

EPD Watershed Protection Branch

Notice of Public Meeting for Human Health Criteria Updates for 2022 Triennial Review of Water Quality Standards

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) [Watershed Protection Branch](#) will hold a virtual public meeting to discuss the proposed human health criteria updates to Georgia's Water Quality Standards. The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 7, 2024, beginning at 11:00 am** on the Zoom web conferencing platform.

This meeting is the third in a series of meetings pertaining to updates to our Water Quality Standards based on the 2015 update to EPA's National Recommended Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Human Health. Prior meetings in this series were held on September 21, 2022, and March 15, 2023. Slides from these meetings can be accessed on EPD's [Water Quality Standards](#) webpage or downloaded directly at the following links:

<https://epd.georgia.gov/document/document/9212022hhcpublicmeetingpdf/download>
<https://epd.georgia.gov/document/document/epdhcmeetingpresentation03152023pdf/download>

EPA's 2015 criteria recommendation provides updated values for 94 pollutants. Georgia's Water Quality Standards currently have criteria for 83 of these pollutants. This third meeting will focus on the criteria values EPD is planning to adopt.

EPD has derived updated human health criteria for 83 pollutants and new criteria for 11 pollutants using the probabilistic risk assessment (PRA) method. The 83 pollutants that currently exist in our standards have a single criteria value that applies to all designated uses. The updates will replace the current criteria with two separate criteria values, one of which will apply only to waterbodies designated as a drinking water source. We plan to adopt these criteria in 2024 along with additional Water Quality Standards amendments. This will be an amendment to Rule 391-3-6-.03(5)(e)(iv) which can be found at <https://rules.sos.ga.gov/GAC/391-3-6-.03>.

Meeting attendees are encouraged to review the attached table prior to attending the meeting. The table contains current water quality criteria for the 83 pollutants being updated, the criteria that will replace them, and criteria being adopted for 11 new pollutants.

Zoom Meeting Details:

Wednesday, February 7, 2024, beginning at 11:00 am

Join Online:

<https://gaepd.zoom.us/j/92273471508?pwd=YjVpcTk3a0NpaXpDYTdKSzWdsQkh3Zz09>

Join by Phone:
470 381 2552 US (Atlanta)
888 788 0099 US Toll-free
Meeting ID: 922 7347 1508
Passcode: 444938

A fact sheet and other criteria documents for EPA's Human Health Ambient Water Quality Criteria: 2015 Update can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/wqc/human-health-water-quality-criteria-and-methods-toxics>

At the 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 may be emailed to EPD.Comments@dnr.ga.gov or sent via regular mail to:

EPD Watershed Protection Branch,
Attention: Gillian Batson,
TMDL Modeling and Development Unit,
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr.,
Suite 1462, East Tower,
Atlanta, Georgia, 30334.

If you choose to e-mail your comments, please include the words "Triennial Review Comments" in the subject line to help ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the correct staff. Please submit all comments by February 23, 2024.

Posted 01/02/2024

Attachment: [Criteria updates for 391-3-6 table 12 21 23.pdf](#)