

Welcome to this Public Meeting



GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

- Please note that everyone is entering the meeting with their microphones muted.
- Please **keep your microphones muted** except when you are speaking. This will help us minimize background noise and feedback.
- Please take a moment to **open the Participants list and rename yourself** to show your full name and affiliation, so we have that for our records. You should see a “Rename” option next to your name (or click on “More” to find this option).
- **This meeting is being recorded** to document any questions or comments received during our time together.
- To make a comment or ask a question, please either:
 - Indicate you would like to make a comment using the Chat feature.
 - In the “Reactions” menu, select the “raise hand” option. The host will call on you to ask your question or make your comment.



2022 Triennial Review Updates and Postponement of Rule Adoption

April 21, 2025

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Water Quality Standards Coordinator



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION



Rule Adoption Postponed



EPD received feedback from EPA on several items.

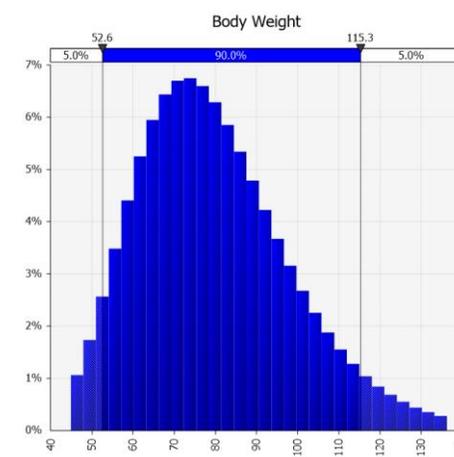
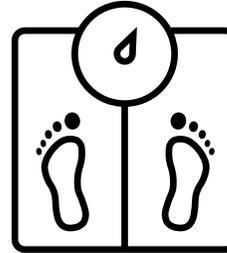
- Negative consumption values included in probability distributions used in human health criteria (HHC) derivation
- Natural dissolved oxygen allowance historically used in TMDLs is not expressly stated in Georgia's Water Quality Standards (WQS)
- Relationship for the causal (TN and TP) and response (chlorophyll a) parameters for lakes Burton and Rabun is unclear and thus the proposed criteria are not scientifically defensible

EPD postponed rule adoption by the DNR Board in order to address EPA's concerns.

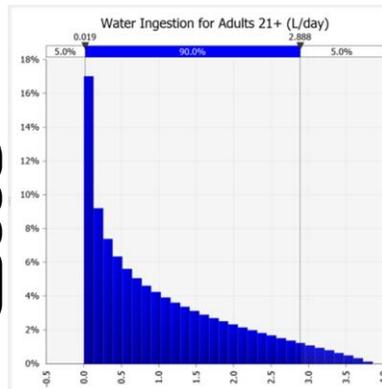
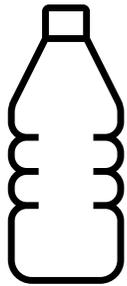
Probabilistic Risk Assessment

Toxicity
Endpoints

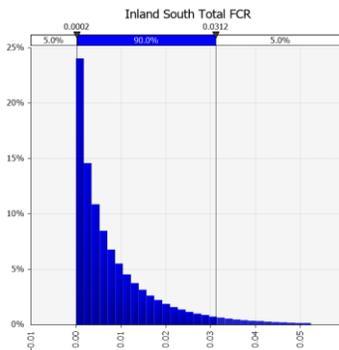
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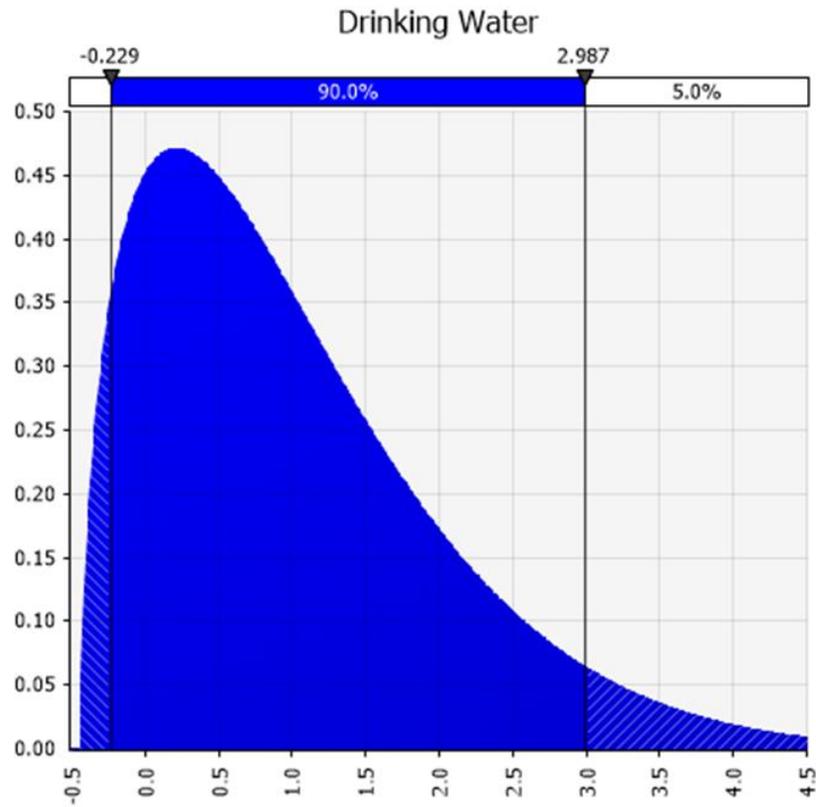


