

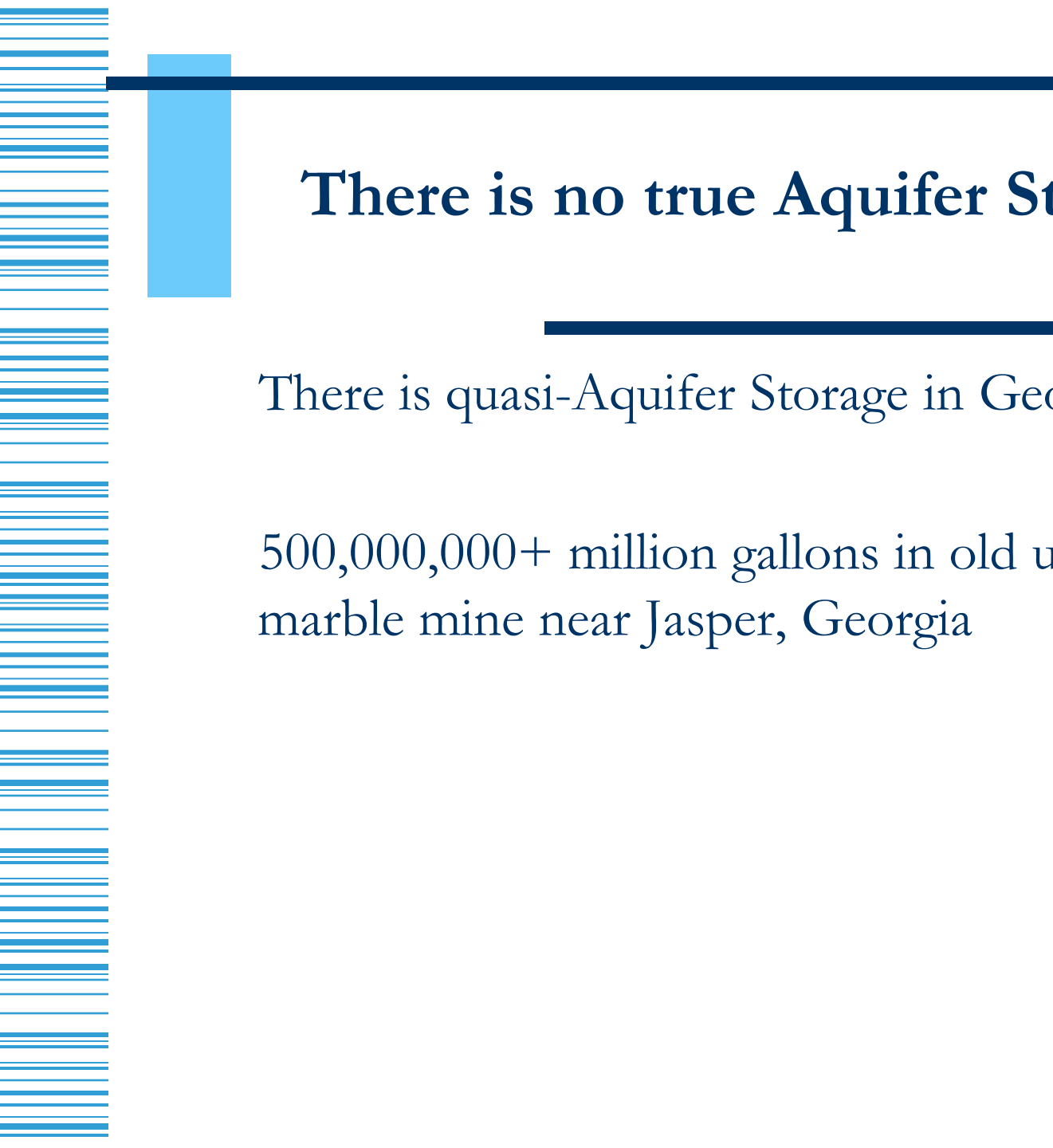


FROM THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN

Aquifer Storage and Recovery IV
Tampa, Florida
April 15 – 16, 2004

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Environmental Protection Division
Georgia Department of Natural Resources



