



News Release

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WATER LEVELS IN CRETACEOUS AQUIFER RESPOND FAVORABLY

Preliminary United States Geological Survey data shows aquifer waters beneath Washington County highest in 13 years

(Sandersville, Ga – May 1, 2009) – In its ongoing commitment to keep citizens apprised of important developments throughout the permitting process for Plant Washington, Power4Georgians today noted that new United States Geological Survey (USGS) provisional data shows the Cretaceous Aquifer beneath Washington County has risen nearly 17 feet since the Fall of 2008 and is at its highest level since 1996.

The April 2009 readings taken by the USGS from ground-water monitoring site 23X027, located in Sandersville, shows very clearly that steady fall, winter and spring precipitation and reduced groundwater withdrawals have combined to reverse a downward trend in aquifer levels caused by the severe drought that gripped much of Georgia for more than three years.

The USGS maintains the National Water Information System that tracks water resources throughout the country, including the network of aquifers that fill so many vital needs. The apparent recovery of the Cretaceous Aquifer, which sits below a region that includes Washington County, is favorable news. Lake, river, creek and stream levels in the area have also rebounded, meaning the need for withdrawals from the aquifer may remain low for the foreseeable future providing an opportunity for further recharge.

“It’s important to know that the plan for Plant Washington has always called for the Oconee River to be our primary source of water and for the aquifer to be a secondary supply and used only in extreme drought conditions,” said Dean Alford, spokesperson for Power4Georgians. “Our engineering models indicate that the need to withdraw water from the Cretaceous Aquifer for plant operations will average less than one month per year, or more specifically, about four months out of every five-years.”

“We are very aware of the needs people in Washington County have for water and we have developed a usage plan for Plant Washington that protects resources,” Alford continued. “A key part of the strategy is that we will maintain a 27-mile pipeline with multiple withdrawal points along the way to help ensure that draw-down of water from any one location in the aquifer is minimized.”

Citizens interested in tracking levels of the Cretaceous Aquifer (and other bodies of water in Georgia and the nation) can do so online at the USGS Web site: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>.

About Power4Georgians

Power4Georgians is a consortium of Georgia EMCs that have partnered to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to meet the growing demand for affordable and reliable energy for the members they serve. A key component of their strategy is Plant Washington, an 850 megawatt, highly-efficient, supercritical coal-fired power plant near Sandersville in Washington County. For more information on the Power4Georgians consortium and Plant Washington, visit, www.power4georgians.com.

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