

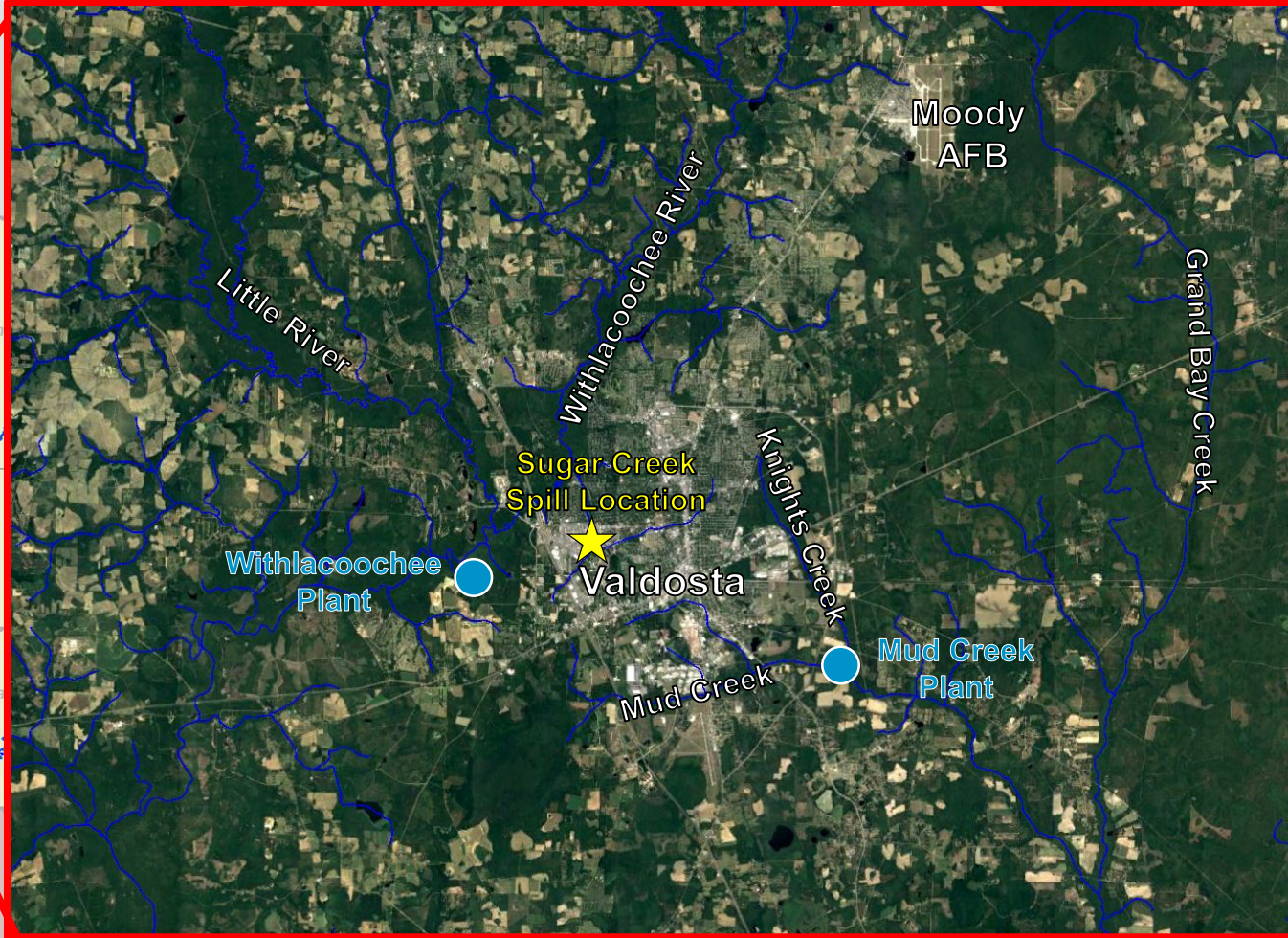
