

Senate Resolution 904

By: Senators Kemp of the 3rd, Johnson of the 1st, Thomas of the 2nd, Hill of the 4th and Williams of the 19th

ADOPTED SENATE

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural
2 Resources to revoke forthwith the ground-water withdrawal permit held by the bankrupt
3 Durango Georgia Paper Company for its idle plant in St. Marys and to consider lifting the
4 moratorium on the issuance of new ground-water withdrawal permits in the 24 county area
5 in the Atlantic coastal and southeastern region of this state based upon the results of scientific
6 investigation of the condition of ground-water resources in that area; and for other purposes.

7 WHEREAS, the Durango Georgia Paper Company holds a ground-water withdrawal permit
8 issued by the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources,
9 authorizing withdrawal of 44.5 million gallons per day for the company's plant in St. Marys;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, in comparison, the city of Brunswick used 5.2 million gallons per day in 2001;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, the Durango Georgia Paper Company is bankrupt, its St. Marys plant is idle,
14 and no ground water is being withdrawn under the permit for such plant; and

15 WHEREAS, a 24 county area in the Atlantic coastal and southeastern region of this state is
16 currently under a moratorium for the issuance of new ground-water withdrawal permits
17 established by the Environmental Protection Division; and

18 WHEREAS, this moratorium is a barrier to economic development in the affected area; and

19 WHEREAS, revocation of the ground-water withdrawal permit for the bankrupt Durango
20 Georgia Company's idle plant at St. Marys, along with a scientific investigation of the
21 condition of ground-water resources in the 24 county area in the Atlantic coastal and
22 southeastern region of this state that is currently under a moratorium for the issuance of new

1 ground-water withdrawal permits, may allow the lifting of such moratorium and removal of
2 a substantial barrier to economic development.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
4 urge the director of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural
5 Resources to revoke forthwith the ground-water withdrawal permit held by the bankrupt
6 Durango Georgia Paper Company for its idle plant in St. Marys and to consider lifting the
7 moratorium on the issuance of new ground-water withdrawal permits in the 24 county area
8 in the Atlantic coastal and southeastern region of this state based upon the results of scientific
9 investigation of the condition of ground-water resources in that area.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
11 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the director of the Environmental
12 Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.