

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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Georgia EPD To Hold Town Hall Meetings On Farm-Use Water Management Plan

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has scheduled a series of town hall meetings to help farmers understand the requirements of a new plan to manage agricultural water use in the state's lower Flint River Basin and to explain the permitting process.

The Flint River Basin Regional Water Development and Conservation Plan is based on the recommendations developed by a Stakeholder Advisory Committee during a yearlong series of public meetings, and technical findings of several sound science studies conducted in the Basin. The 19-member Stakeholder Advisory Committee consists of farmers, business people and others from throughout the area.

EPD has held farm-use water withdrawal permit applications since 1999, pending results of the scientific studies and development of a water management plan. The moratorium on new farm-use permits will be lifted, but applications will be closely evaluated to meet the requirements of the plan.

The meeting dates and locations are:

- Thursday, April 6, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Albany State University, ACAD Auditorium, Radium Springs Road, Albany
- Tuesday, April 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Retreat at Lake Blackshear, 2459-H US Highway 280 West, Cordele
- Tuesday, April 18, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
Charter House Inn, 1401 Tallahassee Highway, Bainbridge

Representatives from EPD will conduct the meetings. A representative from the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission also will attend to discuss metering of newly permitted wells and pumps.

The Flint River Basin Regional Water Development and Conservation Plan is posted on the Georgia Flint River Basin Plan Web site at <http://www.gadnr.org/frbp/index.html>.

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