

SYNOPSIS**Proposed Amendments to Rules for Public Water Systems to Improve Water Supply Efficiency, Chapter 391-3-33**

The proposed amendments to the Rules for Public Water Systems to Improve Water Supply Efficiency would amend **Rule 391-3-33-.05** to apply the requirements and provisions of paragraph (3) to purchased water systems when they renew their drinking water permit.

Purpose: EPD proposes to amend Rule 391-3-33-.05 to make clear that public water systems serving at least 3,300 individuals that do not otherwise hold a water withdrawal permit (referred to as “purchased water systems”) are required to demonstrate progress toward improving water supply efficiency when renewing their drinking water permit, and that the Director may take permitting action where such system fails to demonstrate progress. The Rules for Public Water Systems to Improve Water Supply Efficiency, Chapter 391-3-33, apply to all public water systems that serve at least 3,300 individuals. The proposed amendments would address a category of those systems that was unintentionally left out of the adoption of this rule chapter in 2015.

Main Features: The proposed amendments include revisions to language in paragraph (3)(b), and the addition of subparagraphs (3)(b)3. and (3)(c)3. The revised language in paragraph (3)(b) and subparagraph (3)(b)3. incorporates applications to renew a Permit to Operate a Public Water System by purchased water system among the applications in which demonstration of progress toward improving water supply efficiency must be documented. Consistent with the other subparagraph under (3)(c), subparagraph (3)(c)3. addresses the action the EPD Director may take where a purchased water system fails to demonstrate progress toward improving water supply efficiency in their renewal application, up to and including a denial of the permit.

RULES FOR PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS TO IMPROVE WATER SUPPLY EFFICIENCY, CHAPTER 391-3-33

391-3-33-.05, “Water Supply Efficiency Improvement.” is being amended to update language in paragraph (3)(b), and to add subparagraphs under (3)(b) and (3)(c), to apply the requirements and provisions of paragraph (3) to purchased water systems that are renewing their Permit to Operate a Public Water System.

STATEMENT OF RATIONALE**Proposed Amendments to Rules for Public Water Systems to Improve Water Supply Efficiency, Chapter 391-3-33**

The Rules for Public Water Systems to Improve Water Supply Efficiency, Chapter 391-3-33, were adopted in 2015 to respond to O.C.G.A. §12-5-4.1(b), which specifically directs the DNR Board to adopt rules for minimum standards and best practices for monitoring and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of water use by public water systems to improve water conservation. Chapter 391-3-33 applies to all public water systems that serve at least 3,300 individuals. Rule 391-3-33-.05, “Water Supply Efficiency Improvement”, includes the requirements for public water systems to develop and implement a water loss control program (paragraph (1)), to establish their own individualized goals (paragraph (2)), and to make progress toward improving water supply efficiency over time (paragraph (3)). Paragraph (3) also states that if public water systems fail to make progress toward improving water supply efficiency over time, the EPD Director would consider that information when making permitting decisions.

As adopted in 2015, Rule 391-3-33-.05 applies the requirements of paragraphs (1) and (2) to all public water systems that serve at least 3,300 individuals. The requirements of paragraph (3), however, only require those systems to demonstrate progress toward improving water supply efficiency in three instances: in applications to increase a public water system’s permitted drinking water service connections, in applications to increase the limit of a public water system’s water withdrawal permit, or in applications to renew a public water system’s water withdrawal permit. The proposed amendments would apply the requirements of paragraph (3) to public water systems serving at least 3,300 individuals that do not otherwise hold a water withdrawal permit (referred to as “purchased water systems”) during their application to renew their drinking water permit. This type of scenario was unintentionally missed during the adoption of this rule chapter in 2015. However, because these purchased water systems are already implementing water loss control programs and have established individualized goals, the proposed rule amendments would make clear that such systems will also document their progress toward improving water supply efficiency when submitting their drinking water permit renewal applications. The proposed rule amendments will also enable the EPD Director to consider such demonstration of progress when making a decision on the renewal applications.