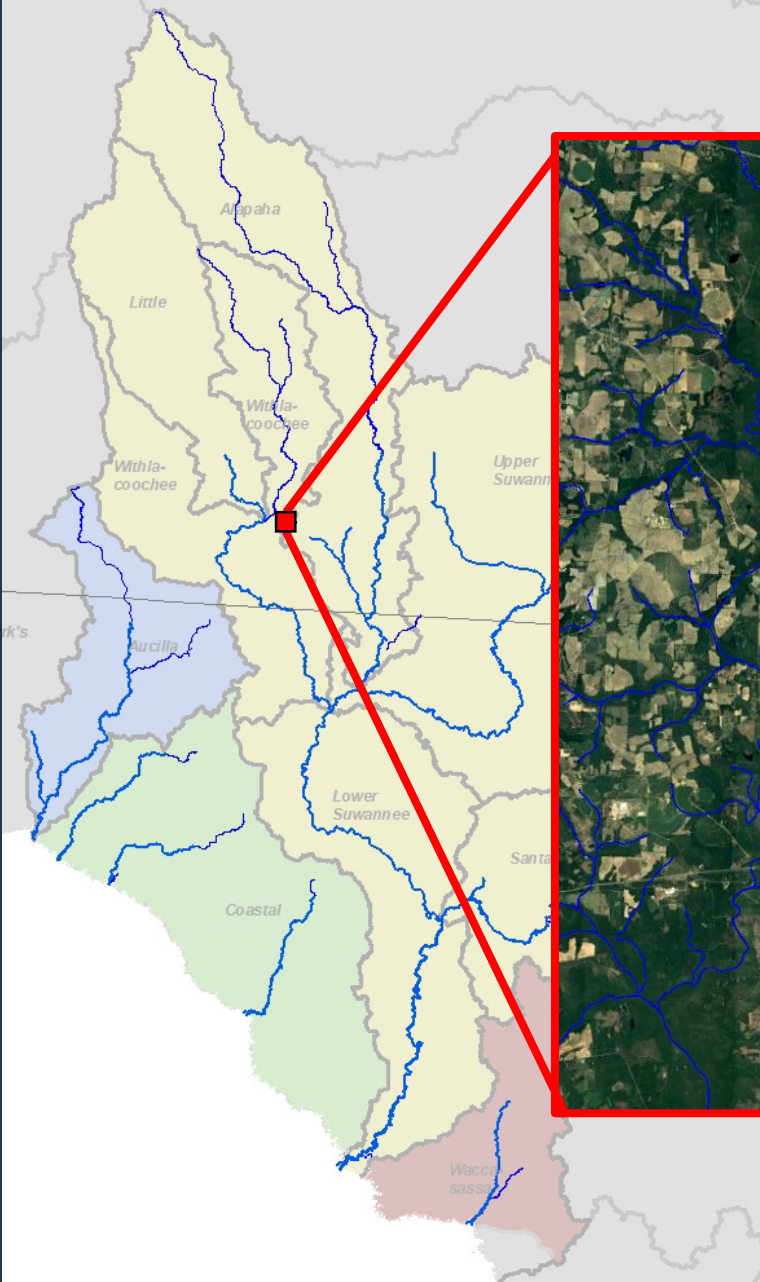


