

For Immediate Release

October 9, 2007

WATER COUNCIL TO HOST PUBLIC HEARINGS ON REVISED DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Georgians will have the opportunity to comment on the September 13, 2007 draft Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Plan at a series of public hearings around the state next week. The final plan will serve as a framework for management of the state's water resources, and addresses both water quantity and water quality.

The Comprehensive Statewide Water Management Planning Act of 2004 required that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) develop the plan, and present it to the Water Council by July of this year. The initial draft plan was submitted to the Water Council on June 28, 2007. Following extensive public comment, the revised draft plan was presented to the Water Council on September 13, 2007. The Water Council is a 14-member body consisting of legislators, legislative appointees and state agency heads who have water-related responsibilities. The law requires that the plan be brought before the General Assembly for adoption of a joint resolution ratifying the plan by the first day of the 2008 regular session.

The Water Council will hold 12 public hearings on the September 13, 2007 revision to the draft plan at the following locations on the following dates; **all hearings will start at 6:00pm:**

October 15th

Fort Valley State University
Pettigrew Center
1005 State University Dr.
Fort Valley, GA 31030

Georgia Southern University
Neesmith Lane Building
Plant Drive
Statesboro, GA

Augusta Technical College
Information Technology
Center
3200 Augusta Tech Drive
Augusta, GA 30906

October 16th

Gainesville State College
Continuing Ed. Auditorium
Continuing Ed. Building
3820 Mundy Mill Road
Oakwood, GA 30566

Albany State University
Criminal Justice Building
Room 111
504 College Dr.
Albany, GA 31705

October 17th

Armstrong Atlantic State
University Armstrong Center
Auditorium
11935 Abercorn Street
Savannah, GA 31419-1997

Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director
Environmental Protection Division

Mike Beatty, Commissioner
Department of Community Affairs

Gus Bell, President & CEO
Hussey Gay Bell DeYoung, Inc.

John Bulloch
State Senator, District 11

Chris Clark, Executive Director
Georgia Environmental Facilities
Authority

Brent Dykes, Acting Director
Soil & Water Conservation Commission

Robert Farris, Interim Director
Georgia Forestry Commission

Noel Holcomb, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources

Tommy Irvin, Commissioner
Department of Agriculture

Jerry Lane, President
Claxton Poultry

Tom McCall
State Representative, District 78

Lynn Smith
State Representative, District 87

Ross Tolleson
State Senator, District 18

B. J. Walker, Commissioner
Department of Human Resources

October 17th

Okefenokee Technical College
Miller Lecture Hall
1701 Carswell Avenue
Waycross, GA 31503

October 18th

The Forum
Berry/Shorter Plan
2 Government Plaza
Rome, GA 30162

University of Georgia – Athens
Georgia Center for Continuing Education-
Masters Hall
1197 South Lumpkin Street
Athens, GA 30602-3603

October 19th

Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center &
Tourism Authority
Conference Room A
One Meeting Place
Valdosta, GA 31601

Columbus State University
Elizabeth Bradley Turner Center
Auditorium
Corner of East Lindsey Drive & College Dr.
Columbus, GA 31907

Atlanta Technical College
Cleveland L. Dennard Building Ballroom
1560 Metropolitan Parkway, SW
Atlanta, GA 30310

The draft plan can be viewed at <http://www.georgiawatercouncil.org/>. Written comments are welcomed, but should be received by close of business October 30, 2007. Written comments may be e-mailed to Arnetia_Murphy@dnr.state.ga.us or sent via regular mail addressed to: The Water Council, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 1170, East Tower, Atlanta, GA 30334.

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