

Floor Statement

Representative Nathan Deal

**H.Res. 645, to provide consideration of H.R. 3183 - Energy and Water Development
and Related Agencies Appropriations Act**

July 15, 2009

My colleagues from Georgia and I offered an amendment that was not accepted in the Rules committee. It would have prohibited funds in this Act from being made available to be used to update the calculation of the critical yield of the Federal projects within ACF and ACT river basins before the development of updated water control plans for the Federal projects within such river basins.

The reason for this amendment was that language was included in the other body's version of this bill which requested that the critical yield updates be accomplished before the water control manuals themselves.

The fact is, these water control manuals need to be completed first by the Corps, before the critical yield studies can be finished. This is an important study, and therefore should be done properly. Although the critical yield updates are a necessary part of the manual updates they do not provide any understanding of how water is currently being allocated or how the federal projects may best be managed. The Army Corps of Engineers must be allowed to determine the critical yield under appropriate conditions.

This language inserted in the other body's version is not neutral in regard to the ongoing water struggle between our states; it arbitrarily prioritizes this specific study, diverting resources at the Corps of Engineers to complete the much-needed Water Control Plan.