Withlacoochee and Suwannee Water Quality Overview Valdosta Spill 12-9-2019

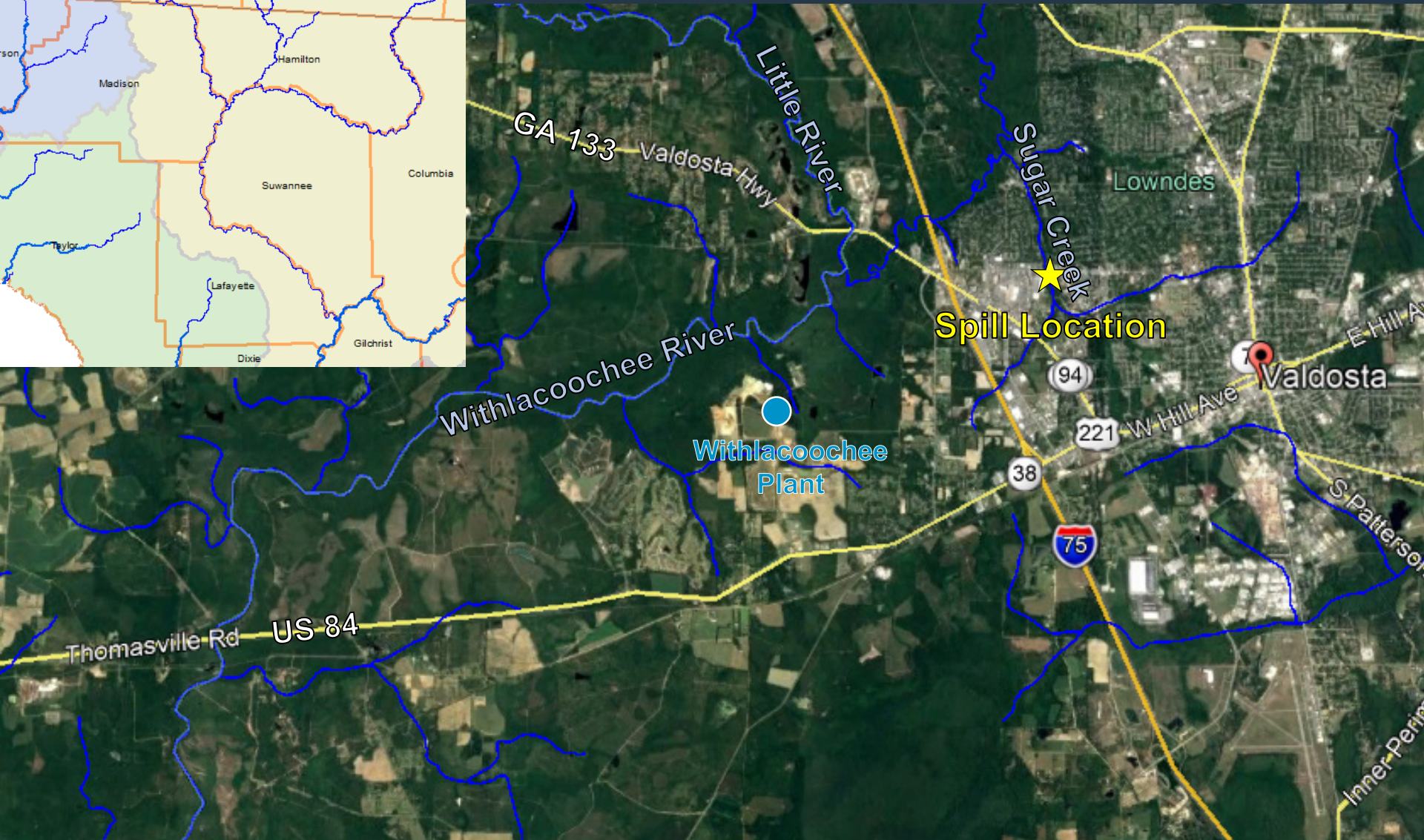
Darlene Velez

Water Resources Office Chief

Valdosta, GA



Valdosta, GA



*7.5 Million Gallon Spill Reported by City of Valdosta on December 9

All Sample Locations



Georgia:

- Sugar Creek at St. Augustine Road
- Sugar Creek at Gornto Road
- Withlacoochee at Railroad below Sugar Creek
- Withlacoochee at GA 133
- Withlacoochee at US 84
- Withlacoochee at Knight Ferry Boat Ramp
- Withlacoochee at Clyattville-Nankin Road
- Withlacoochee at GA 31 and FL 145 (stateline)

Florida:

- Withlacoochee at CR 150
- Withlacoochee at 47th Street Boat Ramp
- Withlacoochee at FL 6
- Withlacoochee at CR 141
- Suwannee at US 90
- Suwannee at US 250
- Suwannee at FL 51
- Suwannee at FL 27

Standard Sewage Spill Response

Notification
of spill event

FDEP leads sampling efforts
starting day after notification

- Usually FDEP staff and lab
- District staff and contract lab used as backup, provides hydrologic expertise when needed

