

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division • Air Protection Branch

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Chris Clark, Commissioner

Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director

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For Immediate Release

EPD to Host a Public Hearing at Rome Civic Center on the State's Plan for Reducing Fine Particulate (PM 2.5) Air Pollution in Floyd County

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) will host a forum to receive formal comments on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009 regarding the proposed State Implementation Plan revision to incorporate the Floyd County Fine Particulate Matter (PM 2.5) State Implementation Plan.

EPD will hold the meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Rome Civic Center. The center is located at 400 Civic Center Drive in Rome.

"The EPD is confident that the plan we've developed will incorporate air quality methods to ensure this area can achieve attainment with the federal PM2.5 standard," said Jac Capp, EPD Air Protection Branch Chief. We are required by federal regulations to submit State Implementation Plans on how we plan to ensure that air quality remains within acceptable levels, and this is an opportunity for area residents to be involved in this process."

Floyd County's proposed plan follows the requirements of federal regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations 51 Subpart Z) and demonstrates attainment with the 1997 annual PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard deadline set for April 5, 2010.

In the spring of 2004, the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) new, more protective air quality standard for PM 2.5 resulted in several portions of Georgia being designated "nonattainment." EPA's newer standard meant that these areas didn't meet the federal air quality standard. PM 2.5 is defined as any airborne, finely divided solid or liquid material with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 microns or less, also called fine particulate matter.

At the hearing, anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument either orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted in writing for the official record. Oral statements should be concise.

Written comments are welcomed. To insure their inclusion in EPD's final submission of the SIP revision to EPA, written comments should be received by close of business on September 17, 2009. Written comments may be emailed to EPDComments@dnr.state.ga.us or sent via regular mail addressed to: Branch Chief, Air Protection Branch, 4244 International Parkway, Suite 120, Atlanta, Georgia, 30354.

For information on the State Implementation Plan, please contact Jimmy Johnston at 404-363-7014 or Jim Kelly at 404-363-7131. For information about the public hearing, please contact Thomas Smith, 404-362-2790.

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