

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A LISTING OF WATERBODIES PURSUANT TO
SECTION 303(d) OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT
AND
NOTICE OF GEORGIA'S PRIORITIZATION OF WATERS UNDER U.S. EPA'S LONG-
TERM VISION OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 303(d) PROGRAM

February 4, 2022

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that the State of Georgia has completed the compilation of a list of waters in accordance with Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. The listing was produced by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division in accordance with U. S. Environmental Protection Agency rules and guidelines.

The draft 2022 305(b)/303(d) list package may be found at <https://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch/watershed-planning-and-monitoring-program/water-quality-georgia>. In addition, the package may be reviewed by appointment only during normal business hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday (except official State holidays or EPD office closures) at the following location: Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch, 200 Piedmont Ave. S.W., Suite 418, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, (404) 463-1511.

A single copy of the draft 2022 305(b)/303(d) List package is available by written or phone request to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. Please direct requests to Ms. Arnettia Murphy at the address or phone number given above. If additional copies are requested, a copying charge of 10 cents per page will be assessed.

Written comments are welcomed. To ensure their consideration, written comments should be received on or before 4:30 p.m. March 9, 2022. Written comments should be addressed to Susan Salter, Watershed Protection Branch, Watershed Planning and Monitoring Program, 2 MLK, Jr. Dr. S.W., Suite 1152 East, Atlanta, GA 30334. Comments may be emailed to EPD.Comments@dnr.ga.gov. If you choose to e-mail your comments, please be sure to include the words "305b/303d List" somewhere in the subject line to help ensure your comments will be forwarded to the correct staff.

A public meeting will be held on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 1:00 pm to answer questions and accept comments on the draft List. EPD will host this public meeting via Zoom web conferencing platform. Zoom is a free web conferencing platform that also allows participation by phone. To participate in the public meeting, please click the following link or copy and paste it into your browser:

<https://gaepd.zoom.us/j/92664302600?pwd=YVkxbDIRNmFaRHRTaWo1SzVJeDk1dz09>

Meeting ID: 926 6430 2600

Passcode: 639509

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

In addition to informing the public about the draft 2022 305(b)/303(d) List, this notice serves to inform the public about a new Vision document that is being prepared by U.S. EPA. In December 2013 U.S. EPA released a new Long-Term Vision for Assessment, Restoration, and Protection of waters under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) Program. In accordance with this Vision, GA EPD developed a Priority Framework describing how GA EPD would prioritize waters on the 303(d) List for development of TMDLs or TMDL Alternatives. A List of Priority Waters was also developed. Under the Long-Term Vision, states were to complete TMDLs or TMDL alternatives for their Priority Waters by 2022. Georgia has completed all the TMDLs or TMDL alternatives on our Priority List of Waters. U.S. EPA is currently working on developing new Long-Term Vision Guidance documents that they plan to complete by Fall of 2022. Under this new Vision Document, states will develop a new Priority Framework that will guide the decision process on what TMDLs, TMDL Alternatives or Protection Plans will be prioritized for completion. There will be opportunities for public involvement in development of Georgia's new Priority Framework once U.S. EPA finishes its New Long-Term Vision guidance documents. The New Vision period will begin in 2024.

To bridge the time period from the end of the first and the start of the second Long-Term Visions, USEPA has asked States to develop a List of Priority Waters for which TMDLs, TMDL Alternatives or Protection Plans will be drafted in 2023 and 2024. During our "bridge period", EPD is planning to focus on bacteria TMDLs. EPD is working to change the State's bacteria criteria from fecal coliform to *E. coli* or enterococci for all designated uses. As part of this process, EPD plans to complete all TMDLs for waters in Category 5 for fecal coliform before 2024. In addition, EPD plans to develop addendum for each existing TMDL for fecal coliform bacteria to address the new bacteria criteria (*E. coli* or enterococci) and will provide the appropriate TMDL and WLAs for the new bacteria criteria.

For further information regarding the draft 2022 305(b)/303(d) List, contact Ms. Susan Salter, Watershed Planning and Monitoring Program, (470) 524-0731 or at Susan.Salter@dnr.ga.gov. For further information about the new Long-Term Vision process, please contact Tyler Parsons at 470-524-1724 or at Tyler.Parsons@dnr.ga.gov. Please bring the foregoing to the attention of persons whom you believe would be interested in this matter.