

Saltwater Intrusion: A History of Active Management

“There will be very few occasions when you are absolutely certain about anything. You will consistently be called upon to make decisions with limited information. That being the case, your goal should not be to eliminate uncertainty. Instead, you must develop the art of being clear in the face of uncertainty.”

-Andy Stanley

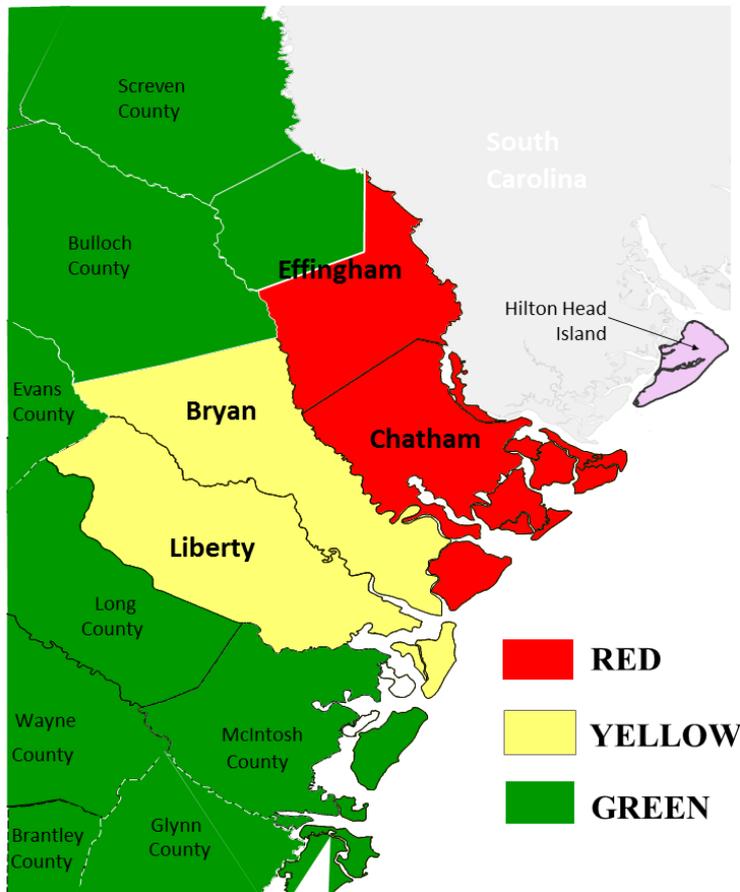
A History of Active Management: the 1990s

- 1994 ...Georgia and South Carolina commence discussion of need to develop comprehensive Floridan Aquifer saltwater intrusion management strategies
- 1997...EPD announces 'Interim Strategy'
- 1997...Georgia Joint House-Senate Committee announces Coastal Sound Science Initiative (CSSI) & creates Technical Advisory Committee

A History of Active Management: the 2000s

- 2002 ...Initial conclusion that Floridan is behaving as two distinct aquifers (Upper & Lower Floridan)
- 2004....Completion of CSSI & commencement of development of revised strategy
- 2006....EPD announces Coastal Georgia Water & Wastewater Permitting Plan (CPP) to replace 1997 Interim Strategy
- 2007...Georgia/South Carolina adopt an MOA

The CPP's Designation of Red, Yellow and Green Zones



Red Zone

- Chatham County
- Effingham County South of Hwy 119

Yellow Zone

- Bryan County
- Liberty County

A History of Active Management: 2010 - 2015

- 2013...EPD concludes that Floridan does NOT behave as two distinct aquifers, and establishes new withdrawal moratorium in Red and Yellow zones
- 2014... EPD commences a Red/Yellow stakeholder effort to investigate management options for CPP revisions
- 2015...EPD announces 2015 revisions to CPP

Elements of 2015 Coastal Permitting Plan (CPP)

- Approach to revisions closely followed the “pro rata reduction” recommendations of the stakeholders group
- Reduce annual withdrawal limits of Floridan Aquifer M&I users of Red and Yellow Zones by at least 16 mgd:
 - 15 mgd reduction in the Red Zone
 - 10 mgd by 2020
 - 5 mgd additional reductions by 2025
 - 1 mgd reduction in the Yellow Zone by 2025

Active Management: the Next Phase

- Implement the 2015 revisions to the CPP through end of 2027
- In circa 2026, begin re-assessment of aquifer's health, and commence development of next revision to the CPP
- Begin implementation of next revision of CPP early 2028.

Conclusions

- Our past and present actions demonstrate a commitment to an adaptive approach to managing the challenges of saltwater intrusion in the Floridan aquifer.
- It's in the best interest of the region and the resource to continue this adaptive approach



About ASR Regulation in Georgia...

- Currently there are regulatory groups within EPD to regulate each step in an ASR process.
- Day-to-day operations of an ASR well would be regulated under permits as noted in the adjacent graphic.
- The permits are periodically renewable, and, if warranted by new or changed circumstances, may be subject to additional permit conditions.

