

PUBLIC-SUPPLY WATER USE IN THE METROPOLITAN ATLANTA, GEORGIA AREA, 1995–2000

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Abstract. The Georgia Water-Use Program is a cooperative program of the U.S. Geological Survey and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Georgia Geologic Survey. Water-use data on the principal water users in Georgia has been collected and compiled annually since 1978 (including public-supply, industrial, commercial, thermoelectric, and hydroelectric users). Water-use data are stored in a centralized data base known as the Georgia Water-Use Data System (GWUDS).

Monthly water withdrawals for 12 public-supply systems in the Metropolitan Atlanta area, including the City of Atlanta, were compared for the period January 1995 to September 2000. The 1995-2000 period was selected to compare patterns of water use prior to and during drought conditions. Graphical representation of these data depict seasonal and long-term patterns at the public-supply systems during the 6-year period. Eleven of twelve public-supply systems withdraw water from surface-water sources and the remaining system withdraws water from ground-water sources. At most of the systems, patterns in water withdrawal were consistent in 1995 and 1996, with elevated withdrawals during the warmer months (June through August). However, each system showed a steady increase in withdrawals each year beginning in 1998, with continued increases through the height of the drought in September 2000.