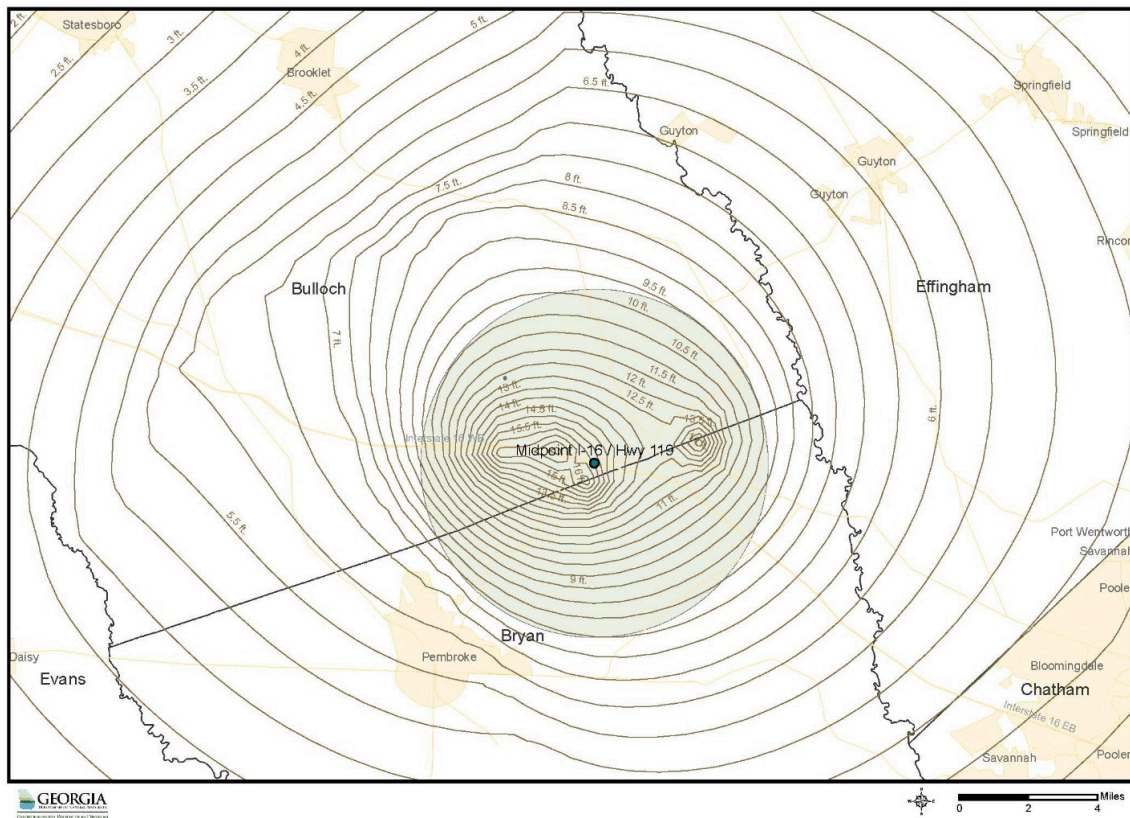


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# Ogeechee Riverkeeper®

Newsletter  
August 2024

**Simulated Drawdown from Proposed Withdrawal - 5 Mile Radius from Midpoint of I-16 / Hwy 119**



## ORK's concerns about Georgia EPD draft well permits

Georgia EPD has released the [draft permits](#) for four wells, set to withdraw 6.6 million gallons per day, from the Floridan aquifer. These draft permits reflect short-sighted regional water planning policies. ORK has [numerous concerns](#) including:

- Impact on aquifer and rivers
- Conservation measures
- Mitigation fund
- Transition to alternative sources

Overall, ORK requests that the EPD deny the permit applications until these issues are resolved, ensuring that all potential impacts are thoroughly reviewed and mitigated.

[Public comments](#) are due August 20. ORK encourages anyone with concerns to submit comments to EPD before the deadline and has created an [easy guide for writing a letter](#). An [email template](#) is also available. A video of the August 13 [public hearing and meeting](#) is online.

