

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division • Air Protection Branch

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Noel Holcomb, Commissioner

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For Immediate Release

EPD to Host Special Meeting on Clean Air Interstate and Clean Air Mercury Rules

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) will host a special meeting to discuss the state's request for comments on options concerning both the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) and Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR) on Thursday, March 9, 2006, beginning at 1:00 p.m., at EPD offices located in the Tradeport Office Complex – 4244 International Parkway, Suite 114.

During the meeting, EPD officials will outline options developed by the environmental agency to address rules required to be submitted to the U.S. EPA regarding mercury pollution and the interstate transport of ozone and fine particulate matter. EPD held meetings twice in Atlanta in 2005 to bring environmental agencies, industry representatives, other regulators and interested groups up to date on the two mandated items.

“These are two of Georgia’s most important air quality issues,” said Ron Methier, EPD Air Protection Branch Chief. “We are required by federal regulations to submit State Implementation Plans (SIP) on how we plan to restrict air emissions and to address mercury levels.”

The Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) establishes annual and ozone season limits on nitrogen oxide emissions and annual limits on sulfur dioxide emissions for fossil-fuel fired electric generating facilities in states primarily on the United States east coast. The Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR) addresses statewide limitations for mercury emissions from coal-fired electric power facilities.

EPD plans to explain the options identified for the CAIR and CAMR rules, answer questions and receive initial input as well as provide an opportunity for any additional public comment. EPD will schedule another public meeting for later this month or early April to receive detailed comments on the CAMR rule. Comments on the CAIR rule are due to EPD by March 24, 2006.

For information on the CAIR and CAMR rules process in Georgia, please contact Jim Kelly, 404-363-7131. For information about the meeting, please contact Thomas Smith, 404-362-2790.

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