There is no true Aquifer Storage in GA



There is quasi-Aquifer Storage in Georgia

500,000,000+ million gallons in old underground
marble mine near Jasper, Georgia





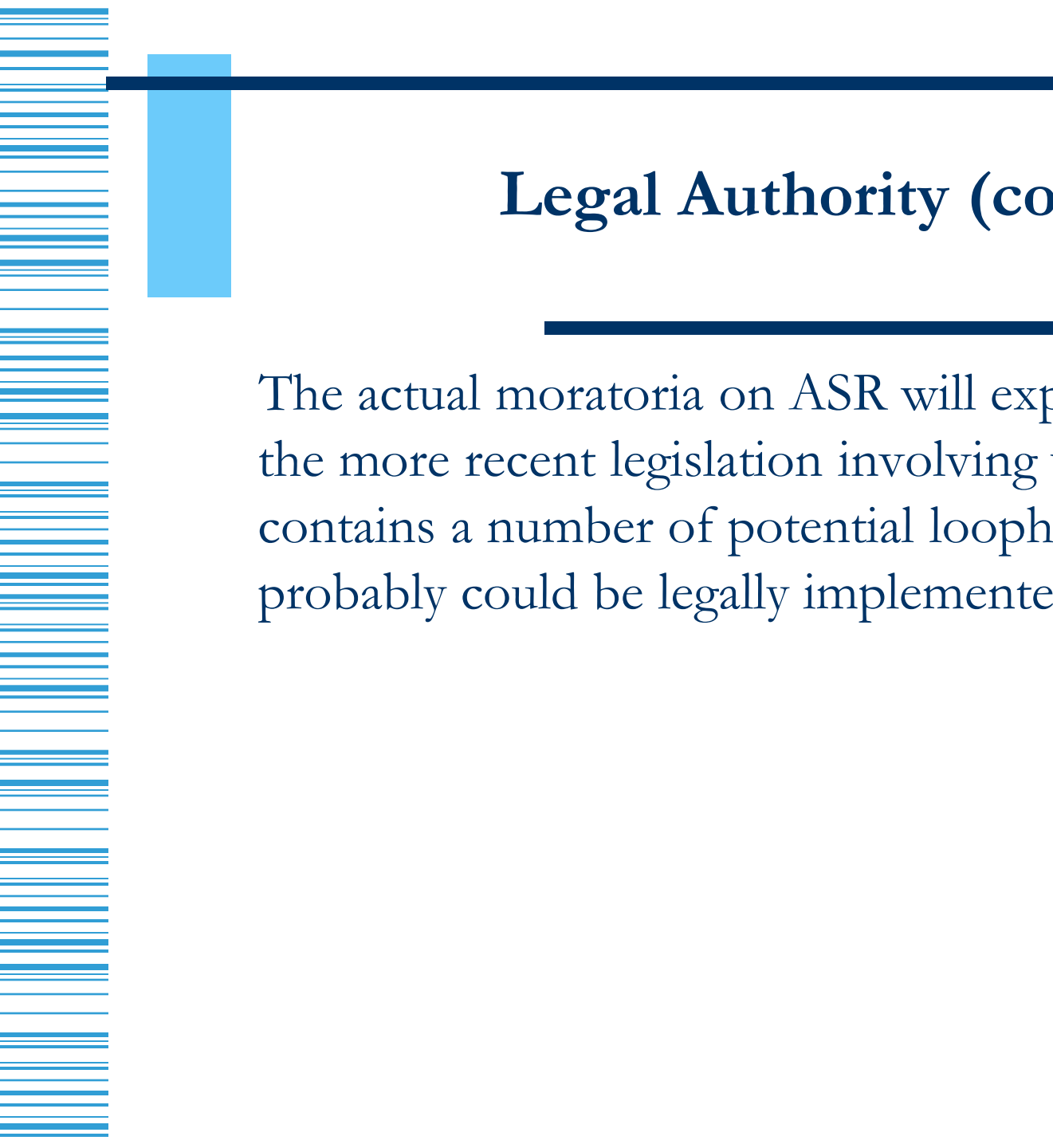


Legal Authority

- ◆ Any Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) facility would be regulated as a Class V injection well system under the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has a fully delegated UIC program from EPA.
- ◆ Georgia has an EPA-recognized Comprehensive State Ground-Water Protection Program (CSGWPP). This means that EPA shall defer to the State on technical and programmatic matters related to ground water.

Legal Authority (cont'd)

- ◆ The Georgia General Assembly passed legislation in 1999 prohibiting ASR in coastal Georgia through 2004. This was done to stop a private company from developing a surface water treatment facility in a coastal county.
- ◆ In 2003, the Georgia General Assembly amended the Water Well Standards Act to prevent the Georgia EPD from accepting performance bonds from any driller who drilled a well to inject surface water into the Floridan Aquifer in a coastal county. This provision expires in 2009.



Legal Authority (cont'd)



The actual moratoria on ASR will expire shortly and the more recent legislation involving well drilling contains a number of potential loopholes. Thus, ASR probably could be legally implemented in Georgia.

Legislative Hearings on ASR (Winter of 1999)

- ◆ The Georgia EPD presented the results of a survey of every state that had an actual ASR project within that state as well as EPA. The survey results indicated that the affected states and EPA had positive opinions of ASR.
- ◆ Representatives of the Southwest Florida Water Management District presented technical information on the environmental impact of ASR in Florida.

Legislative Hearings on ASR (Winter of 1999) (cont'd)

- ◆ Environmental advocates provided no data but presented a general “doom and gloom” picture of ASR.
- ◆ Several local legislators spoke against ASR.

