

Public Notice on EPD's Review of Current Regulations Relating to Aquifer Storage and Recovery

HR 1198, adopted during the 2016 session of the Georgia General Assembly, directs the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to review its current regulations as they relate to aquifer storage and recovery to ensure that they are sufficient to provide for the protection and preservation of the state's aquifers, to revise such regulations when necessary, and to consider the availability of other water supply sources in the permitting of any potential aquifer storage and recovery project. HR 1198 also directs EPD to issue a report detailing its review of current regulations relating to aquifer storage and recovery to the Board of Natural Resources.

As specified by HR1198, EPD has completed its review of the existing body of regulations. A draft report with an overview of current regulations and preliminary findings has been prepared for public review and comment. Note that, at this time, EPD does not have any applications for an ASR project and is not aware of any ASR projects in Georgia in the design or planning stages.

The draft report is available for review at the following link:

https://epd.georgia.gov/sites/epd.georgia.gov/files/related_files/site_page/HR1198_Public_Review_Draft_Report.pdf

A copy of the draft report may also be requested by contacting the Watershed Protection Branch at (404) 463-1511.

EPD will hold a public meeting to discuss the draft report and preliminary findings, to answer questions, and to receive input from the public before EPD provides a report to the Board of Natural Resources. The public meeting will be held at the following time and location:

Monday, July 31, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the EPD Training Center located at 4244 International Parkway, Suite 116, Atlanta, Georgia 30354.

At the public meeting, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument either orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, should be submitted in writing.

Written comments on the draft report are also welcomed. In order to be considered in EPD's report to the Board of Natural Resources, written comments should be received by close of business on August 14, 2017. Written comments may be emailed to

EPDComments@dnr.ga.gov or sent via regular mail addressed to Gail Cowie, Watershed Protection Branch, 2 MLK Jr. Drive, SW, Suite 1152, East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia, 30334. If you choose to e-mail your comments, please include the words “EPD Review of Current Regulations Relating to ASR” in the subject line to help ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the correct staff.

EPD plans to provide a report to the Board of Natural Resources during its meeting at 9:00 a.m. on September 27, 2017 at the DNR Board Room, 2 MLK Jr. Drive SE, Suite 1252 East, Atlanta, Georgia 30334. The meeting is open to the public.

For further information, please contact Gail Cowie of the Watershed Protection Branch at Gail.Cowie@dnr.ga.gov or (404) 657-5739.