

January 30, 2025

To All Interested Parties:

RE: Request for data for use in Georgia's 2026 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters

The purpose of this notice is to 1) advise you that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is requesting data for use in the development of the 2026 305(b)/303(d) List; 2) provide information about requirements for data acceptance; and 3) provide information as to where and when these data are to be submitted. If you do not have data that you want EPD to consider in development of the 2026 305(b)/303(d) List, then no action is required.

In accordance with the Federal Clean Water Act, Sections 305(b) and 303(d), EPD is gathering water quality data to be used in the biennial assessment of State waters for Georgia's 2026 305(b)/303(d) List. These data and the subsequent assessment of water quality health will inform EPD's [Watershed Protection Branch](#) program activities and provide the public with information on the streams, rivers, lakes, beaches, and estuaries that they use every day. While most of the data used in the development of the 305(b)/303(d) List are collected by EPD or its sister agencies in the Department of Natural Resources, EPD will also use data collected by third parties if they meet the requirements set forth in The Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control.

The Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control, [Chapter 391-3-6-.03](#) Paragraph (13) -Acceptance of Data requires that data used for 305(b)/303(d) listing decisions be collected under an EPD approved Sampling Quality Assurance Plan (SQAP). The document "[Guidance on Submitting Water Quality Data for Use by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division in 305\(b\)/303\(d\) Listing Assessments](#)" contains specific instructions for developing an approvable SQAP. Copies of this guidance document may be viewed at EPD's [305\(b\)/303\(d\) webpage](#). SQAPs should be approved prior to data collection activities. If data were collected prior to the approval of a SQAP, the party who collected the data may submit a SQAP to EPD that describes how and where the data were collected and analyzed. If the data collection and analysis methods described in the SQAP meet the requirements in the SQAP guidance document, then EPD would be able to use the data for 305(b)/303(d) listing decisions.

If you have water quality data that were collected from January 2023 through June 2025 that you would like to be considered in the development of the 2026 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters, the data should be submitted to EPD no later than July 31, 2025. If you collect data at a site every year, please provide the data from the last five and a half years (January 2020 – June 2025). Data submissions should include all measured or analyzed results in tabular format including result units, the date and time of collection, each monitoring location description, the location latitude and longitude (in decimal degrees), detection or reporting limits for any analysis result given as "not detected" or similar, and any other

January 30, 2025

pertinent information that may be helpful in our water quality evaluation. Electronic data submissions are strongly preferred and may be sent directly to both [susan.salter@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:susan.salter@dnr.ga.gov) and [tyler.parsons@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:tyler.parsons@dnr.ga.gov). If you choose to mail your submission you can send it to the address below.

Mailing Address:

Ms. Susan Salter  
GA EPD – Watershed Protection Branch, TMDL Modeling and Development Unit  
2 MLK, Jr. Dr. S.E.  
Suite 1470A, East Tower  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334