

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
GEORGIA'S RULES FOR WATER QUALITY CONTROL, CHAPTER 391-3-6**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Environmental Protection Division (hereinafter, "EPD") of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources proposes amendments to the Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6. EPD proposes to amend provisions of ten rules in this Chapter to incorporate provisions for online posting of public notices, as well as electronic notifications to email list subscribers, of draft wastewater, stormwater, land application system and underground injection control permits. The proposed amendments follow EPA's updates to the federal regulations regarding the method used for public notification of permit actions under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, 40 CFR 124.10, which became effective on June 12, 2019 (84 FR 3324).

In conjunction with the proposed rule amendments, and to enable electronic notifications, EPD intends to create an email subscription topic to enable the public to subscribe for permit-related notices. The subscription topic would be titled, "Watershed Protection Branch – Permit-related Notices." This topic will provide email notification to subscribers regarding permit-related public notices posted to EPD's website on: NPDES wastewater, NPDES stormwater, land application systems, water withdrawals, pretreatment, State Environmental Review Process reviews of GEFA-funded projects, and permit-related public meetings or hearings. A separate public notice will be issued regarding the availability of this email subscription topic, along with instructions for how to subscribe, but EPD welcomes comments on this approach during this proposed rule amendments comment period.

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendments, a synopsis, and statement of rationale of the proposed rule amendments, is being provided to all persons who have requested in writing that they be placed on a notification list. These documents may be viewed at <https://epd.georgia.gov/public-announcements-0/proposed-rules/water-quality-control> or during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch file room, 2 MLK Jr. Drive, SW, West Tower, Balcony, Suite 418, Atlanta, Georgia, 30334. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Watershed Protection Branch at (404) 463-1511.

To provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input on the proposed rule amendments, a public hearing will be held on March 27, 2020 at the following location:

Friday, March 27, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. in the Environmental Protection Division Training

Center, located at 4244 International Parkway, Suite 116, Atlanta, Georgia 30354.

At the public hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument either orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted in writing for the official record. Oral statements should be concise.

Written comments are welcomed. In order to be included in EPD's summary to the Board of Natural Resources, written comments should be received on or before March 30, 2020. Written comments may be emailed to EPDComments@dnr.ga.gov or sent via regular mail addressed to: Branch Chief, Watershed Protection Branch, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Suite 1152, Atlanta, Georgia 30334. If you choose to e-mail your comments, please include the words "Rules for Water Quality Control" in the subject line to help ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the correct staff.

The proposed rule amendments will be considered for adoption by the Board of Natural Resources at its meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 in the DNR Board Room located at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 1252, East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334. The meeting is open to the public.

The proposed rule amendments are proposed for adoption pursuant to authority contained in the O.C.G.A. §§ 12-5-20 et seq.

For more information, please contact James Capp at (404) 463-4911.