

**Minutes**  
**Environmental Protection Committee**  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S. E.  
Suite 1252 East Tower  
Atlanta, GA 30334

**May 19, 2020**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**(Via Teleconference Call)**

**Attendees:**

**Committee Members**

Ray Lambert, Chair  
Dwight Evans, Vice Chair  
William Bagwell  
Dwight Davis  
Mike Phelps  
Paul Shailendra  
Bodine Sinyard  
Brother Stewart  
Dee Yancey  
Nancy Addison, Board Chair, Ex-officio

**Board Members**

Joe Hatfield  
Duncan Johnson  
Bill Jones  
Rob Leebern  
Tim Lowe  
Billy New  
Miki Thomaston

**Guests**

Ryan Gesser, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Walter Rabon  
Kyle Pearson  
Josh Hildebrandt  
Cathy Barnette  
Amber Carter  
Artica Gaston  
Courtney Hall  
Thomas Barnard  
Jeff Cown  
Steve Friedman  
Rusty Garrison  
Doug Haymans  
Tina Johannsen  
Mike Burgamy  
  
Richard Dunn, Director  
Lauren Curry  
Karen Hays

The May 19, 2020 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Chairwoman Nancy Addison.

Chairwoman Nancy Addison called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee. Chairman Lambert called on Karen Hays, Chief of the Air Protection Branch, to present the Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Air Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-1.

Ms. Hays stated the Federal Clean Air Act and the Georgia Air Quality Act require EPD collect sufficient revenue in the form of permit fees to fund direct and indirect costs of the permitting program. She further stated the current fee structure includes annual permit fees for NSPS equipment, SM sources, and Title V sources, Title V minimum fee or dollar per ton of emissions, and an optional expedited permitting program free. She added the revenue stream collected from air permit fees have declined due to facilities retiring and making changes, and although total emissions have decreased, the workload has not.

Ms. Hays stated the projected shortfall for fiscal year 2021 is roughly \$1,050,000 and EPD built in reserves in FY 2015, 2016, and 2017 to delay fee increases. She further stated EPD convened a Permit Fee Advisory Committee to explore options to address shortfalls. She added EPD eliminated some permit fee funded positions, evaluated strategies used in other states, and began phase-in of new application fees in March of last year.

Ms. Hays stated the proposed amendments includes an increase in fiscal year 2021 SM and NSPS annual fees, which are based on calendar year 2019 emissions, an increase in permit application fees effective March 1, 2021, and a proposed new fee for annual maintenance for all Title V sources. She further stated EPD is proposing no changes to the dollar per ton annual fee or the Title V minimum fee. She added the final change is a 25% increase in the optional expedited permitting program fees.

Ms. Hays stated she met with the Permit Fee Advisory Committee to discuss projected shortfalls and proposals on November 1 and December 10 as well as held a Permit Fee Stakeholder Meeting on January 17. She further stated the briefing of the Environmental Committee was held at the February meeting, a public hearing was held on March 30, and the public comment period closed April 6. She added there was one comment received during the public comment period.

Ms. Hays stated the commenter showed support for fee increases but recommended raising the dollar per ton fee and implementing automatic CPI adjustments. Ms. Hays further stated the proposal is sufficient to fund the program and the proposal reflects the changing workload within the Air protection branch. She added she is requesting favorable consideration of the rule amendments at this time.

Ryan Gesser, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition, spoke in support of the proposed amendments.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.