

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

Tuesday, October 22, 2024
9:00 a.m.

Committee Members

Ray Lambert, Chair
Bodine Sinyard, Vice Chair
Nancy Addison
Jeff Andrews
Patrick Denney
Dan Garcia
Steve Hufstetler
Duncan Johnson
Lesley Reynolds
Paul Shailendra
Joe Hatfield, Board Chair, Ex-officio

Board Members

Randy Dellinger
Charles DePriest
Mark Hennessy
Bill Jones
Brent Layton
Harley Yancey

Guests

Bryan Tolar, GA Urban Ag Council
Mark Woodall, Sierra Club
Anna Edmondson, Robbins Government Relations
Susan Salter, GA EPD
Maggie Lee, The Current
Dave Williams, Capitol Beat News Service
Kathleen Bowen, Impact Public Affairs

Staff Members

Walter Rabon, Commissioner
Thomas Barnard
Trevor Santos
Taylor Brown Fisher
Cathy Barnette
Kyle Pearson
Kate Iannuzzi
Artica Gaston
Mike England
Karl Burgess
Angie Johnson
Ted Will
Brent Womack
Chris Harper

Jeff Cown, Director
James Boylan
Chuck Mueller
Anna Truszczynski

The October 22, 2024 meeting of the Environmental Protection Committee was called to order by Chairman Joe Hatfield.

Chairman Hatfield called on Ray Lambert, Chairman of the Environmental Protection Committee. Mr. Lambert called on James Boylan, Chief of the Air Protection Branch, to present Proposed Grant Criteria for the Georgia Diesel Emissions Reduction Program, Chapter 391-3-21-.15.

Mr. Boylan stated the purpose of the grant is to reduce diesel emissions that can negatively impact human health and the environment by assisting public schools with school bus replacements. He further stated the program is funded through the federal Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA). He added the amendments will encourage replacement of 2009 model year or older buses, require replaced school buses to be scrapped, and require project applicants to provide a 75% match.

Mr. Boylan stated the funding available is \$668,005 and first priority will go to public school systems in counties that were designated as maintenance for the 2015 ozone standard. He further stated that second priority will go to public school systems in counties designated as maintenance for the 2008 ozone standard and third priority is all remaining public school systems. He added EPD will issue the first solicitation for applications within 4 months of DNR Board approval of the grant criteria and if funds remain after initial distribution of funds, additional solicitation will be issued.

Mr. Boylan requested a favorable consideration.

A motion was made by Ms. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Sinyard, and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the Proposed Grant Criteria for the Georgia Diesel Emissions Reduction Program, Chapter 391-3-21-.15.

Mr. Lambert asked Mr. Boylan to continue with Item B, Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Radioactive Materials, Chapter 391-3-17.

Mr. Boylan stated the Rules are periodically amended to address requirements of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for Agreement States, which are required to ensure that the Rules meet the compatibility and health and safety categories established by the NRC. He further stated the proposed amendments will incorporate NRC rule updates effective September 25, 2023, incorporate comments in the NRC letter dated May 29, 2024, update citations, and correct formatting and grammar.

Mr. Boylan stated after briefing the Environmental Committee of the DNR Board today, there will be a public hearing and 30-day public comment period beginning in November 2024. He further stated he plans to request adoption of the proposed amendments at the February 2025 DNR Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.