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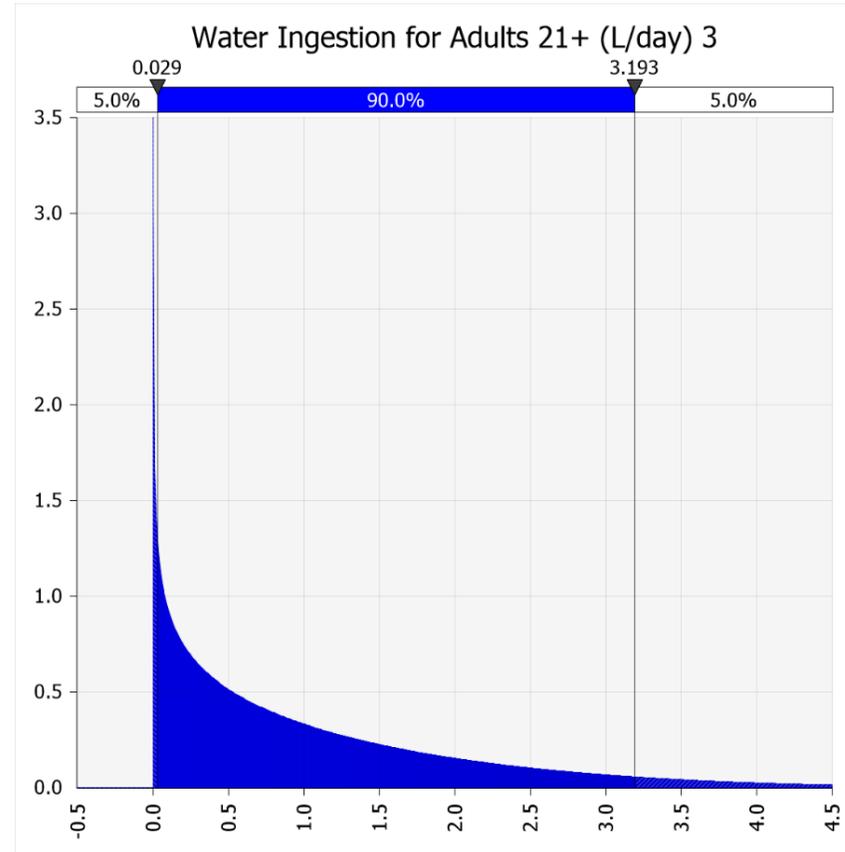
Bioaccumulation
Factors



Updates



Previous drinking water distribution



Updated drinking water distribution

Updated Methodology



Updated fish consumption and drinking water distributions to exclude negative consumption values.



Increased the number of simulations performed.

Results were based on an average of 3 runs of each scenario.



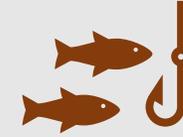
Added additional details and clarification to our TSD

Updated Results

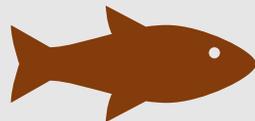
Pollutant and CAS Number	Previous Results	Updated results	Previous Results	Updated results
	Water Plus Organism (Drinking Water) (µg/L)	Water Plus Organism (Drinking Water) (µg/L)	Organism only (all other designated uses) (µg/L)	Organism only (all other designated uses) (µg/L)
Acenaphthene (CAS RN 83329)	69	70	76	77
Acrolein (CAS RN 107028)	3.1	3.0	320	330
Acrylonitrile (CAS RN 107131)	0.18	0.20	27	27
Aldrin (CAS RN 309002)	0.0000027	0.0000027	0.0000027	0.0000027
Anthracene (CAS RN 120127)	290	300	320	320
Benzidine (CAS RN 92875)	0.00043	0.00046	0.032	0.031
Benzo(a)Anthracene (CAS RN 56553)	0.0048	0.0048	0.0051	0.0050
Benzo(a)Pyrene (CAS RN 50328)	0.00048	0.00048	0.00051	0.00050
3,4-Benzofluoranthene (CAS RN 205992)	0.0048	0.0048	0.0051	0.0050
Benzene (CAS RN 71432)	1.7	1.8	48	47

The full table of human health criteria updates can be found starting on page 13 of the Proposed Rule Draft.

