

## EPD Watershed Protection Branch

### Notice of public meetings about the draft Bacteria Equivalency Strategy for Using the Optimal Indicator Organisms for WQS and NPDES Permitting

This notice is to announce that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Watershed Protection Branch will be holding a virtual meeting to discuss a draft Bacteria Equivalency Strategy for Using the Optimal Indicator Organisms for WQS and NPDES Permitting (Bacteria Strategy).

During the 2013 Triennial Review, Georgia adopted *E. coli* and enterococci as the pathogen indicators for waters designated as recreation where primary contact recreational activities such as swimming, water skiing, and white-water boating occur. As part of the 2019 Triennial Review, Georgia proposed *E. coli* and enterococci criteria for waters designated as fishing, coastal fishing, and drinking water to protect secondary contact recreators who may inadvertently ingest water. The draft Bacteria Strategy provides a framework for the implementation of the proposed changes to the bacteria criteria for water quality monitoring, 303(d)/305(b) listing purposes, Total Maximum Daily Loads, and wastewater and stormwater permitting.

A copy of the draft Bacteria Strategy is available on the Permitting Strategies & Reasonable Potential Analysis page of the EPD website at <https://epd.georgia.gov/forms-permits/watershed-protection-branch-forms-permits/wastewater-permitting/permitting-strategies>.

The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, December 14, 2021, from 10 A.M. to 12 P.M.**

To log into the stakeholder meeting on your computer, please click this link or copy and paste it into your browser to join the meeting:

<https://gaepd.zoom.us/j/96595998657?pwd=MC9ZaWNKWGxZREJ0ZFFxbjh3ZGpRQT09>

To dial in by phone, please call this number: 877-853-5247 (Toll-free)

Meeting ID: 965 9599 8657

Passcode: 376247

In addition to attending the public meeting, stakeholders may choose to send written comments to EPD. Written comments may be sent to [EPDComments@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:EPDComments@dnr.ga.gov) or mailed to Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch, Suite 1152 East Tower, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr., Atlanta, GA 30334. If you choose to e-mail your comments, please include the words “Bacteria Strategy” in the subject line to help ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the correct staff.

Please share this information with persons who may be interested.