

**Memorandum of Agreement
Between the
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and the
Georgia Environmental Protection Division**

Background

Georgia and South Carolina withdraw groundwater from the Upper Floridan aquifer for many uses. This pumping has lowered water levels and salt water started to enter the aquifer on the northern end of Hilton Head Island during the 1980s. Public supply wells on the northern end of Hilton Head Island have already become contaminated and have been taken out of service. Salt water may also be moving downward by vertical migration into the aquifer from areas overlain by saltwater marshes and the Atlantic Ocean.

Reduction in use of the aquifer could stop movement of salt water into the aquifer. Mathematical models have been developed, and are currently being refined, to assist the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) and the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GaEPD) in determining how much and where the reductions in pumping would be most beneficial.

Objective

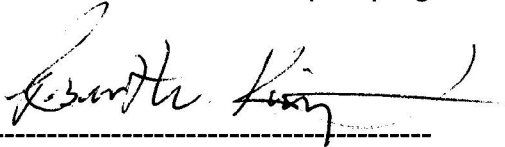
The Agencies acknowledge that their common objectives are to stop the movement of the salt water into the Upper Floridan aquifer beneath southern Beaufort County and Hilton Head Island and to protect the aquifer from the vertical migration of saltwater through the confining unit.

Agreement

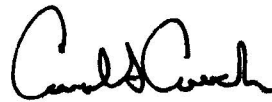
The SCDHEC and GaEPD (the "Agencies") agree that:

- a. Further work is required on the Georgia Coastal Sound Science Initiative (CSSI) model before it can be fully considered for management decisions by either Agency regarding the Upper Floridan aquifer. Refinements of the model, and subsequent modeling scenarios, are to be completed by June 2008.
- b. The Agencies will have an equal opportunity to review and critique the model refinements by means of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC will include representatives from each Agency and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).
- c. Both Agencies must approve the refined model before it can be used for future management decision-making.

- d. The TAC will identify subsequent modeling scenarios.
- e. Refinement of the CSSI model and subsequent modeling scenarios will be conducted in general accordance with a work plan acceptable to each state Agency, and with technical input from the USGS.
- f. The jointly approved model will be used as one of several tools for future management decision-making.
- g. Other appropriate information, such as measured water level data, historical information, etc., may also be used to assist the Agencies in achieving the objectives stated above.
- h. The Agencies will, in good faith, share information that would be useful in refining the model, including but not limited to ground water levels, measurements of chloride and specific conductance, operation of public supply wells, and other hydrologic data pertinent to movement of salt water in the aquifer.
- i. The Agencies will, in good faith, agree to undertake the management steps necessary to accomplish these objectives including, as required, reductions in pumping.



Robert W. King Jr., P.E.
Deputy Commissioner
Environmental Quality Control
Date: 10/15/07



Dr. Carol Couch
Director
Environmental Protection Division
Date: 10/15/07