

Georgia Department of Natural Resources **Environmental Protection Division**

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Georgia EPD Receives Federal Approval to Adjust Summer Gasoline Requirements

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has received formal approval to lift its requirement that a special blend of summer gasoline known as Georgia gas be sold in 45 counties surrounding metropolitan Atlanta.

This action means that 32 counties in that group will no longer be required to sell specially formulated gasoline, which has added cost to consumers. The counties are: Barrow, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Dawson, Hall, Haralson, Jackson, Newton, Pickens, Spalding, Walton, Banks, Chattooga, Clarke, Floyd, Gordon, Heard, Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Lumpkin, Madison, Meriwether, Monroe, Morgan, Oconee, Pike, Polk, Putnam, Troup, and Upson.

Georgia gas also will no longer be required in the 13-county metro area where summer ozone affects air quality. It will be replaced by another clean burning federally approved gasoline. Those counties include Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Henry, Paulding and Rockdale.

“Changes in the formula for federal gasoline have made it equivalent to Georgia gas,” said Karen Hays, chief of the EPD Air Protection Branch. “Therefore there is no longer a compelling reason to require a unique gasoline for Georgia.”

Georgia’s Gasoline Marketing Rule had been in place since 2003. EPD began working in 2012 to repeal the rule and the Board of Natural Resources approved the proposal in 2014. The final step in the process is removal of the rule from the State Implementation Plan, which EPA approved this week and published in the Federal Register.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates the federal gasoline, which is used throughout the country. Since the summer ozone season ends September 15 the change will not be seen until summer 2016.

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