

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO GEORGIA'S RULES FOR AIR QUALITY CONTROL
CHAPTER 391-3-1**

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 Georgia's Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1 (hereinafter, "the proposed Air Rule Amendments"). The Director of EPD certifies that the revisions to rule 391-3-1-.02 are required to comply with Section 110(a) of the Federal Clean Air Act and to exercise authority approved and/or delegated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to implement Section 110 of the Federal Clean Air Act. The proposed Air Rule Amendments are described below:

Rule 391-3-1-.02(5), "Open Burning," is being revised to clarify the exemption for leaves by changing "leaves" to "leaf piles" and adding "yard debris" and "hand-piled natural vegetation" to the exemption. This will make EPD's rule consistent with the permitting requirements in the Georgia Forest Fire Protection Act, Section 12-6-90. This rule is also being revised to remove Catoosa, Jackson, and Spalding counties from the current list of counties subject to year-round open burning restrictions and return to the previous list of counties which can be defined as counties with a population exceeding 65,000 as of the 2010 Census.

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed Air Rule Amendments, a synopsis, and a statement of rationale of the rule revisions, 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/chapter-391-3-1-air-quality-control> or by appointment only during the COVID-19 pandemic at the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Air Protection Branch, 4244 International Parkway, Suite 104, Atlanta, Georgia 30354. To set an appointment, email askepd@dnr.ga.gov with your name, email and phone number and an associate will reach out to you. Copies may also be requested by contacting Steve Allison, Steve.Allison2@dnr.ga.gov, Anna Aponte, Anna.Aponte1@dnr.ga.gov, or the Environmental Protection Division Director's Office at askepd@dnr.ga.gov.

To provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed Air Rule Amendments, a public hearing will be held at 2:00 p.m. on June 30, 2022. EPD will be hosting this public hearing via Zoom. Zoom is a free web conferencing platform that also allows participation by phone.

To log into the public hearing on your computer, please click this link or copy and paste it into your browser to join the meeting:

<https://gaepd.zoom.us/j/91338520653?pwd=M3YvZzZabWVaZ2cvdzM0bDdya1k2dz09>

To ensure that you are ready to participate when the meeting begins, we recommend that you download Zoom in advance. Zoom can be found here: <https://zoom.us>

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

The meeting ID is 913 3852 0653
Passcode: 834758

Please note that if you choose to participate by phone, your phone number may be visible to other meeting attendees.

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

Written comments are welcomed. To ensure their inclusion in EPD's package for the Board of Natural Resources, written comments should be received by close of business on July 7, 2022. Written comments may be emailed to EPDComments@dnr.state.ga.us or sent via regular mail addressed to: Branch Chief, Air Protection Branch, 4244 International Parkway, Suite 120, Atlanta, Georgia, 30354.

The proposed Air Rule Amendments will be considered for adoption by the Board of Natural Resources at its meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 2022. The meeting will be open to the public and held at the Charlie Elliott Wildlife Center Banquet Room – Dining Hall located at 543 Elliott Trail, Mansfield, GA 30055.

The proposed Air Rule Amendments are proposed for adoption pursuant to authority contained in the Georgia Air Quality Act (O.C.G.A. Section 12-9-1 et. seq.). For further information, contact Anna Aponte, (470) 251-2942 at the Air Protection Branch.