Ogeechee Riverkeeper filed a [letter of intent](#) to sue the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and others for not completing required steps and overlooking water supply concerns during the permitting process of the Hyundai Megaseite.

[Comment letter guide](#)[GA EPD permits](#)[Megaseite documents and data](#)

## Ogeechee River flooding

If you have been affected by the flooding, you can contact the following agencies for assistance:

- [GA Emergency Management](#) - (404) 635-7200
- [Red Cross](#) 24/7 hotline - 1-800-733-2767
- [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) - 1-800-621-3362

[Article about Sturgeon](#)

## Sturgeon may be threatened

NOAA experts are concerned about the affect of Hyundai well water withdrawal on downstream wildlife, including the federally-protected Atlantic Sturgeon. Withdrawing large amounts of groundwater from the aquifer could cause water quality measures like temperature and oxygen levels in the Savannah and Ogeechee rivers to drop, causing harm to sturgeon. Both species are protected under the [U.S. Endangered Species Act](#), NOAA said in its letter to GA EPD.

## August is Make A Will Month

If you are interested in including ORK in your estate plan, the first step is to speak with a lawyer or financial professional who can help you structure your planned gift for maximum investment and estate planning benefit to you and your family.



Ideas for planned giving



View ORK's official comments

## Legal advocacy

As part of Ogeechee Riverkeeper's mission to protect, preserve, and improve the water quality in our basin, ORK makes official comments and joins sign-on letters. Review the latest.

- [24.07.17 – Morgan Tract Wetlands Permit](#)
- [24.07.25 – Pembroke Groundwater Permit](#)
- [24.08.08 – Hacks Pasture PUD DRI](#)

## Oyster Roast

Ogeechee Riverkeeper's annual oyster roast has a new location this fall! Sit on the banks of the Ogeechee River and enjoy freshly steamed oysters, plus delicious chicken fingers, fried shrimp, and sides from Love's Seafood. This event is the main fundraiser for ORK and will also feature a silent auction and raffle. Tickets will be available soon.



Save the date

## Upcoming events

August 17: [Adopt-A-Stream training](#)

September 21: [Ogeechee River Shoals Community Cleanup](#)

October 12: [Ft. Stewart Paddle](#)

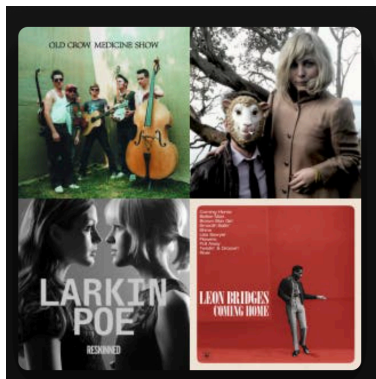
November 2: [Yoga By The River](#)

## Plastic pellet cleanup

ORK conducted an investigation and entered a complaint with Georgia EPD regarding plastic pellets found in the Sun Hill Creek, a tributary of the Ogeechee River, located in Sandersville, Washington County, Georgia. ORK found the source to be B-H Transfer on Waco Mill Road and filed the complaint on February 16. As of July 11, 2024, the cleanup has been completed, mitigation efforts are installed, and additional buffer planting is scheduled for autumn.



[Read more](#)



[Listen to music](#)

## Grooving like a river

ORK has a custom Spotify playlist! It features Georgia artists, songs about water and outdoors, and even a couple of songs that name the Ogeechee. There's a little of everything -- blues, jazz, country, pop. Mix up your music and give it a listen.

## Little Lotts Cleanups

Join ORK and Keep Statesboro-Bulloch Beautiful as we jump into Little Lotts Creek for regular cleanups! You'll help clear the litter boom, then help us sort and analyze what is found. This

information assists us in tracking and preventing litter in the future.



[Little Lotts schedule](#)

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Ogeechee Riverkeeper is a 501(c)3 organization and its operations are funded by donations and grant support. Please consider making [a donation](#), becoming a [corporate sponsor](#), or setting up a [planned gift](#).

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**There are many ways you can help the Ogeechee Riverkeeper protect, preserve and improve the waterways within our basin.**

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