

UPDATES ON REGIONAL WATER PLANNING IN GEORGIA

Jennifer H. Welte and Glen R. Behrend

AFFILIATION: Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch

REFERENCE: *Proceedings of the 2017 Georgia Water Resources Conference*, held April 19-20, 2007, at the University of Georgia

The Regional Water Plans that were completed and adopted by Georgia EPD in 2011 are currently undergoing their first 5-year review and update. The 10 Regional Water Planning Councils around the state have been meeting to review and consider updates to the data and technical information that inform the Regional Water Plans, and that information will inform the Councils' updates to their Plans, which are scheduled to be completed in June 2017. The data and technical information includes updates to statewide population projections, municipal water and wastewater demands, thermoelectric water demands, and agricultural irrigation water demands through 2050. Updates in the surface water availability, groundwater availability, and water quality (assimilative capacity) resource assessments have also been completed and reflect improvements in both the data that is used in those assessments, as well as the modeling tools used to perform them. As the 10 Regional Water Planning Councils are reviewing and updating their Plans, the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District ("Metro District") is also updating their 2009 plans into a single Water Resource Management Plan to be completed in 2017. The Councils and the Metro District now have the opportunity to inform and better align their respective Plans during a coordinated update schedule that will be carried forward into future 5-year cycles.

Program reference: 1.1.1