FDOH uses sampling results to
determine if issuing a health
advisory is needed

Sampling continues if E. coli
results are above 410 cfu/ 100mL



Notifications and updates also
released on District
social media as they occur

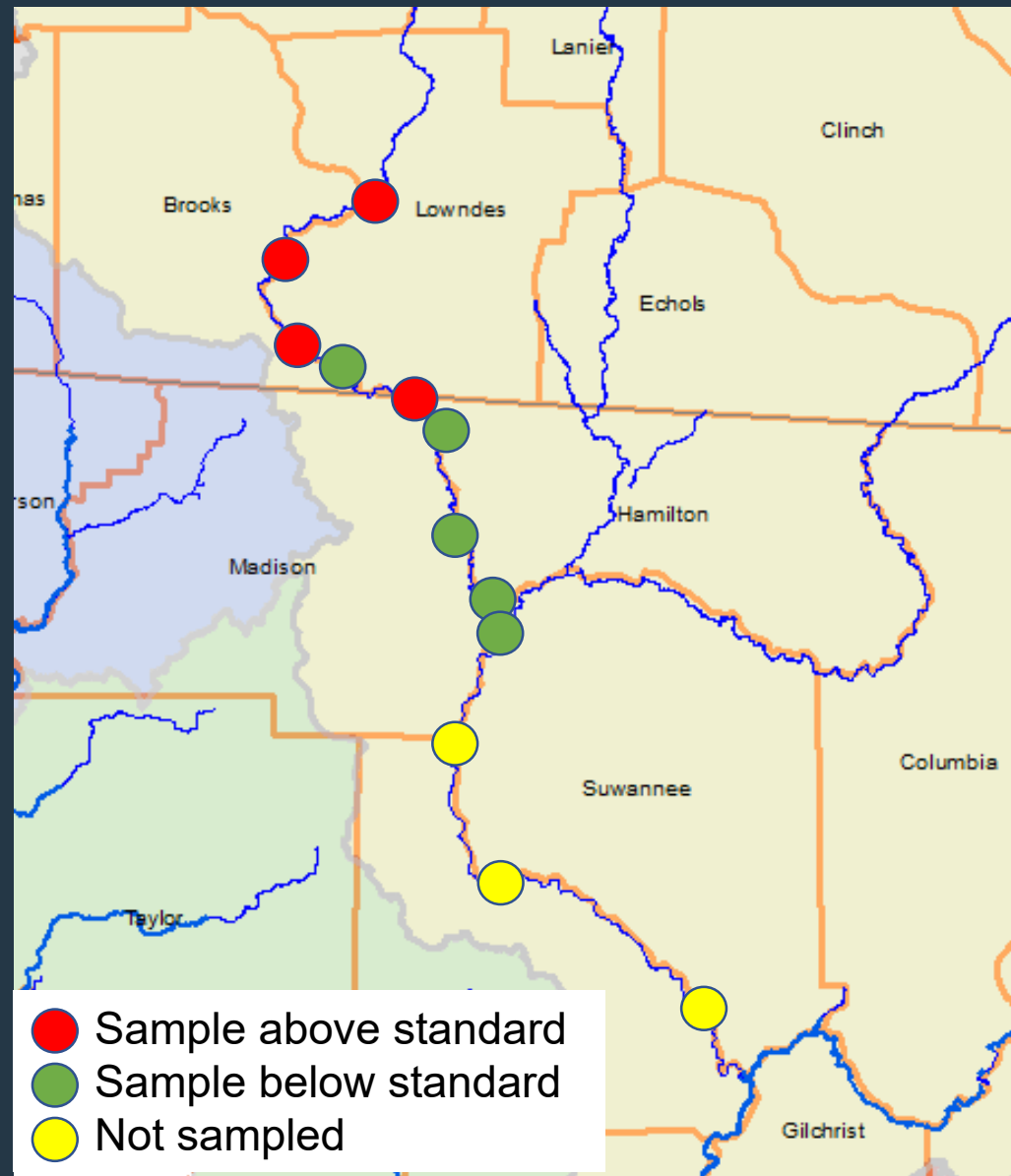
When E. coli levels are below 410 cfu / 100mL:
sampling ends, health advisories are lifted



Hydrologic Conditions

- Typical spill in Valdosta occurs during high rains and high flow conditions
- This spill due to human error and occurred during very low flow conditions
- Likely did not reach Withlacoochee at 84 yet due to low flows
- Hard to predict travel times without flow data for Sugar Creek and Withlacoochee above Little River
- Rain events that may increase flow and may also help dilute remaining sewage

