pumped storage hydroelectric facility on the Roanoke River that utilizes an upper reservoir (Smith Mountain Lake) and a lower reservoir (Leesville Lake). Water stored in Smith Mountain Lake first passes through turbine-generators in the powerhouse to produce electricity and is discharged into Leesville Lake. From there some water is released through the Leesville Dam or pumped back into Smith Mountain. The project is operated by Appalachian Power.