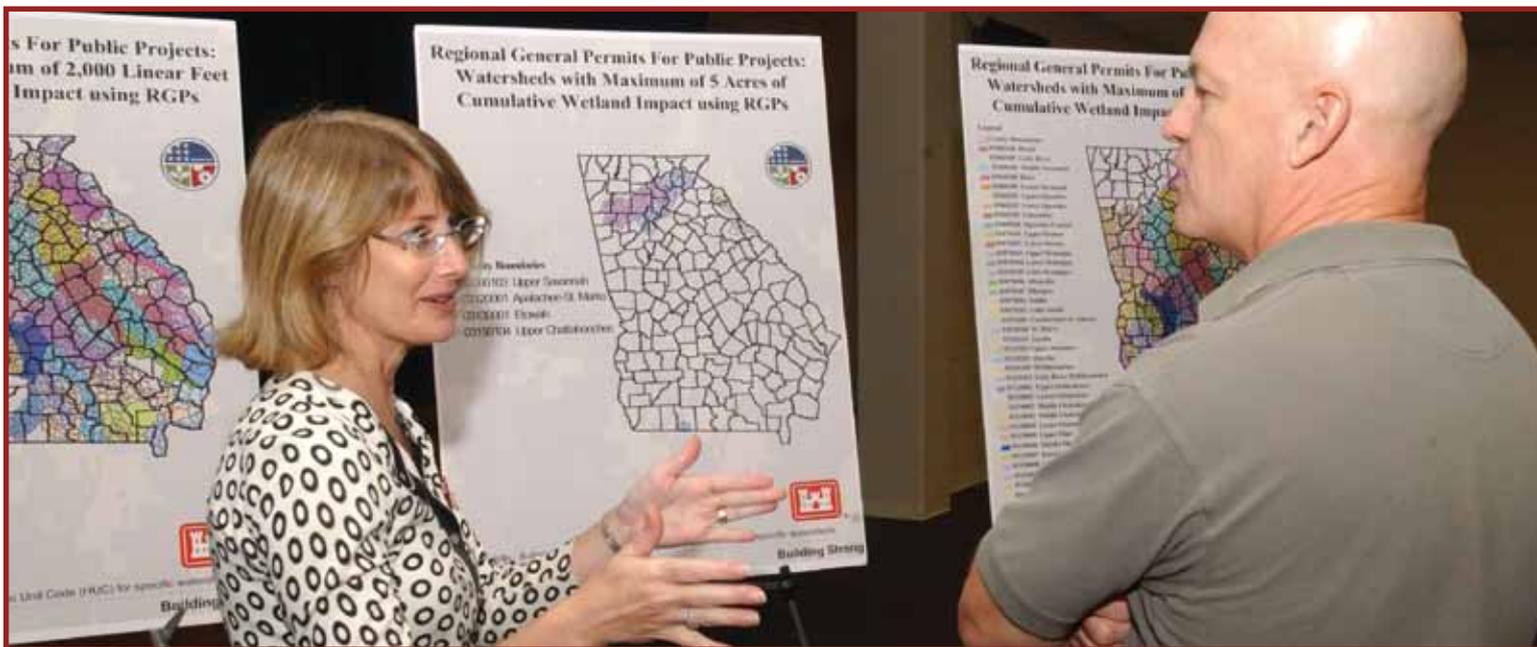


Public Input

Workshop Seeks Comments on Permitting Process



Carol Bernstein, Chief of the Coastal Branch, Regulatory Division, discusses the permitting process with Ken Bunch, President, KGB Environmental Services, LLC, at the Regional General Permits Workshop. *Photo by Billy Birdwell*

The Corps' regulatory programs are designed to protect the nation's aquatic resources, while allowing reasonable development through fair, flexible and balanced permit decisions. The Corps evaluates permit applications for essentially all discharges of dredged or fill material that occur in the nation's waters, including wetlands, unless exempt under the Clean Water Act.

In support of community input and outreach, the district's Regulatory Division held a public workshop in Macon, Ga., on Sept. 1 to seek comments on several proposed Regional General Permits (RGPs) for publicly-funded projects throughout Georgia. Funded by the

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the proposed RGPs would streamline and expedite permit evaluations that would allow discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the U.S. that would have minimal impacts on wetlands and streams. Col. Ed Kertis, Commander of the Savannah District, and Russell Kaiser, Chief of the Regulatory Division, spoke at the workshop about the RGP proposals and took questions about the regulatory process. Environmental groups, representatives of real estate developers, members of state and local governments, and others who have an interest in the Corps permitting process also provided comments. 



Russ Kaiser, Chief of the Regulatory Division (right), met with Bill Sapp, Senior Attorney, Southern Environmental Law Center, at the Regional General Permits Workshop. The workshop sought comments from the community on the proposed permits. *Photo by Billy Birdwell*