

Minutes
Environmental Protection Committee

Unicoi State Park
Masters Hall 3/4
1788 Highway 356
Helen, GA 30545

May 24, 2017

Attending:

Committee Members

Ray Lambert, Chairman
William Bagwell, Vice Chairman
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Aaron McWhorter
Brother Stewart
Duncan Johnson, Jr., Board Chairman, Ex-Officio

Board Members

Nancy Addison
Bill Jones
Mark Mobley – Via Conference Call
Matt Sawhill
Bodine Sinyard – Via Conference Call
Miki Thomaston

Guests

Megan E. Spells, Georgia Department of Defense
Richard A. Batten, Georgia Department of Defense
Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble
Randy Drummond, Georgia Department of Defense

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Melanie Johnson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Dave Crass
Rusty Garrison
Col. Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
Bowers, John
Richard Dunn
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Karen Hays
Chuck Mueller
Jon Ambrose
Steve Friedman – Via call-in
Mark Whitney
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Weaver
James Hamilton
John Erbele
Larry Blankenship
Bill Donohue
Brenda McMillian

The May 24, 2017 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Chairman Duncan Johnson.

Chairman Johnson called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee. Chairman Lambert called on Karen Hayes, Chief of the Air Protection Branch, to present the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Radioactive Materials, Chapter 391-3-17.

Ms. Hayes stated that Georgia has over 400 entities subject to requirements under these rules. She further stated that Georgia's radioactive materials program is an agreement state program with the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which means the Georgia program is delegated authority to issue the license and the Georgia program is overseen by the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. She added that the rules need to be periodically revised to remain compatible with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which is why we are here today.

Ms. Hayes stated that four of the rules are proposed for amendment: 1.) General Provisions; 2.) The licensing of radioactive materials; 3.) The use of radionuclides in the Healing Arts; and 4.) The transportation of radioactive materials. She further stated that the Committee was briefed at the February Board meeting and that throughout the comment period, they received one comment in favor of the rule change. Ms. Hayes requested favorable consideration of the proposed amendments.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Radioactive Materials, Chapter 391-3-17, as presented.

Chairman Lambert called on Karen Hayes, Chief of the Air Protection Branch, to present the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1.

Ms. Hayes stated that EPD is required by the Federal Clean Air Act and the Georgia Air Quality Act to collect sufficient permit fees to cover the direct and indirect costs of our Title V permitting program. She further stated that our permit fees are based on dollar per ton of emissions, which means the higher the emissions the higher the permit fee. She added that at this time we are proposing no increase in permit fees for fiscal year 2018.

Ms. Hayes stated that these proposed amendments specify the dollar per ton rate. She further stated that the Committee was briefed in February and no comments were received from the public comment period. Ms. Hayes requested favorable consideration of the proposed amendments.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Davis and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1, as presented.

Chairman Lambert called on Jeff Cown, Chief of the Land Protection Branch, to present the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Hazardous Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-11.

Jeff Cown stated that in order for the Environmental Protection Division to retain primacy for the hazardous waste programs, periodic updates for Chapter 391-3-11, Rules for Hazardous Waste Management are necessary to reflect new regulations published by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. He further stated that the most recent update was in May of 2016 when the Board adopted rules to incorporate requirements of federal regulations in effect through June 30, 2015. He added that we are here today to propose amendments to revise the federal rules published on November 28, 2016.

Mr. Cown stated that the proposed amendments are in two parts: 1) to update the Generator Improvements Rule and the Export-Import Revisions. He further stated that the Generator Improvements Rule can be found all throughout the regulations; the changes will make them easier to understand and more user-friendly. He added that the rule also provides more flexibility by allowing very small quantity generators to send their hazardous waste to large quantity generators under control of the same person and allowing very small and small quantity generators to generate episodic amounts of hazardous waste without being subject to additional regulation.

Mr. Cown stated that this rule will impact approximately 4,636 generators in Georgia and will lead to reduced compliance costs for very small quantity generators and episodic small quantity generators of hazardous waste.

Mr. Cown stated that the Export-Import Revisions will consolidate all hazardous waste import and export regulations into one concise section so that there is only one set of requirements to comply with. He further stated that the rule will allow importers and exporters to submit required paperwork to EPA electronically and ensure shipments of hazardous waste are received by destination facilities.

Mr. Cown stated that the Board was briefed at the March meeting, a public hearing was held, and no comments were received. Mr. Cown requested favorable consideration of the proposed amendments.

Mr. Randy Drummond, Department of Defense, spoke in favor of the proposed amendments.

A motion was made by Mr. Bagwell, seconded by Mr. Davis and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed amendments to Rules for Hazardous Waste Management, Chapter 391-3-11, as presented.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.