

December 20, 2024

**NOTICE OF THE OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION
AIR PROTECTION BRANCH**

STATE OF GEORGIA

NOTICE OF DRAFT PM_{2.5} EXCEPTIONAL EVENT DEMONSTRATIONS

To All Interested Parties:

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) announces its intent to submit final *Exceptional Event Demonstrations* to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for 129 event days. Georgia EPD is required to post draft *Exceptional Event Demonstrations* for a 30-day public comment period as part of the exceptional event regulations (72 FR at 13560).

Exceptional events are unusual or naturally occurring events that can affect air quality but are not reasonably controllable. When EPA concurs with an exceptional event, that data can be excluded from the design value used for comparison to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

Georgia EPD's air monitoring network consists of a number of stations located throughout the state. Georgia EPD uses air monitoring data to track attainment with air quality standards, to assist in enforcement actions, to determine air quality trends, to evaluate and approve industrial expansion, and to provide air pollution information to the public. Georgia EPD's 2021-2023 *Exceptional Event Demonstrations* will demonstrate that Georgia EPD's PM_{2.5} ambient air monitoring network was impacted by multiple exceptional events throughout the 2021-2023 timeframe.

The following draft *Exceptional Event Demonstrations* are available for comment:

- *Draft Prescribed Fire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS at Augusta, GA in 2021-2023*, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 02/04/2021, 02/25/2021, 02/26/2021, 02/27/2021, 02/28/2021, 03/09/2021, 03/10/2021, 03/13/2021, 04/07/2021, 04/08/2021, 04/28/2021, 07/23/2021, 10/15/2021, 11/10/2021, 12/02/2021, 12/04/2021, 12/05/2021, 12/06/2021, 12/16/2021, 03/03/2022, 12/28/2022, 03/01/2023, 03/16/2023, 04/20/2023, 11/06/2023, 11/07/2023, 11/09/2023, 12/07/2023, and 12/08/2023.

- *Draft Canadian Wildfire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS at Augusta, GA in 2023*, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 06/09/2023, 06/10/2023, 06/18/2023, 06/29/2023, 06/30/2023, 07/01/2023, 07/18/2023, and 08/23/2023.
- *Draft Holiday Fireworks Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS at Augusta, GA in 2021-2023*, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 07/04/2021, 07/05/2021, and 07/04/2023.
- *Draft Prescribed Fire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS at Columbus, GA in 2021-2023*, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 03/08/2021, 03/14/2021, 02/10/2022, 03/03/2022, 02/08/2023, 03/01/2023, and 03/07/2023.
- *Draft Canadian Wildfire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS at Columbus, GA in 2023*, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 06/29/2023 and 07/17/2023.
- *Draft Prescribed Fire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS at Macon, GA in 2021-2023*, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 04/07/2021, 12/03/2021, 03/03/2022, 03/07/2023, 10/03/2023, and 11/08/2023.
- *Draft Canadian Wildfire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS at Macon, GA in 2023*, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 06/29/2023, 07/17/2023, 07/20/2023, 07/26/2023, and 08/25/2023.
- *Draft Prescribed Fire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS at Sandersville, GA in 2021-2023*, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 03/13/2021, 04/07/2021, 04/08/2021, 01/15/2022, 01/31/2022, 02/01/2022, 02/11/2022, 02/12/2022, 02/14/2022, 02/15/2022, 03/03/2022, 03/04/2022, 03/29/2022, 05/18/2022, 09/21/2022, 09/22/2022, 10/07/2022, 10/24/2022, 10/25/2022, 11/02/2022, 11/03/2022, 11/18/2022, 11/19/2022, 11/21/2022, 12/28/2022, 12/29/2022, 01/02/2023, 01/08/2023, 01/10/2023, 01/11/2023, 01/17/2023, 01/29/2023, 02/07/2023, 02/24/2023, 02/28/2023, 03/01/2023, 03/05/2023, 03/07/2023, 03/08/2023, 03/09/2023, 03/21/2023, 11/05/2023, 11/06/2023, 11/07/2023, 11/08/2023, 11/09/2023, and 11/30/2023.
- *Draft Canadian Wildfire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS at Sandersville, GA in 2023*, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 06/06/2023, 06/09/2023, 06/10/2023, 06/18/2023, 06/27/2023, 06/28/2023, 06/29/2023, 06/30/2023, 07/01/2023, 07/17/2023, 07/18/2023, 07/19/2023, 07/20/2023, 07/26/2023, 08/23/2023, and 08/25/2023.

- *Draft Canadian Wildfire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS at Atlanta, GA in 2023*, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 06/29/2023 and 07/17/2023.
- *Draft Canadian Wildfire Exceptional Event Demonstration for Exceedances of the 2024 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS at Rossville, GA in 2023*, which covers exceptional events on the following dates: 06/08/2023, 06/17/2023, 06/29/2023, and 07/17/2023.

The draft *2021-2023 Exceptional Event Demonstrations* are posted for review on the Georgia EPD Air Protection Branch website: <https://epd.georgia.gov/air-protection-branch/air-branch-programs/planning-and-support-program/exceptional-event>.

Those wishing to comment on the draft *2021-2023 Exceptional Event Demonstrations* are required to submit their comments, in writing, to Georgia EPD. Written comments can be emailed to EPD.comments@dnr.ga.gov or sent via regular mail addressed to: James W. Boylan, Air Protection Branch, 4244 International Parkway, Suite 120, Atlanta, Georgia, 30354. Comments must be received by Georgia EPD no later than 4:30 PM on January 21, 2025. After the comment period has expired, Georgia EPD will take into consideration all comments received prior to the deadline. Georgia EPD's responses to comments and any other relevant information will be included in the final *Exceptional Event Demonstrations* submitted to EPA.

For additional information, please contact James W. Boylan (Chief, Air Protection Branch) at (470) 524-0697, and refer to this notice when requesting information.