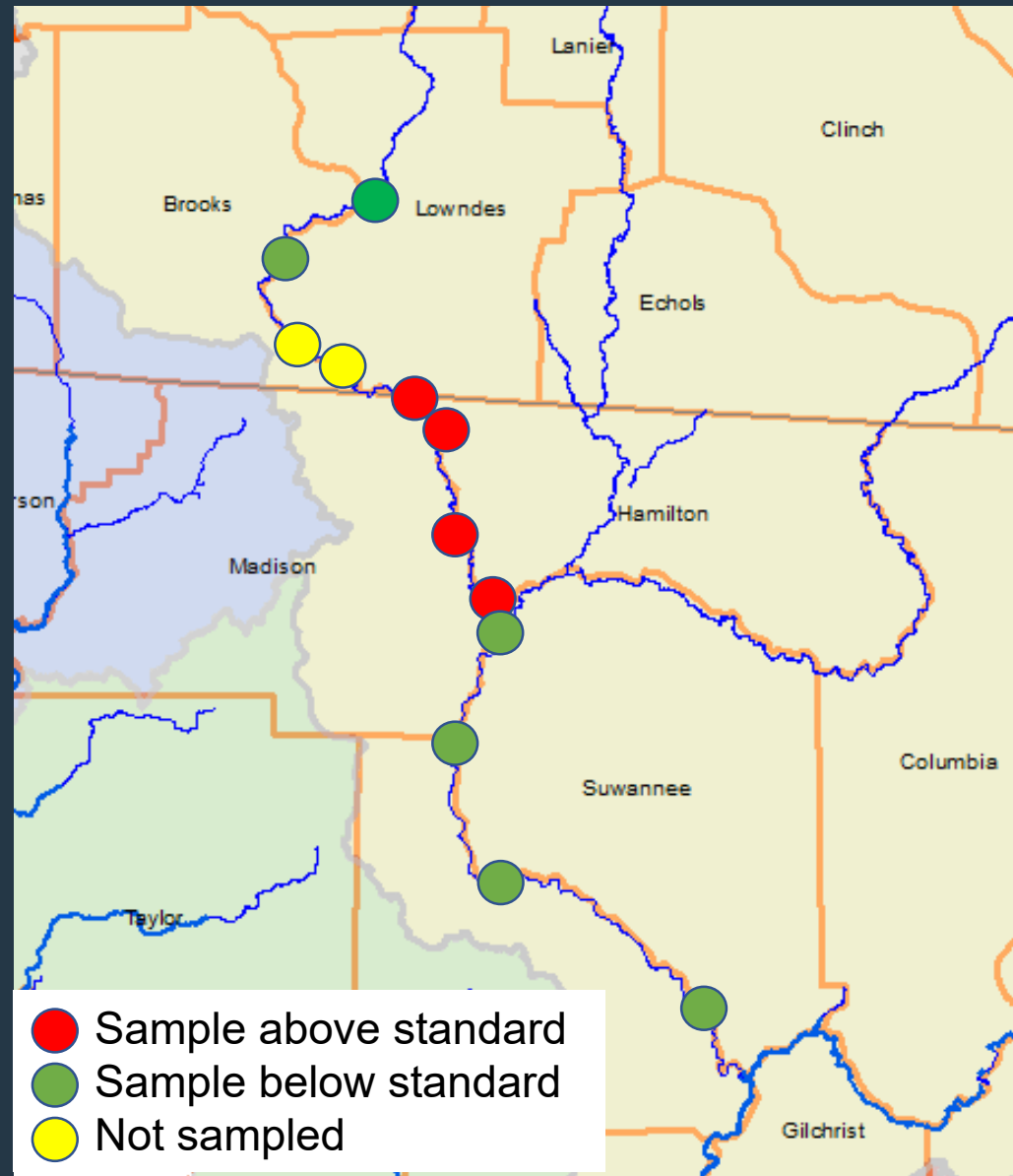
Second Health Advisory



- December 18: Bacteria sample results above health standard on Withlacoochee between Sugar Creek and US 84
- December 22: Georgia received 2-inch rain event
- December 23: Health advisory issued
- December 24 and 26: Bacteria sample results above health standards at GA31 and FL145 (stateline)
- December 27 – January 2: Bacteria sample results remained below health standard in Florida
- January 3: Health advisory lifted

Third Health Advisory

- January 4: Georgia received 1-inch rain event
- January 6-9: Precautionary bacteria sampling results above health standards in Florida, able to track down Withlacoochee
- January 8: Health advisory issued
- January 10-12: Bacteria sample results remained below health standard in Florida



Current Response Status



- Third health advisory still in affect
- Georgia received a 1.7-inch rain event January 11-12
- Coordination team will continue precautionary sampling January 13-17