

Savannah River Basin Comprehensive Water Resources Management Study

The purpose of the Savannah River Basin Comprehensive Study is to utilize a “whole-basin” analysis to identify the many demands for water throughout the basin and then balance the needs of the upper basin with the needs of the lower basin. Effects of uses outside the basin can also be considered. This will allow the development of recommendations for meeting these demands through effective management. The data and models necessary to perform this basin-wide analysis and develop effective management strategies are summarized below:

- The U.S. Department of Interior, United States Geological Survey (USGS) in Georgia and South Carolina are calculating the historical daily natural inflows at 10 points in the Savannah River Basin for the last 50 years. A USGS technical proposal to do this analysis was agreed to by the two States and the Corps of Engineers—Savannah District. South Carolina and Georgia each paid \$110,000 to the USGS. The final draft of the inflow data will be finished by December 2003.
- ZAPATA ENGINEERING is working with all stakeholder groups identified in the USEPA study of the basin to determine the weekly demand (52 weeks) for each use, including point of withdrawal or need. The stakeholders represent all uses in the basin, including, but not limited to, water supply, hydropower, flood control, drought planning, recreation, water quality, fish and wildlife, navigation, salinity, Duke Power, the Savannah River Site, and aquatic plant control. Their final report will be finished by November 2003.
- The Nature Conservancy is working to determine water demands and flow regimes for fish and wildlife habitats between the Augusta Shoals and the Atlantic Ocean. Their final report will be finished by November 2003.
- The Corps of Engineers—Savannah District, SCDNR, and GADNR staff are working together with the Corps’ Hydraulic Engineering Center (HEC) to identify computer models that will be used or developed for the analyses. A first draft of the model will be delivered by October 2003.