

Environmental Check List

Georgia Environmental Policy Act

Project No. : _____

Project Name: _____

GEORGIA AREA/CATEGORY	IS AREA AFFECTED?			IF AFFECTED, HOW SEVERELY?			
	NO	YES	UNKNOWN	MINOR	MEDIAN	MAJOR	UNKNOWN
1. Wetlands							
2. Flood Plain/River Corridor							
3. Water Supply							
4. Water Resources							
5. Groundwater Recharge							
6. Storm Water							

Georgia Area/Category Information
"GEPA Guidelines"

1. WETLANDS - Will the action occur in a "wetlands" area?

The definition of wetlands is included in the Federal Regulation, 33 CFR 32.93. The DNR Rules for Environmental Planning, Chapter 391-3-16-03, incorporate the federal definition as well as both acceptable and unacceptable uses of wetlands. Under current federal law and state policy, alterations or degradations of wetlands should be avoided unless it can be demonstrated that there will be no long-term impacts or net loss of wetlands. A Federal Permit is required for most wetland activities.

2. FLOODPLAIN/RIVER CORRIDOR - Will the action occur in a floodplain or a river corridor?

Floodplains are designated areas of land that become flooded with water during periods of rainfall that increase the primary stream flow. Many floodplain areas are shown on Federal Floodplain Maps which have been prepared in support of the National Flood Insurance Program. Additional maps and information on floodplains are available from the DNR's Environmental Protection Division (EPD). Most proposed government actions that occur directly in a floodplain area or which may alter the size or character of the floodplain area are considered significant. Under H.B. 643, passed by the 1991 Session of the General Assembly, lands adjacent to major rivers are protected from certain types of development. DNR is charged with developing rules for the River Corridor protection program.

3. WATER SUPPLY - Does the proposed action have the potential for decreasing either the quality or quantity of water available for water supply?

Water supply means a source of water that is used for drinking water in addition to other consumptive purposes. The DNR Rules, Chapter 391-3-16, contain criteria for water supply watersheds. These criteria establish a basis to allow development in a water supply watershed without contaminating the water source to a point where it cannot be treated to meet drinking water standards. EPD can provide information to state agencies as to whether their proposed projects lie within water supply watersheds.

4. WATER RESOURCES - Will the proposed action result in large demand for water from the available water resources? Will the proposed action result in a degradation of the quality of waters of the state?

The waters of the state include surface and groundwater that is not wholly confined to a single privately owned piece of property. Water resources management is one of the most important issues facing Georgia now and in the future. A growing population and the potential for water shortages focus on the importance of adequate amounts of good quality water. The DNR Rules for Surface Water Withdrawals, chapter 391-3-6, provide the regulatory framework for withdrawal, diversion or impoundment of surface waters of the State. DNR Rules for Groundwater Use, Chapter 391-3-2, establish regulatory framework for withdrawal, diversion or impoundment of surface waters of the State. DNR Rules for Groundwater Use, Chapter 391-3-2, establish regulatory procedures for withdrawing, obtaining or utilization of groundwaters of the state.

5. GROUNDWATER RECHARGE AREA - Will the action result in the disturbance or altering of a groundwater recharge area?

Groundwater recharge areas are those portions of the earth's surface where water infiltrates into the ground to

5. replenish an aquifer. The Significant Recharge Areas of the state are those areas mapped by the DNR in Hydrologic Atlas 18 (1989 Edition). The DNR Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria, Chapter 391-3-16, contain specific criteria for protection of groundwater recharge areas.

STORMWATER - Will the project result in increasing the amount of storm water runoff for downstream property owners?

The primary concern is the amount of storm water runoff for downstream property owners.

Wastewater means contaminated water (sewage or other contaminants) that must be treated and disposed of either by direct discharge to a surface stream or indirect discharge to an existing municipal sewer system. Even if the wastewater from a state project is to be discharged to a municipal sewer system, the effect can be significant if that wastewater causes the municipality to expand its sewage treatment system.

8. AIR QUALITY - Will the action result in a release or discharge of contaminants into the ambient air?

Any action that results in the release or discharge of contaminants into the air such that existing ambient air quality may be diminished is a significant action. All discharges or releases may be subject to regulation under the Georgia Air Quality Control Act and/or the U.S. Clean Air Act.

SOLID WASTES - Will the project result in the generation of solid wastes for disposal, or will the proposed actions occur near or in an active or closed landfill?

Solid waste is defined in the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act. It includes different categories of wastes which exist in a solid form (household garbage, demolition material, land clearing debris, commercial non-hazardous waste material, etc). Whereas the amount of solid waste generated that requires disposal is of concern, another primary issue is the management of that waste. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Division of Solid Waste Management, provides information on the Georgia Solid Waste Management Act. For more information, contact the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Division of Solid Waste Management, 428.740.1181 or <http://dnr.ga.gov>.

on the State's cultural resources?

GEPA includes cultural resources within the consideration focus of a proposed government action. In addition to

major and several smaller barrier islands from the mainland. Two-thirds of Georgia Barrier Islands are parks, refuges, or preserves. Sand beaches and dunes protect the islands from erosion and flooding. The islands shelter the marshes from the force of storms. Any proposed action that involves the barrier islands should be considered highly significant.

24. AQUATIC LIFE/TROUT STREAMS - Will the proposed action involve an action that significantly impacts freshwater aquatic life?

Georgia has an abundance of freshwater lakes, streams, and bodies of water that support aquatic life. The freshwater fisheries are important for the total food chain. Primary and secondary trout streams should be protected.

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