GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Jeffrey W. Cown, Director

Watershed Protection Branch
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
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404-463-1511

Notice of Draft Groundwater Withdrawal Permit – Chatham Water Utility, LLC – Affiliated Chatham County Systems – October 28, 2026

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) announces its intent to issue Modified Groundwater Withdrawal Permit No. 025-0068. This permit action will merge an existing drinking water permitted water system (Whitfield Park Subdivision) into Chatham Water Utility, LLC – Affiliated Chatham County Systems' groundwater permit as outlined on the following page.

MODIFIED GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWAL PERMIT

Permittee's Name: Chatham Water Utility, LLC – Affiliated Chatham County Systems

Permittee's Address: Savannah, GA 31401

River Basin / County: Savannah and Ogeechee / Chatham County

Comment Period Expires: November 27, 2026

Additional Information: All information used to develop the draft permit are available for review. The information includes the application and all relevant supporting materials available to the permitting authority used in the permit review process. Please contact ground.water@dnr.ga.gov for additional information, or to place a request to view or schedule an appointment to review the documents.

Persons wishing to comment on the draft permit should submit their comments in writing to the address listed below, or alternatively to epd.comments@dnr.ga.gov. Please include "Groundwater Application for the Chatham Water Utility, LLC – Affiliated Chatham County Systems" in the subject line to help ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the correct staff. All comments received prior to or on the comment period expiration date above will be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the permit.

Christine Voudy, Unit Manager
Water Supply Program – **Groundwater Withdrawal Unit**
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1470A, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

A public meeting or hearing may be held if the Director of the EPD finds a significant degree of public interest in a draft permit.

Permit Modification:
Issue Groundwater Permit No. 025-0068 for water withdrawal of 2.737 MGD/ 1.745 MGD (Monthly Average/Annual Average in million gallons per day) from twenty-three wells in the Floridan aquifer for the purpose of a central water supply.

Background:
Chatham Water Utility, LLC maintains a consolidated Chatham County groundwater withdrawal permit providing coverage for numerous drinking water permits (itemized on their withdrawal permit). Chatham Water Utility, LLC has requested to connect two drinking water systems (Montgomery Area & Whitfield Park Subdivision). Whitfield Park Subdivision is not covered by their consolidated withdrawal permit, but this action will require the additional drinking water system be added to their withdrawal permit.

This permit action would increase the annual average permit limit by giving 78,000 gal/day credit for the historical Floridan aquifer connections at Whitfield Park Subdivision already approved and itemized on their drinking water permit since 2008. Whitfield Park Subdivision's sole well (Floridan aquifer) would also be added to the existing Chatham Water Utility consolidated Chatham County Floridan aquifer groundwater withdrawal permit. Note: The monthly permit limit would remain as is and is not being increased.

This permit merger is consistent with EPD's current coastal policy as found here.
https://epd.georgia.gov/coastal-water-study

PERMIT NO. 025-0068
ISSUANCE DATE:

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PERMIT TO USE GROUNDWATER

PERMIT HOLDER'S NAME: **Chatham Water Utility, LLC – Affiliated Chatham County Systems**
PERMIT HOLDER'S ADDRESS: 28 Abercorn Street, Savannah, GA 31401
COUNTY: **Chatham County**

In accordance with the Provisions of the Groundwater Use Act, (O.C.G.A § 12-5-90 et seq.) as amended, and the Rules and Regulations for Groundwater Use, Chapter 391-3-2, promulgated pursuant thereto, this Permit is issued to withdraw, obtain, or utilize a maximum system wide total of groundwater in the amount of:

2.737 million gallons per day monthly average and **1.745** million gallons per day annual average;

from **twenty-three** well(s) located near/at **Chatham County, Georgia** for the purpose of a consumptive use for **a central water supply**.

This Permit is conditioned upon the permit holder complying with all of the terms, conditions, and schedules of compliance specified on the attached pages, which are hereby made a part of this Permit.

In accordance with the application dated **October 7, 2026** and in conformity with the statements and supporting data entered therein or attached thereto, all of which are filed with the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) and are hereby made part of this Permit.

This permit is effective from the date first above written and is subject to revocation on evidence of noncompliance with any of the provisions of the Groundwater Use Act, as amended, or any of the Rules and Regulations promulgated pursuant thereto; or with any representation made in the above mentioned application or the statements and supporting data entered therein or attached thereto; or with any condition of this permit.

Absent prior revocation in accordance with the above language, this Permit will expire on the **31st day of December 2027.**

Jeffrey W. Cown, Director
Environmental Protection Division

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This Permit is conditioned upon the permit holder complying with the provisions of the Groundwater Use Act, as amended, or any of the Rules and Regulations promulgated pursuant thereto;

1) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

a) This Permit is valid for ground water withdrawal from the **Floridan** Aquifer(s). No other aquifer(s) can be used without the approval of the EPD.

b) The withdrawal of groundwater is limited to the quantities and purpose of the water herein specified.

c) Water associated with this Permit must not be withdrawn by, released for, or otherwise utilized by any other entity or for any other purpose, without first modifying this Permit.

d) This Permit must not be transferred except with the approval of the EPD.

e) The replacement of any permitted well must receive prior approval from the EPD.

f) Inactive wells that will not be utilized in the future shall be sealed or properly plugged and abandoned by a Georgia licensed water well contractor in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 12-5-134. When a well has been plugged and abandoned by a Georgia licensed water well contractor, the permit holder shall send a well abandonment report to EPD, containing the date the well was abandoned, the name of the water well contractor that performed the work, and details of how the well was filled, sealed, and plugged.

g) This permit supersedes any and all previous permits of the same permit number.

