

Permit holders in the former 55 County Level IV area decreased water use in September 2009 by 4% when compared to September 2008 and reduced water use by over 21% when compared to September 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.

September 2009 versus September 2008 and September 2007 Water Use

September 2009 water use by 168 permittees using more than 100,000 gallons per day decreased by 4.1% or 28 million gallons per day when compared to September 2008. Each of these permittees was under Level IV outdoor watering restrictions in September 2008, while in September 2009, permittees had returned to non-drought outdoor water use schedules. **Compared to September 2007, before Level IV watering restrictions were in effect, water use in September 2009 was reduced by 21.2% or more than 179 million gallons per day.** In September 2009, 111 permittees either decreased or did not increase their water use compared to September 2008, while 56 increased water use when compared to September 2008, and one permittee (Locust Grove) failed to report. However, compared to September 2007, 140 permittees either decreased or did not increase their water use in September 2009 and only 27 increased water use. The fact that water use has continued to be less than pre drought levels demonstrates Georgian's continued commitment to water conservation efforts. Table 1 provides a summary of water use by river basin.

Table 1

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

BASIN	SEPT 2007 WATER USE (MGD)	SEPT 2008 WATER USE (MGD)	SEPT 2009 WATER USE (MGD)	WATER USE REDUCTIONS FROM SEPTEMBER 2007 (MGD)	% REDUCTION IN USE FROM SEPTEMBER 2007	WATER USE REDUCTIONS FROM SEPTEMBER 2008 (MGD)	% REDUCTION IN USE FROM SEPTEMBER 2008
Chattahoochee and Flint	509.76	410.12	395.50	114.26	22.4%	14.62	3.6%
Coosa, Tallapoosa and Tennessee	219.02	178.53	168.57	50.45	23.0%	9.96	5.6%
Oconee and Ocmulgee	100.36	91.74	87.61	12.75	12.7%	4.13	4.5%
Savannah	14.53	12.56	12.78	1.75	12.0%	-0.22	-1.8%
All Basins	843.67	692.95	664.46	179.21	21.2%	28.49	4.1%