

Memorandum

**Resource Agency Meeting
on
Supplemental Aquifer Studies**

Savannah Harbor Expansion Project

A meeting was held on 25 October, 2002 at the office of the Savannah District, US Army Corps of Engineers to obtain input from two state and one federal agency regarding proposed additional studies relating to potential impacts to the Floridan aquifer as a result of the proposed Savannah Harbor Expansion Project (SHE).

The following persons attended the meeting:

Bill McLemore – GAEPD (GGS)
Camille Ransom - SCDHEC
John Clarke – USGS, Georgia District
Mark Maimone – Camp Dresser & McKee
John Cox – Applied Technology & Management
Doug Plachy – USACE, Savannah District
Cardwell Smith - USACE, Savannah District

The meeting began at 1300 with Mr. Smith introducing Mr. Maimone to the other attendees and explaining that the purpose of the meeting was based on the Corps' desire to coordinate with other state and federal agencies, to keep them informed of Corps plans, and to receive input relative to proposed supplemental studies. It is felt that if these agencies are involved in the study process they will be better informed when and if their approval authority is required for the project.

Mr. Smith then spent about an hour presenting a summary of project related background and studies performed to date. Following the presentation there was a period of general discussion on proposed project elements and how studies associated with the on-going Georgia Sound Science Initiatives might relate to supplemental studies for SHE.

Discussion was then focused on a Savannah District (USACE) draft proposal for additional aquifer-related studies. Mr. Smith re-iterated that Savannah District's ultimate goal was to acquire sufficient data to produce an appropriate EIS for potential project-related impacts to the aquifer.

Additional discussion was held on USACE's desire to have an Independent Technical Review (ITR) of project studies. A similar review of Georgia Sound Science Initiative studies was mentioned by Dr. McLemore and Mr. Clarke and possible review panel members were discussed.

The following action items resulted from the meeting:

1. Mr. Maimone was asked to provide written comments to Savannah District on the meeting and the proposed USACE study plan.
2. Mr. Clarke was asked to provide a proposal and cost estimate for USGS to provide technical assistance and review of project elements, particularly those related to ground-water modeling and GIS data.
3. Mr. Smith will forward Mr. Maimone's comments to the other attendees for review and comment. When final comments are received, Mr. Smith will compile and forward them to the other attendees.
4. Mr. Smith will begin contacting potential Independent Reviewers.
5. Mr. Smith will keep GAEPD, USGS and SCDHEC informed on proposed project study preparations and schedules.

It was decided that project coordination will be maintained via e-mail and telephone, and additional meetings will only be held as needed.

The meeting concluded about 1615.

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