

# **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**


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Chris Clark, Commissioner

F. Allen Barnes, Director

Environmental Protection Division

404/656-4713

To: Regional Water Planning Councils and Interested Parties  
From: F. Allen Barnes   
Date: November 24, 2010  
Re: Additional Guidance for Regional Water Planning

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I am providing the following guidance to revise the deadlines and associated schedules for regional water planning originally provided in the Regional Planning Guidance issued by EPD in July 2009.

This memo supplements both the Regional Planning Guidance issued by EPD in July 2009 as well as the Additional Guidance for Regional Water Planning issued by EPD on May 19, 2010. In case of contradiction, this guidance supersedes all previous guidance.

Previous guidance is available at:

- [http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org/documents/20090731\\_Regional\\_Planning\\_Guidance\\_000.pdf](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.org/documents/20090731_Regional_Planning_Guidance_000.pdf)
- [http://www.georgiawaterplanning.com/documents/20100519\\_Gap\\_Guidance\\_Document\\_001.pdf](http://www.georgiawaterplanning.com/documents/20100519_Gap_Guidance_Document_001.pdf), respectively).

## **Revision of Specific Dates and Schedules for Regional Water Planning**

<b>Regional Water Planning Council (Council) Products/Activities</b>	<b>Original Schedule:</b>	<b>Revised Schedule:</b>
Councils will select water management practices to adjust demand and resource capacity.	Through January 2011	Through April 2011
Councils will submit their initial recommended regional water plan to the Director of EPD for consideration.	No later than January 31, 2011	No later than May 2, 2011
EPD will provide public notice and a 45-day public comment period on the initial recommended regional water plans.	February 7, 2010	May 9, 2010
Councils will review and revise their regional water plan based on the public review comments and EPD comments and then submit a final recommended regional water plan to the Director of EPD for EPD Adoption.	No later than June 30, 2011	No later than September 30, 2011

### **Rationale for Schedule Revision for Regional Water Planning**

Pursuant to Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. R 391-3-32-.01 (5)(c), the date for the Regional Water Planning Councils (Councils) to submit their recommended regional water plans is established by the EPD Director and provided in the Guidance for Regional Water Plan Development.

EPD commends the Councils on the excellent progress toward preparing draft plans. Several Councils have requested a time extension to allow them to consider additional modeling results, and further develop recommended management practices. The revised schedule will allow the Councils additional time to refine practices and implementation commitments to produce recommended regional water plans that are as specific as possible with currently available information.