

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

Tuesday, January 23, 2024
9:00 a.m.

Committee Members

Ray Lambert, Chair
Dan Garcia, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison
Patrick Denney
Joe Hatfield
Kevin Jackson
Lesley Reynolds
Paul Shailendra
Bodine Sinyard
Dwight Davis, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Mark Hennessy
Penn Hodge
Duncan Johnson
Bill Jones
Tim Lowe
Gary Vowell
Harley Yancey

Guests

Bryan Tolar, GA Urban Ag Council
Rena Peck, Georgia River Network
Dave Williams, Capitol Beat News Service
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Nic Matthews, Office of Planning and Budget
Jud Turner, Gilbert Harrell Law Firm

Staff Members

Walter Rabon, Commissioner
Thomas Barnard
Trevor Santos
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Artica Gaston
Cathy Barnette
Alexus Thompson
Mike England
Steve Friedman
Doug Haymans
Angie Johnson
Ted Will
Jill Andrews
Ouicia Jolly
Soheila Naji

Jeff Cown, Director
James Boylan
Chuck Mueller
Anna Truszczynski
Walter Rabon, Commissioner

The January 23, 2024 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Chairman Dwight Davis.

Chairman Davis called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee. Mr. Lambert called on James Boylan, Chief of the Air Protection Branch, to present action on Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance, Chapter 391-3-20.

Mr. Boylan stated that Georgia's Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program covers gasoline-powered passenger vehicles registered in the 13-county Atlanta Metropolitan Area. He further stated that this is required by the Clean Air Act Amendments for areas that were moderate or higher nonattainment areas for the 1979 1-hour ozone standard. He added that 3,238,100 emissions tests were conducted in 2023, there are 700 vehicle emissions testing stations, and 1,971 active inspectors (as of 12/21/2023).

Mr. Boylan stated that Georgia EPD recommends amending Chapter 391-3-20 of the Rules for Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance to update definitions, update terminology, and correct formatting and grammar.

Mr. Boylan stated that Rule 391-3-20-.05, "Emission Standards," is being amended, replacing the evaporative system function check with verification of presence of a fuel cap, because a pressure test is no longer required. He further stated this will have minimal impact on vehicle emissions.

Mr. Boylan stated that Rule 391-3-20-.06, "On-Road Testing of Exhaust Emissions by Remote Sensing Technology or Other Means," is being repealed, because on-road testing of exhaust emission by remote sensing technology is no longer required. He further stated this will have no impact on vehicle emissions. He added that this will save EPD \$86,000/year.

Mr. Boylan stated after briefing the Environmental Committee of the DNR Board in October 2023, there was a public hearing November 30, 2023, and a public comment period ending on December 7, 2023. He further stated no comments were received during the comment period.

Mr. Boylan requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Hatfield, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Enhanced Inspection and Maintenance, Chapter 391-3-20.

Mr. Lambert called on Ania Truszczynski, Chief of the Watershed Protection Branch, to present the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, Chapter 391-3-5.

Ms. Truszczynski stated these amendments will add a Class IIIG public water system classification to accommodate a new drinking water operator license classification. She further stated that the Georgia Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts (“Board of Examiners”) has created a new classification that will enable operators who treat only groundwater for drinking water systems serving a population between 1,000 and 9,999 people to attend a more abbreviated training course that does not go into technical details regarding surface water treatment.

Ms. Truszczynski stated that the Board of Examiners was requested by water systems to create a new groundwater certification to help relieve the shortage of drinking water operators for groundwater only systems. She further stated that the proposed amendments will incorporate the new Class IIIG into the Rules for Safe Drinking Water.

Ms. Truszczynski stated that in preparing the proposed amendments, EPD issued a public notice on September 28, 2023, conducted a public meeting on November 2, 2023, and accepted comments from the public through November 9, 2023. She added that EPD did not receive any public comments on the proposed amendments.

Ms. Truszczynski stated that after briefing the Environmental Committee of the DNR Board today, there will be a public notice in January 2024 and a public hearing in February 2024. She further stated she plans to request adoption of the proposed amendments at the March 26, 2024 DNR Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.