Dissolved Oxygen Criteria Update:



- Dissolved Oxygen criteria update for drinking water, recreation, and fishing designated uses. **Bold = new language**
- Consistent with existent D.O. criteria for coastal fishing designated use



- Dissolved oxygen: A daily average of 6.0 mg/L and no less than 5.0 mg/L at all times for waters designated as trout streams by the Wildlife Resources Division. A daily average of 5.0 mg/L and no less than 4.0 mg/L at all times for water supporting warm water species of fish. **If it is determined that the “natural condition” in the water body is less than the values stated above, then the criteria will revert to the “natural condition” and the water quality standard will allow up to a 10% deficit from the “natural” dissolved oxygen value if it is demonstrated that resident aquatic species shall not be adversely affected.**

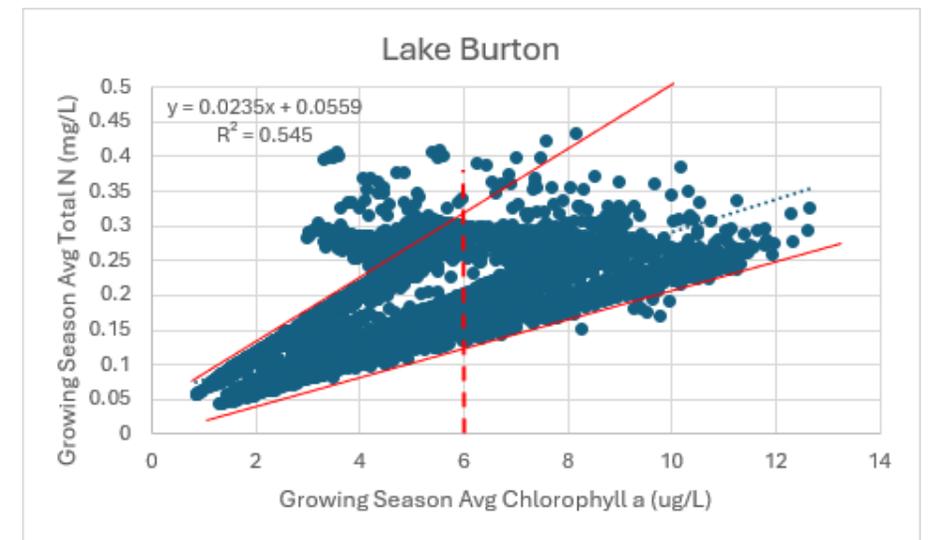
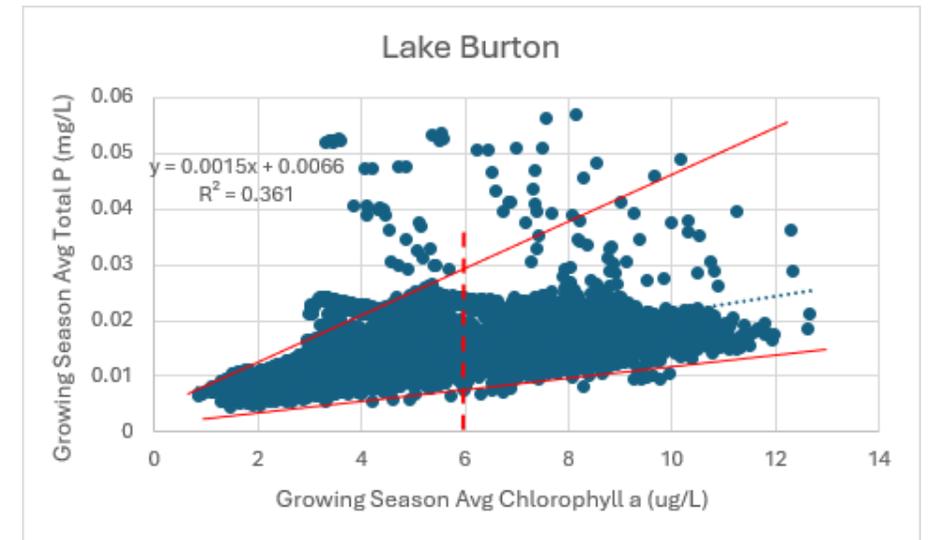
Dissolved Oxygen Criteria Update



- Based on dissolved oxygen natural conditions clause in EPA's 1986 Gold Book.
- Used by EPA to develop dissolved oxygen TMDLs for Georgia. EPD has continued to use this practice in TMDLs since 2001.

