

Georgia EPD Watershed Protection Branch

Notice of Public Meeting

Revisions to Proposed Amendments under the 2022 Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) Watershed Protection Branch will hold a virtual public meeting to discuss revisions to the proposed amendments to the Georgia Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter [391-3-6-.03](#) (Designated Uses and Water Quality Standards) associated with the 2022 Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards process that began in April 2022. The meeting will be held on **Monday, April 21, beginning at 10:00 am** on the Zoom web conferencing platform. Comments will be accepted through April 23.

This virtual public meeting will focus on the revisions made to the proposed rule amendments since the last public meeting (October 7, 2024) and associated public hearing (January 28, 2025) based on feedback received from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Based on EPA's feedback, EPD has made minor revisions to the human health criteria proposed in 391-3-6-.03(5)(e)(iv) and added a provision to the specific dissolved oxygen (DO) criteria included under the Drinking Water Supplies, Recreation, and Fishing subsections of 391-3-6-.03(6). This added provision addresses DO criteria where the "natural condition" may be lower than the numeric DO criteria that already exist. The "natural condition" DO language is being added to ensure the EPD Rules for Water Quality Control are consistent with EPA's 1986 recommendation for naturally low DO waters and EPD's historical use of this criterion in DO Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Wasteload Allocation (WLA) development. The "natural condition" DO language is consistent with existing language for DO under the Coastal Fishing use in 391-3-6-.03(6)(f).

The revisions to the proposed amendments can be found on the EPD Water Quality Standards web page, under the 2022 Triennial Review section (<https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/georgia-water-quality-standards>). Revisions have also been made to the technical documents that support the 2022 Triennial Review based on EPA comments, and those revised documents are posted to that web page.

In addition to the revisions highlighted above (revised updated human health criteria & natural condition DO provisions), all other topics previously discussed are still included in the proposed rule amendments. These include the adoption of EPA's recommended aquatic life criteria for diazinon, nonylphenol, and selenium, adoption of site-specific criteria for Lakes Burton, Rabun, and Tugalo, and revision of the designated uses of 11 waterbody segments to include recreation and 7 waterbody segments to include drinking water supplies.

**Zoom Meeting Details:
Monday, April 21, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m.**

Join Online:
<https://gaepd.zoom.us/j/93964813760?pwd=maQSDk5A8Z8V4YwvGS1hW6oH1Icf00.1>

Meeting ID: 939 6481 3760
Passcode: 495485

Join by Phone:

To dial by phone, please call this number: **888-788-0099** (Toll-free). When prompted, enter the Meeting ID and/or Passcode shown above.

At the virtual public meeting, anyone may make a statement or offer comments either orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, should be submitted in writing.

Written comments are welcomed and must be received by close of business on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, to ensure their consideration. Written comments may be emailed to EPD.Comments@dnr.ga.gov or sent via regular mail to: EPD Watershed Protection Branch, Attention: Gillian Batson, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr., Suite 1470A, East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia, 30334. If you choose to e-mail your comments, please include the words “**2022 Triennial Review Comments**” in the subject line to help ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the correct staff.

****Please note that a separate public hearing that will mark the beginning of the 2025 Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards is scheduled for March 31, 2025.****

During the March 31st public hearing EPD is soliciting recommended topics for consideration during the 2025 to 2027 review of Water Quality Standards. The notice for this hearing, including meeting details, can be found on the on the EPD Water Quality Standards web page, under the 2025 Triennial Review section: (<https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/georgia-water-quality-standards>).