

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS
TO GEORGIA'S RULES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING CRITERIA
CHAPTER 391-3-16**

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 an Amendment to Georgia's Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria, Chapter 391-3-16 (hereinafter, "the proposed rule Amendment"). The proposed rule amendment includes revision to Rule 391-3-16-.01 as follows:

Rule 391-3-16-.01, "Water Supply Watersheds," is being amended to clarify that local ordinances providing for the protection of required stream buffers may also contain provisions for alternative buffer widths that specify a set of guidelines that determines the amount of buffer and requirements for other guidelines that must be followed.

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://gaepd.org/environment/16> or during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Watershed Protection Branch at 404/675-6232 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 Amendment, two public hearings will be held at **6:00 p.m.** at the following dates/locations:

May 22, 2007, Dahlonega City Hall, 465 Riley Road, Dahlonega, GA 30533

May 24, 2007, Dalton Utilities, 1200 V. D. Parrott, Jr. Parkway, Dalton, GA 30722

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 or economic 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. To ensure their inclusion in EPD's briefing package for the Board of Natural Resources, written comments should be received by close of business June 6, 2007. Written comments may be emailed to EPDComments@dnr.state.ga.us or sent via regular mail addressed to: Dr. Becky Champion, Assistant Chief, Watershed Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia, 30354.

The proposed rule amendment will be considered for adoption at its meeting on June 27, 2007 at 9:00 a.m., in the DNR Board Room, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E., Suite 1252, East Floyd Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334. The meeting is open to the public. The proposed rule amendment is proposed for adoption pursuant to authority contained in the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, O.C.G.A. § 12-5-20, et seq.

For further information, contact the Watershed Protection Branch at 404/675-6232.

