

Minutes
Environmental Protection Committee
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, S. E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

February 24, 2014

Attending:

Committee Members

Ray Lambert, Chairman
Walter Hudson, Vice Chairman
William Bagwell
Dwight Evans
Aaron McWhorter
Paul Shailendra
Philip Wilheit, Jr., Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Bill Jones
Rob Leebern
Mark Mobley
Brother Stewart
Philip Watt
Dee Yancey

Visitors

Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Michael Pisciotta, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club
Chris Manganiello
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power Corporation
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance
Hunter Hopkins, Georgia Petroleum Council
J. Wong, Troutman Sanders
Buck Dixon
Leah Barnette

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Homer Bryson
Dave Crass
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Steve Friedman
Kyle Pearson
Lauren Curry
Cathy Barnette
Taylor Brown
Jeff Cown
Mary Walker
Stephen Adams
Jac Capp
Bill Donahue
Doralyn Kirkland
Russ Pennington
Keith Bentley

The February 24, 2014 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Chairman Philip Wilheit.

Chairman Wilheit called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee.

Chairman Lambert called on Jac Capp, Chief of the Watershed Protection Branch, to present the proposed amendments to Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, pertaining to land disposal of septage.

Mr. Capp stated in 2006 the Senate Septage Disposal Study Committee recommended transferring authority to regulate land disposal of septage from the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) to the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) as of July 1, 2012. He further stated in 2007 the law was changed as recommended.

Mr. Capp stated in 2010 EPD developed a general permit to cover sites formerly regulated by DPH. He further stated concerns were raised that permit requirements were cost prohibitive for small pumpers. He added in 2012, due to these concerns, the legislature approved a two year delay in the transition to July 1, 2014.

Mr. Capp stated EPD has worked with industry groups to create a two-tiered permitting system.

Mr. Capp stated the proposed rule change provides for the issuance of a general permit to cover multiple similar operations and provides for a smooth transition for EPD's assumption of the authority to regulate all land disposal sites as of July 1, 2014.

Mr. Capp stated the Board was briefed on the proposed rule change at the December 3, 2013 Board meeting. He further stated a public hearing was held on January 21, 2014.

Mr. Capp stated he would request the committee recommend that the Board approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. McWhorter, seconded by Mr. Bagwell and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to the Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, pertaining to land disposal of septage, as presented.

Chairman Lambert called on Keith Bentley, Chief of the Air Protection Branch, to brief the Board on the proposed amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, pertaining to permit fees.

Mr. Bentley stated the permit fee program has been in place since the 1990 Clean Air Act. He further stated permit fees in Georgia have risen at a relatively low rate. He added in 2013 fees were raised for the first time in four years.

Mr. Bentley stated EPD recommends keeping all fees identical to 2013. He further stated FY2017-2018 will be challenging because Georgia Power will be retooling plants to convert to gas and closing plants. He added EPD will engage with stakeholders over the next year about this issue.

Mr. Bentley stated public notice for the proposed amendments will begin in early March. He further stated a public hearing would be held on April 3, 2014. He added EPD will request adoption of the rule change by the Board at the May 2014 Board meeting.

Discussion ensued on the process of running the program following plants converting to natural gas.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.