

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
WATERSHED PROTECTION BRANCH

November 24, 2020  
Advisory Issue Date

Watkinsville/Oconee  
City/County

December 24, 2020  
Advisory Close Date

BV-108-20-02  
Control Number

State Route (SR) 53 from SR 24/US 441 to County Road (CR) 274/Hog Mountain-Phase II  
Oconee County (PI#0009011)  
(GPS Coordinates: 33.871396, -83.430803)

Activity

This notice is issued to inform the public of a receipt of an Application for a variance submitted pursuant to a state environmental law. The public is invited to comment during the 30-day period on the proposed activity. Site Plans are available for review and are located in the following EPD office: Watershed Protection Branch 200 Piedmont Avenue, S.W. Suite 418 West Atlanta, Georgia 30334. Please contact Ms. Arnettia Murphy at (404) 656-4157 or e-mail [arnettia.murphy@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:arnettia.murphy@dnr.ga.gov) to schedule an appointment to review the plans. Since the EPD has no authority to zone property or determine land use, only those comments addressing environmental issues related to air, water, and land protection will be considered in the application review process. Written comments should be submitted to: Program Manager, NonPoint Source Program, Erosion and Sedimentation Control, 2 MLK Jr., Dr., SW Suite 1462 East, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

Type of Permit Application: Variance to encroach within the 25-foot State waters buffer.

Applicable Law: Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act O.C.G.A. 12-7-1 et seq.

Applicable Rules: Erosion and Sedimentation Control Chapter 391-3-7

Basis under which variance shall be considered {391-3-7.05 (2)(a-k)}: a

Description and Location of Proposed Activity: The Georgia Department of Transportation will be widening a 1.14-mile-long section of SR 53/Mars Hill Road from SR 24/US 441 to CR 274/Hog Mountain Road in Oconee County. The proposed project would impact the Perennial Stream (PS) 4 buffer for 525 square feet/72 linear feet. The disturbance will consist of the clearing and replacement of the existing mixed/pine/hardwood forest with riparian grass. The result of this disturbance will be the diminished ability for water runoff to be infiltrate the soil and be filtered prior to entering the stream, as well as the decreased functionality of the riparian area surrounding the stream. These disturbances will be mitigated for with the placement of orange barrier fence, best management practices, and the purchase of offsite mitigation credits.

Name and Address of Permit Applicant:

Mr. Eric Duff  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
Office of Environmental Services

600 W. Peachtree Street, NW, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Summary of Rules Requirements for Variance Application:

The application for a variance must include an approved Erosion and Sediment Control Plan with control measures based on sound conservation and engineering practices which meet or exceed the standards in the "Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia" and which will minimize erosion and deposition of sediments on adjacent lands or into State waters.

For Additional Information Contact:

Andres H. Santana, Environmental Specialist  
EPD, Watershed Protection Branch  
NonPoint Source Program  
2 MLK, Jr. Dr. S.W., Suite 1462 East  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Telephone: 404.463.3142    FAX: 404.651.8556