

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch
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January 31, 2012

Mr. James D. Giattina, Director
Water Management Division
U. S. EPA, Region 4
61 Forsyth Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

Re: Draft 2012 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters

Dear Mr. Giattina:

The purpose of this correspondence is to transmit to you a copy of Georgia's draft 2012 305(b)/303(d) List of Waters as required by Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). The list was developed in accordance with 40 CFR Part 130.7(b)(4) and guidance provided by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

As in previous years, the list of waters was prepared using all existing and readily available data and information in accordance with USEPA guidance. The following documents are enclosed as part of our draft submittal:

- Attachment #1 - 2012 Listing Assessment Methodology
- Attachment #2 - A summary of some of the listing decisions made
- Attachment #3 - Highlights of the 2012 list
- Attachment #4 - A list of changes made to the individual water listings
- Attachment #5 - Key to the abbreviations and codes used in the list of waters
- Attachment #6 - Georgia's draft 2012 305(b)/303(d) list of waters
- Attachment #7 - Copy of the public notice

Please note that EPD has changed a large percentage of the Assessment Unit ID's/Reach ID's in the draft 2012 list of waters. The numeric portion of Georgia's Assessment Unit ID's/Reach ID's is composed of the 10 digits of the HUC 10 that the water is located in followed by two numbers (01,02, 03...). Last year the HUCs for the State of Georgia were updated by USGS. In order to continue to use the 10 digit HUC as part of our ID system, EPD had to change the HUC 10 portion of the Assessment Unit IDs/Reach IDs for about 25% of the assessed waters. A list of all of the changes made to the Assessment Unit IDs/Reach IDs will be provided in a crosswalk table with the final 2012 Integrated Report.

Mr. James Giattina

Page 2

January 31, 2012

The list of waters is being placed on public notice at this time. EPD is planning to hold a public meeting in February to provide the public an opportunity to ask questions and to submit comments on the list. EPD will provide U.S. EPA with the final 2012 Integrated Report once the comment period has expired and we have addressed the comments received. It is EPD's goal to submit the final Integrated Report by April 1, 2012. This submission will include the ADB database of the List of Waters, a GIS coverage of these waters, and other information as requested in the U.S. EPA Region 4 July 19, 2011 letter to EPD.

We respectfully request EPA to review the attached documents during the public notice period and to provide us with any comments or questions that you may have in order to facilitate the approval of the final package. If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Linda MacGregor, P.E.

Branch Chief

Watershed Protection Branch

LM/sbs

Attachments