

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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Georgia EPD Selects Water Managers To Focus On River Basin Issues

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Watershed Protection Branch has announced the selection of five assistant branch chiefs, who will be assigned water management responsibilities in each of [Georgia's 14 major river basins](#).

"This is a new approach to water resource management in Georgia," said EPD Director Carol A. Couch. "The reorganization gives EPD more flexibility in achieving environmental outcomes specific to the unique characteristics and concerns of each river basin."

The assistant branch chiefs will be responsible for coordinating the work of the Watershed Protection Branch programs, such as permitting and compliance, and the water-related duties of EPD's District Offices, said Watershed Protection Branch Chief Linda MacGregor.

The assistant branch chiefs and their assigned river basins are:

- **Altamaha/Oconee/Ocmulgee**-Kevin Farrell, currently the manager of the EPD Water Withdrawal Permitting Program. These river basins stretch through the middle of the state from the southeastern Atlanta suburbs to the coast.
- **Chattahoochee/Flint**-Tim Cash, currently the manager of the EPD Hazardous Sites Response Program. The Chattahoochee flows from northeast Georgia through metropolitan Atlanta south to the Florida line, while the Flint begins in Clayton County and flows south to Lake Seminole.
- **Coosa/Tallapoosa/Tennessee**-Becky Champion, currently Executive Director of the Oxbow Institute and Associate Professor of Biology at Columbus State University. These river basins cover most of northwest Georgia.
- **Satilla/Suwanee/St.Marys/Ochlockonee**-Rob McDowell, currently EPD regional planner and coordinator for the Flint River Plan. These river basins cover south central and southeastern Georgia.
- **Savannah/Ogeechee**-Jeff Larson, currently manager of the EPD Watershed Protection Branch Permitting, Compliance and Enforcement Program. The Savannah and Ogeechee basins run parallel to each other along the South Carolina line from northeast Georgia to the coast.

The new management structure in the EPD Watershed Protection Branch is an important part of an overall effort to better address both water quality and water quantity issues in Georgia, said Branch Chief MacGregor. Each of the five assistant branch chiefs will report to Ms. MacGregor.

Contact: Kevin Chambers, (404) 651-7970 (River Basin Map Attached)

