



CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER®

March 24, 2025

Congressman Buddy Carter (GA-1)
Congressman Sanford Bishop (GA-2)
Congressman Brian Jack (GA-3)
Congressman Hank Johnson (GA-4)
Congresswoman Nikema Williams (GA-5)
Congresswoman Lucy McBath (GA-6)
Congressman Rick McCormick (GA-7)
Congressman Austin Scott (GA-8)
Congressman Andrew Clyde (GA-9)

Congressman Mike Collins (GA-10)
Congressman Barry Loudermilk (GA-11)
Congressman Rick Allen (GA-12)
Congressman David Scott (GA-13)
Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene
(GA-14)
Senator John Ossoff
Senator Raphael Warnock

Dear Georgia Delegation,

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper urges you to request reconsideration of the decision to terminate the lease for the United States Geological Survey's South Atlanta Water Science Center in Norcross, Georgia because of the critical public safety and services the facility and staff provide to Georgia. The Department of Government Efficiency "Wall of Receipts" Real Estate section has identified the lease as terminated: <https://doge.gov/savings>

Chattahoochee Riverkeeper is a non-profit conservation organization with more than 10,000 members dedicated to making sure there is enough clean water in the Chattahoochee River for all the people and communities that depend on the river.

As the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (National Park Service), the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Geological Survey (USGS), and the US Environmental Protection Agency face staffing and budget reductions, we are deeply troubled by the long-term outcomes these cumulative impacts could have on the Chattahoochee River, the 5 million people who depend upon it and the region's economy.

Without adequate resources, Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK) and the state of Georgia will lose critical partners and information necessary to make informed water management and regulatory decisions required by statute for the Chattahoochee River and the southeast.

CRK is alarmed at the staffing reductions and lease termination of the United States Geological Survey's South Atlantic Water Science Center in Norcross, Georgia. The Norcross facility houses critical equipment, and specifically designed laboratory, workshop, storage, and office spaces to support research and monitoring activities in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

This facility's staff provide vital services to the state of Georgia by maintaining a collaborative public-private funded network of stream flow, water quality, groundwater level, and other data collection devices.

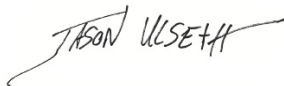
This work has contributed crucial historic data necessary for Georgia to demonstrate reasonable water use and prevail in "water wars" litigation before the U.S. Supreme Court.

In Georgia, the USGS has collected and managed water data with local, state, and federal partners to inform critical decisions about surface water and groundwater water management to directly support:

- Flash flood notification to protect public safety and private property.
- Municipal drinking water supplies for nearly all of Georgia's more than 11 million residents and 18 Fortune 500 businesses and industries.
- Georgia's \$83.6 billion agricultural industry.
- Generation of electricity at 8 nuclear reactors in Southern Company's fleet in Alabama and Georgia.
- National defense at numerous sites including Fort Benning, Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, and the Savannah River Site nuclear facility in South Carolina.
- Global commerce, including one of the nation's largest container terminals (the Port of Savannah).

We urge you to request reconsideration of the decision to terminate this facility's lease because of the critical public safety and services this purpose-built facility and staff provide to Georgia's communities and the nation's economy.

Sincerely,



Jason Ulseth
Executive Director & Riverkeeper

Keeping watch over our waters since 1994.

Gainesville | Atlanta | LaGrange

www.chattahoochee.org