



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Richard E. Dunn, Director

EPD Director's Office

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VIA E-MAIL: CWAwotus@epa.gov; Hanson.Andrew@epa.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Federalism Consultation
Definition of "Waters of the U.S."

To Whom It May Concern:

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division ("GAEPD") appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") in response to the E.O. 13132 Federalism Consultation Meeting regarding the proposed changes to the definition of "Waters of the United States" ("WOTUS"). As the regulatory agency charged with maintaining and restoring Georgia's water resources, including implementing federally-delegated programs under the Clean Water Act ("CWA"), GAEPD is highly interested in participating in the development of the WOTUS definition.

Given the broad concepts for the proposed rule and the timeframe prescribed for feedback, GAEPD is not providing technical recommendations at this time. GAEPD encourages crafting of a rule that respects the states' delegated authority and roles as the primary regulators of water resources within their borders. In addition, it is imperative that any WOTUS definition be clearly implementable with objective parameters that offer regulatory certainty for the agency as well as for the public.

GAEPD will assess the proposed rule through those lenses, and would welcome the prospect of participating in stakeholder meetings or other consultations regarding the WOTUS definition. We hope that EPA continues to engage closely with the states throughout the rulemaking process.

GAEPD thanks EPA for seeking our input on this important matter and looks forward to our continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Dunn
Director, Georgia Environmental Protection Division