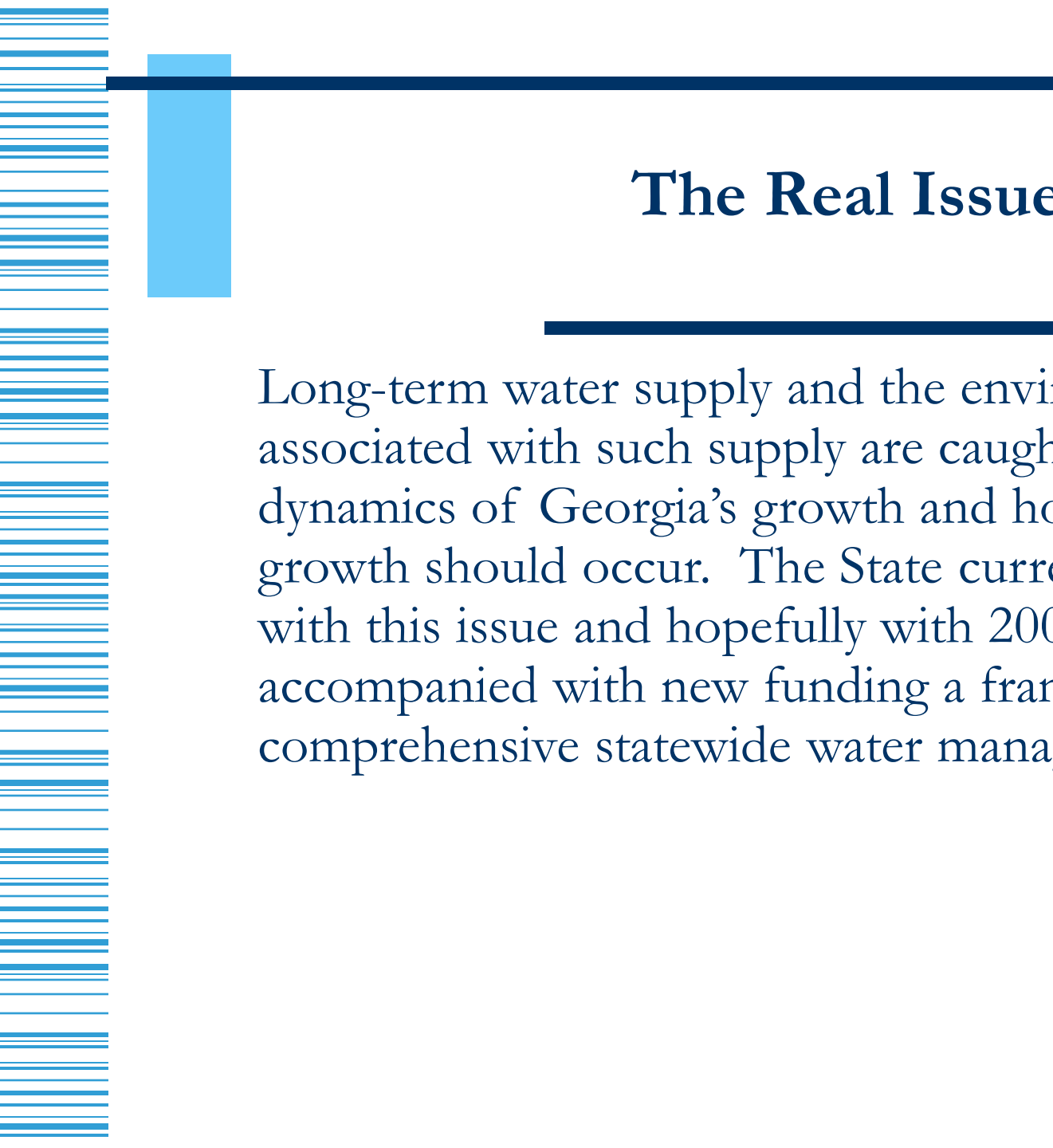
Georgia EPD's Environmental Assessment of ASR

- ◆ EPD hired two consultants to review the environmental impacts associated with ASR on a worldwide basis.
- ◆ After, the two consultants submitted their reports, EPD hired two other consultants to peer review the original two consultants reports.

Georgia EPD's Environmental Assessment of ASR (cont'd)

The original two consultants and the two peer reviewers concluded that ASR in Georgia should not present any environmental problems that could not be overcome through good siting studies and good engineering design. The reports and peer reviews are available through the Georgia Geologic Survey's web-based shopping cart (Project Report 44 published in 2001).

<http://ggsstore.dnr.state.ga.us>



The Real Issue



Long-term water supply and the environmental issues associated with such supply are caught up in the dynamics of Georgia's growth and how and where this growth should occur. The State currently is grappling with this issue and hopefully with 2004 legislation accompanied with new funding a framework for a comprehensive statewide water management plan.