

Georgia Environmental Protection Division Expedited Air Permitting Program Fact Sheet

Introduction & Background

Governor Nathan Deal signed Senate Bill 427 into law on May 1, 2012. The legislation requires the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to develop and implement, by July 1, 2013, procedures for timely processing of certain permit applications, including but not limited to procedures for expedited review and granting of applications upon payment of a fee.

Fees collected as part of the expedited permitting program will be used to offset the cost of expediting the permit applications.

EPD Air Protection Branch Role in Permitting in Georgia

The EPD Air Protection Branch reviews applications for air quality permits for the entire state of Georgia. All air quality permits require approval by the Director of the EPD. The requirements for submitting an application for an air quality permit, and for EPD's review and approval of that application, are generally found in Georgia Rule for Air Quality Control 391-3-1-.03.

The EPD Air Protection Branch handles many different types of air quality permits. These permits are subject to varying state and federal requirements primarily based on the following:

- 1) The type of facility
- 2) The amount of emissions
- 3) Whether or not the facility is undergoing a construction project or is changing a method of operation, and/or
- 4) Whether the application is for a new facility or for a change at an existing facility

Scope of the Program

The expedited permitting program is optional on the part of the permit applicants. Applications that do not request expedited review under this program, or are not accepted under the program in accordance with these standard operating procedures, will be reviewed in accordance with the normal regulatory procedures. EPD will continue to strive for timeliness in permitting for all applicants. EPD expects that the expedited permitting program will not have a negative impact on the timeliness for permit applications going through the normal regulatory process.

Applicant Responsibilities Under the Program

- 1) Request and participate in a pre-application meeting. Pre-application meetings for PSD applications must take place at least 30 days prior to submitting a PSD permit application. Other pre-application meetings must take place at least 14 days prior to submitting an application requesting expedited review. To arrange a meeting, call or email Eric Cornwell, SSPP Manager 404 363-7020/ eric.cornwell@dnr.ga.gov.
- 2) Submit the expedited permitting request form with the permit application.
- 3) Ensure that the permit application is reviewed for quality, completion, and accuracy.
- 4) Submit Payment to DNR within 10 days after acceptance into the expedited permitting program.
- 5) Submit timely responses to EPD requests for additional information during EPD's technical review.

Eligibility

Title V Initial Permit applications, Title V Renewal applications, Title V Minor Modifications without Construction, Title V Administrative Amendment requests, and any SIP permit application involving only a change in name and/or ownership are not eligible for the expedited permitting program. Most other permit applications are eligible for the expedited permitting program and applicants are encouraged to participate in the program.

Full Procedure Details

More details on the Expedited Air Permits Program are found on EPD's web page at <http://epd.georgia.gov/air/expedited-permitting-program>.

For more information, please contact the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's Air Protection Branch at 4244 International Parkway, Suite 120, Atlanta, Georgia 30354 or call Eric Cornwell, Program Manager, at 404-363-7020, or email eric.cornwell@dnr.ga.gov.