PIEDMONT ATLANTIC MEGAREGION
Why MegaRegions?

Research has identified eight to ten emerging MegaRegions

SOURCE: University of Pennsylvania
Georgia, Alabama can't reach river deal

Water dispute likely headed back to court

By STACY SHELTON

Another truce in Georgia's interstate water wars ended at midnight, this one over the water flowing from Lake Allatoona into Alabama.

The dispute will likely return to federal court, where a judge could decide how much water each state is due from the northwest Georgia lake and the Coosa, Tallapoosa and Alabama rivers. It could also wind up in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Harold Melton, executive counsel for Gov. Sonny Perdue, said he tried to assure Alabama officials that Georgia was willing to "manage water wisely."

Melton said Georgia was open to compromise. "We offered all kinds of things to help get them there," he said.

But Alabama officials didn't see it that way. "It's an extremely disappointing night," said Alabama's chief negotiator, Onis "Trey" Glenn III. "Alabama had to make a choice not to sacrifice our water future just to satisfy Atlanta's water needs."

The outcome could determine each state's ability to add jobs and continue growing. Alabama is also worried about keeping barge traffic moving on its portion of the rivers, and producing hydropower from its dams.

Last August, Georgia and Alabama—along with Florida—ended another truce when their talks over the Chattahoochee River expired without agreement.

Federal lawsuits were quickly reactivated and remain in progress. Florida is working on a case to take to the Supreme Court.

Negotiators for Georgia and Alabama worked feverishly in recent weeks to avoid the same fate for the Coosa River basin.

Throughout Saturday, they exchanged numerous cellphone calls and e-mails trying to salvage a water-sharing deal they'd worked on for six years.

The dispute over the Coosa River was considered easier to solve than the Chattahoochee, which involves three states and supplies most of the water for metro Atlanta.

But the renewed fight over the Chattahoochee spilled over. In its most recent proposals, Georgia wanted Alabama to let metro Atlanta take more water out of the Chattahoochee as part of the deal for the Coosa.

Georgia also wanted to be able to send Alabama less water than the guaranteed minimum amount in case of a severe drought.
Why MegaRegions?

- **Commodity Flows:** U.S. imported almost $2 trillion in goods and services in 2005

- **Human Capital Flows:** more than 20 percent of U.S. science and technology workers are foreign-born

- **Travel:** Americans made over 27 million visits outside the U.S. in 2004

SOURCES: U.S. Census Bureau, National Academies of Science, U.S. Department of Commerce
Why MegaRegions?

Global Precedent

Even national borders are not an obstacle to regionalism

Issues Facing PAM

- Growth
- Consumption and degradation
- Disparities
- Infrastructure
- Competitiveness
- Fragmentation

Every issue is a challenge and an opportunity
Issues Facing PAM: growth

Population concentrations, 2000

47 million people in 2000

SOURCE: Woods & Poole, Inc.
Issues Facing PAM: growth

Population growth centered on centers

2050 population
1 Dot = 10,000

82 million people in 2050

SOURCE: Woods & Poole, Inc.; CQGRD calculations
Issues Facing PAM: growth

Population growth means new construction

PAM will build 84 billion square feet of new construction between 2000 and 2030.

Issues Facing PAM: growth

A chance to do it right

Buildings constructed post-2000 will represent half of the built environment in 2030.
Issues Facing PAM: disparities

Almost **12 million people** living in poverty.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau
## PAM Benchmarks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Pocantico Policy Roundtable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2005</td>
<td>Georgia Tech Sustainability Course</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 2005</td>
<td>SuperCities Charrette in Madrid, Spain</td>
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<td>Apr 2005</td>
<td>RPA Regional Assembly</td>
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<td>Sept 2005</td>
<td>NARC Conference</td>
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<td>Spring 2006</td>
<td>Georgia Tech Sustainability Course</td>
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<td>Jan 2006</td>
<td>Think Global, Act Regional Symposium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 2006</td>
<td>Pocantico Policy Roundtable</td>
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<td>Event</td>
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<td>Mar 2006</td>
<td>Georgia Governor’s Conference</td>
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<td>Mar 2006</td>
<td>GA Governments &amp; Growth Workshop</td>
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<td>May 2006</td>
<td><strong>Environmental Design Research Association Conference</strong></td>
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<td>Aug 2006</td>
<td>Urban Land Magazine</td>
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<td>Nov 2006</td>
<td>ASCP Conference</td>
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<td>Dec 2006</td>
<td>CIB Conference, China</td>
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<td>Apr 2007</td>
<td>APA Conference, tentative</td>
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<td>June 2007</td>
<td>World Transport Conference</td>
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Think Global, Act Regional Symposium

Highlights:
- January 2006
- Introduced PAM
- Hosted 100 people from six states
- Included ULI Mayors’ Forum
- Resolution for multi-state emergency preparedness coordination
- Call for future PAM discussions
Strategies for PAM

- **Transportation Options:** Southeast High Speed Rail

- **Green Infrastructure:** innovative financing to protect lands

- **Spatial Planning:** a strategic and forward looking strategy for growth and development to decrease inequities and promote overall sustainability
Guest Commentary

Nashville needs to be a part of any Midsouth mega-region

By GALEN SPENCER HILL

What's a "mega-region" and how do you know if you are in one? This is a question that may come to have significance for many of us in the near future. We often hear about Southern California and the Washington, D.C., areas being referred to as megaregions, but is Nashville a part of one? There is no clear definition, but Nashville is often discussed in the context of regional development and planning. Residents and businesses in the city are increasingly意识到 the need to think beyond the traditional boundaries of the city and region to address regional issues.

These mega-regions are characterized by the concentration of commerce and industry, which drive the local economy. For example, the impact of Amazon's recent move to Nashville is already being felt in the region, with increased hiring and economic activity. This growth is creating a chain of urban areas across the region interconnected by transportation and commercial linkages. Planners and regional development specialists are beginning to study similar phenomena in the urban agglomerations of southern China, Japan, Singapore, and other regions.

Nashville is a critical part of the Midsouth Mega-Region, which includes cities in Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi. This region is characterized by its strong textile and music industries, as well as its role as a transportation hub for the Southeast. The region is home to major universities and research institutions, which contribute to its economic vitality.

In recent years, the region has faced challenges related to shrinking industries and the need to attract new businesses and residents. The need to preserve natural resources and green space while accommodating growth is a key concern. The region is also working to develop a more integrated transportation system, including efforts to improve public transit and connect the region's major cities.

The Midsouth Mega-Region is also facing demographic challenges, with the region's population projected to grow significantly in the coming decades. This growth presents both opportunities and challenges for the region, as it will need to invest in infrastructure and services to support the growing population.

Nashville is well-positioned to play a leadership role in the region, leveraging its strengths and resources to address these challenges. A collaborative approach that involves all stakeholders, including government, businesses, and community groups, will be essential to ensuring the region's long-term success.
"Given the changing metropolitan form in urban America as populations increase and development spreads out, it is important to think in terms of states and municipalities working together toward a megaregional plan. Problems that spill across many jurisdictional lines may more reasonably be solved in the context of megaregional issues."

William H. Hudnut, III
ULI Senior Resident Fellow and Joseph C. Canizaro Chair for Public Policy
“Think Global, Act Megaregional”
_Urban Land_, July 2006.