

Permit holders in the former 55 County Level IV area increased water use in August 2009 by 3.5% when compared to August 2008 but reduced water use by almost 22% when compared to August 2007

Background

Although non-drought outdoor water use schedules went into effect June 10, 2009, EPD is continuing to monitor water usage of permittees who use more than 100,000 gallons per day in the former 55 county Level IV drought response area that were required to report water usage during the Level IV drought response.

August 2009 versus August 2008 and August 2007 Water Use

August 2009 water use by 168 permittees using more than 100,000 gallons per day increased by 3.5% or 25 million gallons per day when compared to August 2008. Each of these permittees was under Level IV outdoor watering restrictions in August 2008, while in August 2009, permittees had returned to non-drought outdoor water use schedules. **Compared to August 2007, before Level IV watering restrictions were in effect, water use in August 2009 was reduced by 21.7% or more than 201 million gallons per day.** In August 2009, 88 permittees either decreased or did not increase their water use compared to August 2008, while 80 increased water use when compared to August 2008. However, compared to August 2007, 143 permittees either decreased or did not increase their water use in August 2009 and only 25 increased water use. This demonstrates Georgian's continued commitment to water conservation efforts. Table 1 provides a summary of water use by river basin.

Table 1
Summary of August 2009 versus August 2007 and 2008 Level IV Water Use Reductions by Basin (MGD)

BASIN	AUGUST 2007 WATER USE (MGD)	AUGUST 2008 WATER USE (MGD)	AUGUST 2009 WATER USE (MGD)	WATER USE REDUCTIONS FROM AUGUST 2007 (MGD)	% REDUCTION IN USE FROM AUGUST 2007	WATER USE REDUCTIONS FROM AUGUST 2008 (MGD)	% REDUCTION IN USE FROM AUGUST 2008
Chattahoochee and Flint	554.93	407.49	439.38	115.55	20.8%	-31.89	-7.8%
Coosa, Tallapoosa and Tennessee	238.00	182.80	180.08	57.92	24.3%	2.72	1.5%
Oconee and Ocmulgee	117.52	95.99	92.45	25.07	21.3%	3.54	3.7%
Savannah	16.22	14.19	13.27	2.95	18.2%	0.92	6.5%
All Basins	926.67	700.47	725.18	201.49	21.7%	-24.71	-3.5%