

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division • Watershed Protection Branch
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive • Suite 1152 East • Atlanta • Georgia 30334
(404) 463-1511; Fax (404) 656-2453
Judson H. Turner, Director

November 13, 2015

Mr. James D. Giattina, Director
Water Management Division
U. S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

Dear Mr. Giattina:

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has made a revision to our 2014 305b/303d list of waters. The Savannah Harbor was moved from Category 4a to Category 5R based on finalization of the 5R Alternative Plan document "Subcategory 5R Documentation for Point Source Dissolved Oxygen Impaired Water in the Savannah River Basin". Georgia EPD, South Carolina DHEC, U.S. EPA and the Savannah River/Harbor Dischargers Group all collaborated on the development of the alternative plan to restore the Savannah Harbor.

A public notice regarding EPD's intent to move the Savannah Harbor to Category 5R was issued on October 9, 2015. The public notice was mailed or e-mailed to all persons on GA EPD's mailing list for water issues and was also posted on Georgia EPD's website on the 305(b)/303(d) webpage. The public notice included a contact person for requesting copies of the listing documents and for answering questions about the 5R Alternative Plan document and the movement of the Harbor to Category 5R. An internet address for viewing the 5R Alternative Plan document and the revised draft 2014 list of Harbors and Sounds was provided with the public notice. The public comment period ended on November 10, 2015. Three comment letters were received regarding the placement of the Savannah Harbor in Category 5R. The 5R Alternative Plan document was updated based on the comments received.

This cover letter and the materials attached herewith represent a modification to Sounds and Harbors section of Georgia's 2014 305(b)/303(d) Listing package that was originally submitted to U.S. EPA for approval on October 7, 2014. The attachments include the following:

Attachment #1- Georgia EPD's Revised 2014 305b/303d List of Sounds and Harbors;
Attachment #2 - the 5R Alternative Plan document "Subcategory 5R Documentation for Point Source Dissolved Oxygen Impaired Water in the Savannah River Basin";
Attachment #3 Copy of the October 9, 2015 public notice;
Attachment #4 Comments received and GA EPD's response;
Attachment #5; CD containing a revised ADB database and GIS coverage of the 2014 305(b)/303(d) List of Sounds/Harbors

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We look forward to your review and approval of Georgia's 2014 Integrated 305(b)/303(d) Report including this revision to the Sounds and Harbors list. It is EPD's understanding that once EPA approves the movement of the Savannah Harbor from Category 4a to Category 5R, EPA will withdraw the November 2006 Dissolved Oxygen TMDL for the Savannah Harbor. If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth G. Booth".

Elizabeth Booth, Program Manager II
Watershed Planning & Monitoring Program
Watershed Protection Branch

EB/sbs
Attachments