

EPD Watershed Protection Branch

Notice of Public Meeting about EPD Consideration of Agricultural Frost Protection Withdrawal Permits in Portions of the Flint River Basin (FRB)

This notice is to announce that the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is considering frost protection groundwater withdrawal permits from the Floridan Aquifer in portions of the lower FRB and sub-area 4 where a moratorium on new and/or expanded permits, including frost protection permits, is currently in effect. EPD anticipates it will begin accepting applications for frost protection permits in the suspension area in September 2023.

EPD has been evaluating various options for agriculture water withdrawal permitting in the lower FRB, including frost protection permits. Frost protection permits have limited water needs compared to traditional crop irrigation permits; while frost protection requires a large amount of water, frost conditions only occur a few days each year. Because the use would be limited to the traditional recharge season (October 15 to April 15) and limited in quantity, frost protection permits are anticipated to have a negligible effect on flows in the FRB, while responding to the needs of the agricultural community.

To support the development of an implementable, protective, and feasible permitting program, EPD is also announcing a public meeting to request input on frost protection permitting. The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 21, from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. at the Candy Room at the Riverfront Resource Center, 125 Pine Avenue, Albany, Georgia, 31701.**

In addition to attending the public meeting, stakeholders may choose to send written comments to EPD. Written comments may be sent to EPDComments@dnr.ga.gov or mailed to the Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch, Suite 1470A East Tower, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr., Dr., Atlanta, Georgia, 30334. If you choose to e-mail your comments, please include the words "Frost protection permits" in the subject line to help ensure your comments will be forwarded to the correct staff. EPD will accept comments at any time, but to ensure consideration in the frost protection permitting development process, please submit your comments by June 30, 2023.

For more information on frost protection permitting, please visit the [EPD website](#). For more information on specific locations affected by the suspension, contact the Agricultural Permitting Unit in Tifton at **229-391-2400**.

Please share this information with anyone who may be interested.