south Georgia and most of Florida, extending into parts of South Carolina and Alabama, with natural drainage systems into and out of levels of the aquifer from shallow to deep.

As Georgia's Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Planning Council says:[2]

> *The rivers in the region are unique in comparison to most of Georgia Rivers in that the watersheds are much smaller in size. This results in more frequent surface water lower flow conditions and increases the importance of groundwater to the region. Surface water is forecasted to meet about 18% of the region's water use and agriculture accounts for 98% of this use. Groundwater is predominately used from the Floridan aquifer and is needed to meet about 82% of the region's water needs. Agriculture, municipal, domestic, and industry are the major demand sectors for groundwater.*

The North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan (NFRWSP),[3] prepared by Florida's Suwannee River Water Management District (SRWMD) and St. John's River Water Management District (SRWMD), using the North Florida-Southeast Georgia (NFSEG) regional groundwater flow model,[4] examined effects of pumping by Savannah, Georgia, and Jacksonville, Florida, on south Georgia and north Florida. The NFRWSP indicates the widespread geographical implications of water withdrawals.

A company from Alabama has requested permits from the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA-EPD) to strip mine for titanium dioxide within three miles of the Okefenokee Swamp, including withdrawing 1.44 million gallons of water a day.[5] It has been known for decades that the Okefenokee Swamp interchanges surface water with groundwater.[6] The same company is still under a Florida Consent Order[7] for not containing its wastewater at several titanium mine sites in north Florida. During Hurricane Irma, the only pollution spills in the Suwannee River Basin in Florida (other than from diesel trucks) were from those mine sites.

The Army Corps of Engineers was reviewing a permit application from these same miners for this same mine, until in October 2010, the Corps, citing the 2020 revision to WOTUS, decided there were no waters of the U.S. near the mine site.[8] Yet the mine site, the Okefenokee Swamp, all the wetlands and streams between, as well as the St. Marys and Suwannee Rivers that flow from the Swamp, are all above the Floridan Aquifer. The mine could affect groundwater in Florida as well as in

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[2] Georgia Water Planning, accessed February 7, 2022, Suwannee-Satilla Regional Water Plan, https://waterplanning.georgia.gov/suwannee-satilla-regional-water-plan

[3] North Florida Regional Water Supply Plan, North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership, accessed 5 September 2019, https://northfloridawater.com/watersupplyplan/index.html

[4] North Florida-Southeast Georgia (NFSEG) regional groundwater flow model, North Florida Regional Water Supply Partnership, accessed 5 September 2019, https://northfloridawater.com/groundwaterflowmodel.html

[5] Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Twin Pines Minerals, LLC, accessed February 7, 2022, https://epd.georgia.gov/twin-pines

[6] Kitchens, S and Rasmussen, TC. Hydraulic Evidence for Vertical Flow From Okefenokee Swamp To The Underlying Floridan Aquifer In Southeast Georgia. Proceedings of the 1995 Georgia Water Resources Conference, held April 11 and 12, 1995, at The University of Georgia, Kathryn J. Hatcher, Editor, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia. https://smartech.gatech.edu/handle/1853/44003.

[7] Florida Department of Environmental Protection v. The Chemours Company FC, LLC, OGC FIle NO. 18-1240, in WWALS, Consent Order, FDEP v. Chemours involving Twin Pines Minerals 2019-02-07, https://wwals.net/?p=49898

[8] Russ Bynum, Associated Press, October 21, 2020, Trump environmental rollback spurs mining near Georgia's Okefenokee Swamp, https://wgxa.tv/news/state-news/trump-environmental-rollback-spurs-mining-near-georgias-okefenokee-swamp