

ATSDR Public Health Investment

Georgia

CDC/ATSDR support Georgia to reduce exposure to hazardous substances in the environment

ATSDR funds 25 cooperative agreements to help states build their capacity to assess and respond to site-specific issues involving human exposure to hazardous substances in the environment.

Public Health in Action

SRG Global Company — A groundwater plume contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the SRG Global site spread to a nearby neighborhood. SRG Global analyzed soil gas, outdoor air, soil, and groundwater to evaluate off-site contamination and target indoor air sampling to potentially affected homes. The Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) found that about 56% of sampled houses had indoor air contaminants above with levels that might cause health effects. Concentrations were often consistent with levels in outdoor air, indicating SRG Global as the source. The company installed mitigation systems in houses with the highest levels of contaminants. Post-mitigation sampling data show that residents are no longer exposed to harmful contaminants in indoor air. SRG Global continues to test homes in the area and has found no additional elevated levels.

Georgia

Award amount:

\$239,052 per year

Term: 3 years

Grantee since: 1994

About ATSDR

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), based in Atlanta, Georgia along with 10 regional offices, is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. ATSDR serves the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and diseases related to toxic substances.

Key projects

- **CSX Rail Yard and Atlanta Gas Light Manufactured Gas Plant** — DPH is conducting health assessments for these facilities in response to an ATSDR petition from a Waycross community advocacy group. Members are concerned about potential health effects from chemical exposures associated with the rail yard and the gas plant. DPH analyzed environmental data and held public meetings in Waycross to gather community concerns. ATSDR provides technical assistance and community involvement support during the public health assessment process.
- **Fort Gillem** — DPH is evaluating environmental data to determine if nearby residents have been exposed to chemicals from the base in groundwater. The chemicals might enter homes as vapor below ground. DPH worked with various agencies and prepared a health consultation for Pride and Joy Daycare, located above one of the areas of groundwater contamination. Based on the results, the Army installed a system to remove vapors so that the daycare could continue operating safely. ATSDR provides technical assistance and guidance in evaluating the effects of harmful chemicals

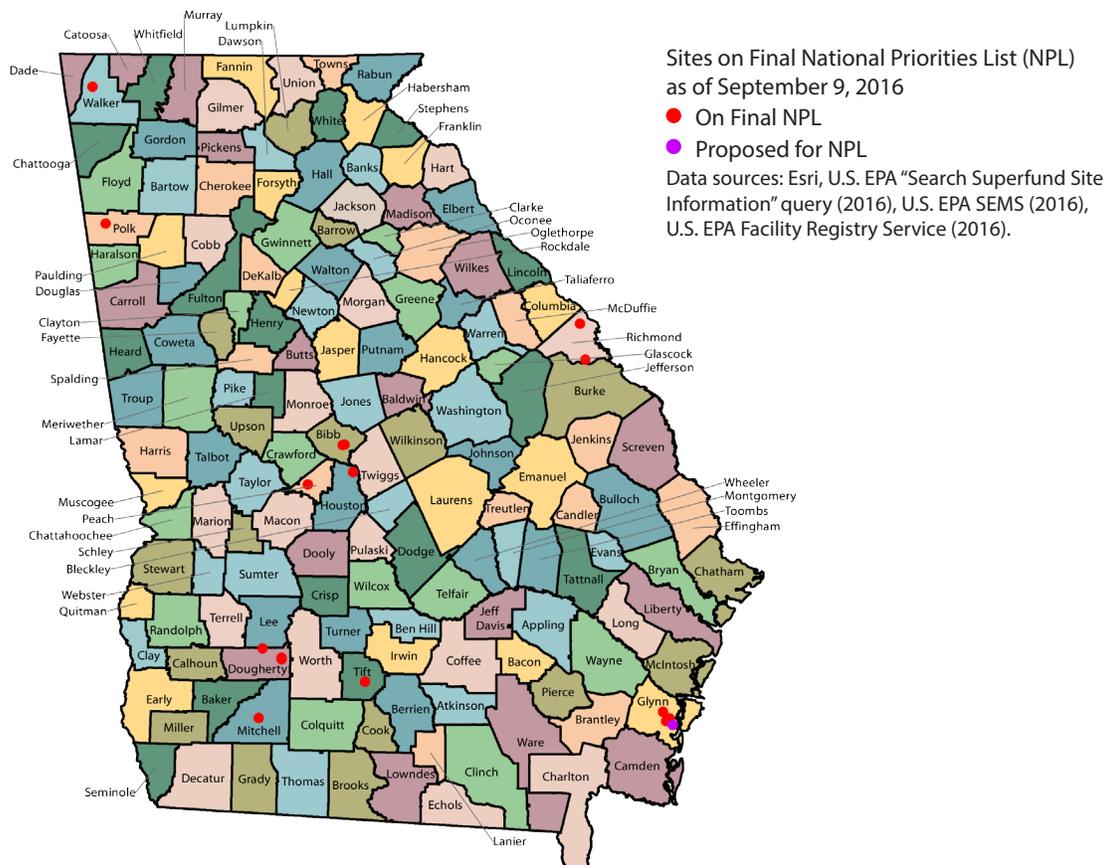
State Priorities

- **Healthy people** — Address issues and concerns associated with human exposure to toxic chemicals in the environment.
- **Community involvement** — Learn about community health concerns related to toxic chemicals in the environment and take action to address these concerns.

"I saw a recent presentation at the Georgia Brownfields Association meeting regarding DPH's work in Dalton, Georgia, and it was most instructive."—Camilla Bond Warren, EPA Region 4

Did You Know?

- DPH's Chemical Hazards Program (CHP) helped ATSDR organize four SoilSHOPS in Georgia. During these events, ATSDR tested more than 100 soil samples from residential lots and community gardens in Atlanta and Dalton for lead and provided lead exposure prevention education to more than 200 residents..
- CHP is contacting developers to promote Georgia's brownfield law and tax incentives, brownfield and land reuse site development, and resources to help educate and engage community members. DPH conducted a pilot project in Dalton and introduced this initiative at a Georgia Brownfields Association meeting.



Learn more

Follow these links to learn more about programs protecting public health in Georgia:

ATSDR — <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/>

Division of Community Health Investigations (DCHI) — <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/index.html>

ATSDR Public Health Assessments and Consultations for Georgia — <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/HAC/PHA/HCPHA.asp?State=GA>

Georgia Department of Public Health — www.dph.georgia.gov

DPH Chemical Hazards Program — <https://dph.georgia.gov/chemical-hazards>

DPH Brownfields Program — www.dph.georgia.gov/brownfields-and-land-reuse

Southface Energy Institute — www.southface.org

Georgia Environmental Protection Division — www.epd.georgia.gov

ATSDR – The most trusted Agency protecting American communities from environmental health threats through application of state of the art science.

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