2) PERMIT RENEWAL

All permit holders desiring to renew a permit shall submit an application for renewal to the EPD Director within six (6) months of the permit's expiration.

3) PERMIT MODIFICATION

a) The permit holder may seek modification of any of the terms of an unexpired permit upon written request to the EPD Director.

b) The Georgia EPD has the authority to modify any groundwater withdrawal permit at any time.

4) MONITORING AND REPORTING

a) If multiple aquifers are designated in Condition (1a) above, groundwater withdrawal from each aquifer must be reported separately, in addition to the total amount withdrawn from all wells. Each aquifer must be identified on the Groundwater Withdrawal Report, in addition to listing the well or wells that are producing from each aquifer. If a well is producing in more than one aquifer, it is to be noted.

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4) MONITORING AND REPORTING (Continued)

b) The Groundwater Withdrawal Report must be submitted MONTHLY in accordance with the following schedule:

- Production between the first day of the month and the last day of the month will be submitted to EPD by the 10th day of the following month (ex. January 1st through January 31st groundwater withdrawal data will be reported to the EPD by February 10th).

c) In accordance with the Groundwater Use Rules, 391-3-2-.08(1), a permit holder will measure and record the static and pumping levels of each aquifer utilized and the date the water levels were measured on a semi-annual basis, submitting the results to EPD. Semi-Annual Water Level measurements must be collected from the highest yielding wells, using the same wells for each reporting period and preferably taking the measurements during the same two months of the year (six months apart). One well should be measured for every five permitted wells (i.e., if you have between one and five permitted wells, conduct measurements for one well; if you have between six and ten permitted wells, conduct measurements from two of the permitted wells, etc.).

d) In accordance with the Groundwater Use Rules, 391-3-2-.08(2), a permit holder will analyze a raw groundwater sample for specific conductance on an annual basis. Analysis for specific conductance must be conducted in accordance with 40 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 141.89. A raw groundwater sample must be collected for every five permitted wells (i.e., if you have between one and five permitted wells, collect one raw groundwater sample for analysis; if you have between six and ten permitted wells, collect a raw groundwater sample from two of the permitted wells, etc.). The groundwater samples will be collected from the highest yielding wells. The results must be submitted to EPD and include the date sampled, well number, temperature of water sample at time of testing, the specific conductance result, and the units of measurement.

5) WATER PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

a) This groundwater withdrawal permit and any future modifications or re-issuances of such, is conditioned upon implementation of the permit holder's Water Conservation Plan developed in accordance with the Rules and Regulations for Groundwater Use, Chapter 391-3-2, and the Georgia Water Stewardship Act. It should be regularly updated to be consistent with current EPD guidelines.

b) The permit holder must submit a Water Conservation Progress Report to the Division five years after permit issuance, and every five years thereafter.

c) The permit holder must demonstrate an effort to increase water use efficiency for all water systems covered by this permit.

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5) WATER PLANNING REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

d) In accordance with the Rules for Public Water Systems to Improve Water Supply Efficiency (391-3-33), Public Water Systems that regularly serve 3,300 or more individuals must submit an annual Water Audit to EPD by March 1 of each year. Any future permit action is conditional upon the demonstration of progress toward increased water efficiency. The permit holder must submit an annual Water Audit and maintain ongoing compliance with the following for all water systems covered by this permit that have a service population of 3,300 or more:

1. Submit an annual Water Audit to EPD by March 1 of each year.
2. Establishment of a Water Loss Control Program and associated goals to set measures of water supply efficiency.
3. Demonstration of progress toward increased water efficiency using the measures established.

e) The permit holder must abide by all applicable drought response requirements, which include but are not limited to the Georgia Drought Management Rule (391-3-30), the Georgia Water Stewardship Act, and the permit holder's Drought Contingency Plan.

f) The permit holder must maintain ongoing compliance with applicable **Coastal Georgia** Regional Water Plan requirements.

6) SPECIAL CONDITIONS

a) The EPD has produced the **'Coastal Georgia Water & Wastewater Permitting Plan for Managing Salt Water Intrusion'** (the Plan). The Plan has identified an array of water conservation, efficiency, and reuse requirements for public and private water providers. The permit holder is required to fully implement and otherwise comply with ALL appropriate requirements identified in the Plan.

b) This permit (025-0068) is associated with the following Permits to Operate a Public Water System: Glen of Robin Hood (GA0510109), Montgomery Area (GA0510099), Hunter's Ridge (GA0510133), Ogeechee Farms (GA0510036), Parkersburg Subdivision (GA0510038), Scarborough Cove (GA0510052), Talahi Island Community, Rio Vista/Burnside (GA0510044), Harbour Creek Subdivision (GA0510030), Runaway Point (GA0510096), and Whitfield Park Subdivision (GA0510104).

Comment – This permit reflects a 2022 consolidation of the following groundwater use permits:

025-0040 – Chatham Water Company – Glen of Robin Hood & Montgomery Area
025-0045 – Chatham Water Company – Hunter's Ridge
025-0056 – South Atlantic Utilities
025-0062 – Coastal Georgia Water Company – Ogeechee Farms
025-0063 – Chatham Water Company – Parkersburg
025-0064 – South Atlantic Utilities - Scarborough Cove & Talahi Island Community
025-0065 – Chatham Water Company – Burnside & Rio Vista Community Water System
025-0067 – South Atlantic Utilities - Harbour Creek Community Water System

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