

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
GEORGIA'S RULES FOR OUTDOOR WATER USE, CHAPTER 391-3-30;
RULES FOR GROUNDWATER USE, CHAPTER 391-3-2; AND
RULES FOR WATER QUALITY CONTROL, CHAPTER 391-3-6**

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 Outdoor Water Use, Chapter 391-3-30, Rules for Groundwater Use, Chapter 391-3-2, and Rules for Water Quality Control, 391-3-6 (hereinafter, "proposed rule amendments").

Rules for Outdoor Water Use, Chapter 391-3-30

The proposed amendments to the Rules for Outdoor Water Use include amending Rules 391-3-30-.01 through .06 to replace the provisions relating to Outdoor Water Use with provisions relating to Drought Management, and adding new Rules 391-3-30-.07 and .08 relating to Drought Management. The title of Chapter 391-3-30 would be changed to "**Drought Management**." The new Rules for Drought Management are responsive to the requirement under O.C.G.A. § 12-5-8 for the DNR Board to adopt new rules relating to drought management, and are consistent with the provisions of O.C.G.A. § 12-5-7 and other Georgia Code sections charging EPD with the responsibility to ensure that water resources are responsibly conserved.

Rules for Groundwater Use, Chapter 391-3-2

Amendments to Rule 391-3-2-.04, "Permit Application. Amended.", of Chapter 391-3-2, Groundwater Use, are proposed to address consistency between the drought contingency plan requirements of these rules and the requirements of the proposed Rules for Drought Management.

Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6

Amendments to Rule 391-3-6-.07, "Surface Water Withdrawals. Amended", of Chapter 391-3-6, Water Quality Control, are proposed to address consistency between the drought contingency plan requirements of these rules and the requirements of the proposed Rules for Drought Management.

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule amendments, a synopsis, and a statement of rationale of the proposed rule amendments, 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/30> 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, public hearings will be held on May 5, 2015 at the following location:

Tuesday, May 5, 2015 (1:00 pm – 3:30 pm); in the EPD Training Center located at 4244 International Parkway, Suite 116, Atlanta, Georgia 30354. During this time period, the proposed rule amendments will be addressed in the following order:

- Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Outdoor Water Use, Chapter 391-3-30
- Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Groundwater Use, Chapter 391-3-2
- Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Water Quality Control, 391-3-6

The public hearings for each proposed rule amendment will run in succession. The first public hearing (Chapter 391-3-30) will begin at 1:00 pm and continue until 2:30 or until no further comments are received, whichever occurs earlier, at which time the next public hearing (Chapter 391-3-2) will begin. Once all comments are received on proposed amendments to Chapter 391-3-2, or no later than 3:00 p.m., the public hearing for proposed amendments to Chapter 391-3-6 will begin.

At the public hearings, 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 **May 13, 2015**. 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 "Drought Management Rules" in the subject line to help ensure that your comments are forwarded to the correct staff. In your written comments, please indicate which Chapter and/or Rule of the proposed rule amendments you are addressing.

The proposed rule amendments will be considered for adoption by the Board of Natural Resources at its meeting at 9:00 a.m. on June 24, 2015 in the DNR Board Room located at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Suite 1252, East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334. The meeting is open to the public.

The proposed rule amendments noted above are proposed for adoption pursuant to authority contained in O.C.G.A. §§ 12-5-7 and 12-5-8, 12-5-20 et seq., 12-5-90 et seq., 12-5-170 et seq., 12-5-520 et seq., and 12-5-570 et seq.

For more information, contact Nap Caldwell at (404) 463-4348.