Updates to Lakes Burton and Rabun Nutrient Criteria

- EPD analyzed the model results to determine the relationship between the causal and response parameters. However, this analysis did not satisfy EPA.
- Withdrawing the TP and TN criteria for the 2022 triennial review. EPD will seek additional technical advisement from EPA to derive approvable numeric nutrient criteria.
- Updated technical support document to provide additional evidence that the proposed chlorophyll a criteria supports the designated uses



Designated Use Support



Recreation Use support:

- High water clarity
- No HABs

Fishing Use support:

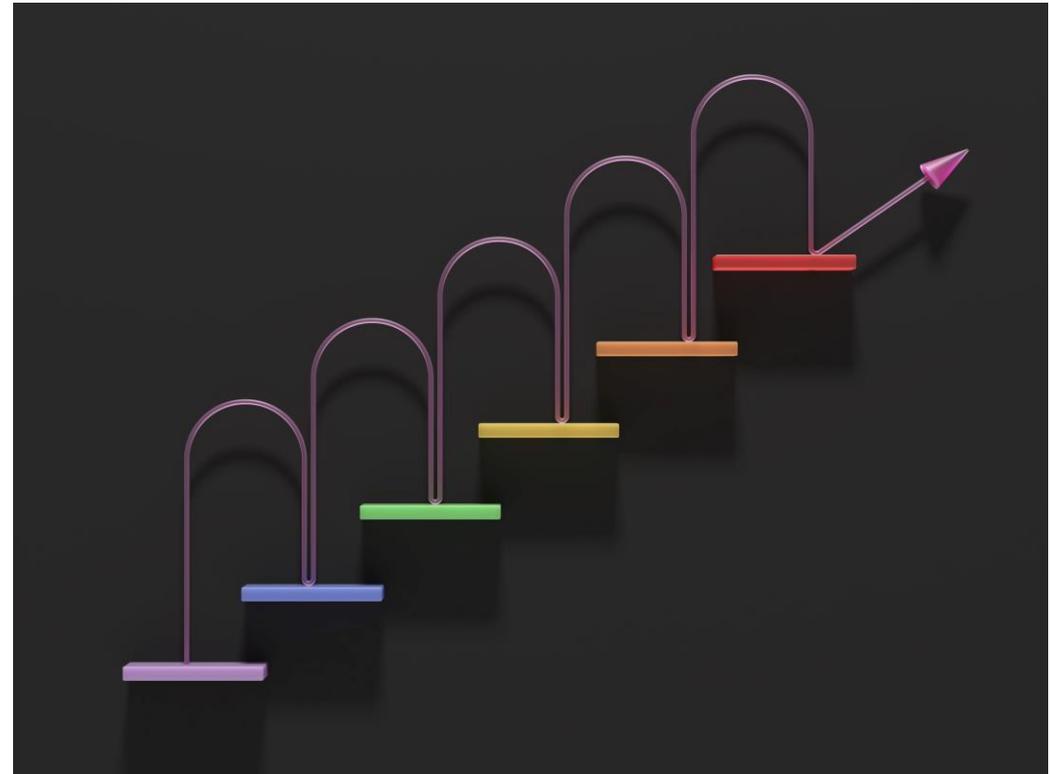
- Chlorophyll a criteria supportive of
 - Trout and Black Bass fisheries in Burton
 - Walleye and Black Bass fisheries in Rabun
 - Diverse fisheries in Tugalo

Drinking water use support:

- No smell or odor issues

Next Steps

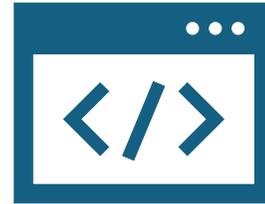
- DNR Board Briefing – May 20, 2025
- Public Hearing – mid July 2025 (with 45 day public notice)
- DNR Board adoption of rule change – August 26, 2025
- Internal certification process (approx. 60 days)
- Submit to EPA for approval (November 2025)
- EPA response (approve within 60 days or disapprove within 90 days)
- Rule is not enforceable until approved by EPA



Comments, Contacts, and WQS Webpage



The deadline for comments regarding the proposed rule change is April 23, 2025. Comments can be emailed to EPD.Comments@dnr.ga.gov or sent to Gillian Batson at: Gillian.Batson@dnr.ga.gov. Please include “2022 Triennial Review Comments” in the subject line.



The EPD webpage dedicated to Water Quality Standards can be found at: <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/georgia-water-quality-standards>