

SYNOPSIS

AMENDMENT TO RULES FOR FLINT RIVER DROUGHT PROTECTION

The proposed amendments to the Flint River Drought Protection Rules provide clarification to the agricultural withdrawals eligible for participation in voluntary severe drought irrigation cessation programs. The revisions (1) Provide definitions for a “Fixed Irrigation System”, (2) Clarify geographic areas for eligible agricultural withdrawal permit holders, (3) Require installation of an approved flow meter for eligibility, and (4) Provide for consideration of fixed irrigation systems.

STATEMENT OF RATIONALE

The basis of this rule amendment is the Flint River Drought Protection Act and suggestions from the Flint River Regional Water Development and Conservation Plan Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The purpose of the amendment is to specify eligibility for participation in the voluntary irrigation cessation program during severe droughts.

The rules are based on scientific studies performed in conjunction with the Flint River Water Conservation and Development Plan (available on EPD’s website www.gaepd.org).

These rules will have no financial impact on EPD or agricultural water users.