



CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVERKEEPER®

SPEAK UP FOR CLEAN WATER: URGE LEGISLATORS TO PROTECT USGS MONITORING

PROBLEM: The federal government has moved to terminate the lease for the **United States Geological Survey (USGS) South Atlantic Water Science Center** in Norcross, Georgia. The loss of this office would be a crucial blow to vital water monitoring programs throughout Georgia.

Without USGS data and monitoring, nonprofit watchdogs like **Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (CRK)** and the public will lose critical water quality and supply information.



Go to **protectgeorgia.org** or scan the QR code to find your legislators. Share how losing USGS programs would impact you and your community.

BACTERIALERT: For 25 years, the BacteriAlert (bacterialert.org) partnership between CRK, USGS, and NPS has tracked bacteria levels in the **Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area**, which receives millions of visitors annually. This free public service helps communities and outfitters throughout metro Atlanta and downstream make informed decisions about safe water recreation.

Exposure to bacteria in the river can lead to serious illness. Through USGS-maintained river sensors and weekly bacteria testing, BacteriAlert allows people who fish, wade, or paddle the Chattahoochee to view real-time water quality data and bacteria estimates.

In the summer of 2023, the BacteriAlert program was instrumental in detecting an unprecedented wastewater treatment plant failure within the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area. Without USGS staff and resources, the public may not have known about dangerous bacteria levels until after being exposed to contaminated water.

TAKE ACTION: The closure of the USGS office in Norcross would threaten the BacteriAlert program and endanger public health within the Chattahoochee River Basin.

Contact your legislators and urge them to request reconsideration of the decision to terminate the lease for the USGS South Atlantic Water Science Center in Norcross, Georgia because of the critical services the facility and staff provide to Georgia.

Keeping watch over our waters since 1994.

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