

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO GEORGIA'S RULES FOR FLINT RIVER DROUGHT PROTECTION,
CHAPTER 391-3-28**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Environmental Protection Division (hereinafter, "EPD") of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources proposes amendments to the Rules for Flint River Drought Protection, Chapter 391-3-28 (hereinafter, "the proposed Rule amendments").

The proposed Rule amendments include amending Rules 391-3-28-.01 through .07, and adding new Rules 391-3-28-.15 and .16, to ensure consistency between the Rules and the 2014 amendments to the Flint River Drought Protection Act (SB 213). These amendments incorporate specific updates to the purpose, definitions, severe drought, and irrigation reduction auction provisions of the rules. Two new rules are being proposed to address two new provisions of the Flint River Drought Protection Act relating to irrigation efficiency requirements and the management of augmented flows during the operation of state funded augmentation projects.

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed Rule amendments, a synopsis, and a statement of rationale of the rule revisions, is being provided to all persons who have requested in writing that they be placed on a notification list. These documents may be viewed at <http://environet.dnr.state.ga.us/28> or during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch file room, 2 MLK Jr. Drive, SW, West Tower, Balcony, Suite 418, Atlanta, Georgia, 30334. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Watershed Protection Branch at (404) 463-1511 or the Environmental Protection Division Director's Office at 1-888-373-5947.

To provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed Rule amendments, a public hearing will be held on September 23, 2014 at the following location:

September 23, 2014 (6:30 pm – 8:00 pm); Mitchell EMC Headquarters Auditorium;
475 Hwy. 112 (Cairo Rd.), Camilla, GA 31730.

At the public hearing, 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 nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted in writing for the official record. Oral statements should be concise.

Written comments are welcomed. In order to be included in EPD's summary to the Board of Natural Resources, written comments should be received by close of business (4:30 p.m.) on **September 29, 2014**. Written comments may be emailed to: EPDComments@dnr.state.ga.us or sent via regular mail addressed to Branch Chief, Watershed Protection Branch; 2 MLK Jr. Drive, SW, Suite 1152, East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia, 30334. If you choose to email your comments, please include the words "Flint River Drought Protection Rules" in the subject line to help ensure that your comments are forwarded to the correct staff.

The proposed Rule amendments will be considered for adoption by the Board of Natural Resources at its meeting at 9:00 a.m. on December 2, 2014 at the Campus Center Ballroom; West Georgia Drive; University of West Georgia, Carrollton, GA 30118. The meeting is open to the public.

The proposed Rule amendments are proposed for adoption pursuant to authority contained in the Flint River Drought Protection Act (O.C.G.A. § 12-5-540, et seq.). For more information, contact Jennifer Welte at (404) 463-1694.