GEORGIA (REGION 4)

A Snapshot of Georgia's TMDL Program (August 2008)

The Basics

Key Agency/Department & website

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division
www.georgiaepd.org

TMDL Program Structure/Placement

Housed in Watershed Protection Branch
--TMDL Modeling & Development Unit within Watershed Planning and Modeling Program
--Separate TMDL Implementation Program

By the Numbers

Number of Impaired Waters		930
Number of Causes of Impairment		1,150
Top Five Causes of Impairment	1. Pathogens 2. Cause Unknown–Impaired Biota 3. Organic Enrichment/Oxygen Depletion 4. Unspecified 5. Mercury	

Approximate Number of TMDLs Developed Annually	100-300
Total Number of TMDLs Approve (1995 to present, incl. any est'd by EPA)	1,439
Total Number of TMDLs Approved in 2005/2006/2007	131/54/182
2008 303d/Integrated Report Submission Status (Date)	4/1/2008
Approximate Number of FTEs Working on TMDL Issues	10 (5 each dev't & impl'n)

TMDLs

EPA Under Consent Decree to Develop TMDLs?	N (completed)
Broad-Scale? (*e.g.*, watershed, multi-jurisdictional, etc.)	

Non-TMDL Options

Use of Non-TMDL Options to Address Impaired Waters?

Funding

Approximate Annual Budget for TMDL Program	$250,000 contract for model dev't
Primary Source(s) of TMDL Program Funding	state funds (model dev't); federal 106 & 604(b) (impl'n)

TMDL Implementation

TMDL Implementation Required?	N

Innovations

Example(s) of Any Innovative Approach(es) Employed

TMDL development is proceeding with many of the formats we have developed in past years; implementation is being done using an adaptive approach; both are based on a River Basin rotation cycle

TMDLs that Represent a Particular Achievement

--Little River (chlorophyll)

--Coosa River (dissolved oxygen)

Links to GA TMDLs by major river basin:
http://www.gaepd.org/Documents/TMDL_page.html#Coosa

Barriers

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Development

1. time
2. money
3. staff

Top Three Barriers to TMDL Implementation

1. (same as above, plus) a shortage of regulatory guidance and authority from EPA
2. uncertainty of targets and standards
3. uncertainty in the outcome of BMPs and the expected reductions for watershed-wide actions