

To Bill Bailey  
Paul Lamarre and Roy Burke III

Subject: Comments on the GPA-ATM Savannah Harbor Model  
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As you requested, this memo contains our comments on the Plan A Savannah Harbor hydrodynamic and water quality model developed by Applied Technology and Management (ATM) for the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA).

Recently, Federal and State agencies, and other members of the Modeling Technical Review Group (MTRG), raised serious questions about the readiness of this model to address water quality issues in the Harbor posed by the proposed deepening project and the dissolved oxygen TMDL due later this Summer. The major technical concerns include the scheme used to represent vertical mixing, the sources and fate of oxygen-demanding materials, and the final balance between reaeration and sediment oxygen demand.

After careful consideration, we conclude that this model needs more work to successfully address current problems and therefore, in its current form, would raise too many doubts about its overall defensibility when applied to the important water quality management issues in the Harbor.