

Georgia EPD Proposes Revisions to the Air Permit Fees

EPD is proposing to revise the Air Permit Fee structure in order to make up for their anticipated revenue shortfall beginning in 2020. The revenue shortfall was caused by the retirement of several large facilities which caused a revenue shortfall of approximately \$2.2 million per year. While emissions through the state have decreased significantly, EPD's workload has not.

The goal of the proposed changes is to create stability of funding for the delegated permitting program and ensure that the future funding properly reflects the changing workload in the Air Protection Branch. Currently, Title V sources are paying disproportionately more than minor and synthetic sources for the time and cost expended by EPD. Georgia EPD evaluated strategies used in other states in the Southeastern U.S. and has developed this proposed rule change.

The permit application fees, expedited permit fees, and emission fees will all be impacted by the proposed changes as documented below.

Emission Fee Increases	
Fee Group	Proposed Fee Amount
B NSPS (<100 TPY and below HAP threshold)	\$2,000
Synthetic Minor (limit taken to stay below Major threshold limits)	\$2,200
Synthetic Minor and NSPS (Synthetic Minor subject to New Source Performance Standards)	\$4,200
Title V Minimum (Major Source)	\$4,500 + \$800 Maintenance Fee
Title V Minimum + NSPS (Title V subject to New Source Performance Standards)	\$6,500 + \$800 Maintenance Fee
Non-EGUs	\$35.50/ton (no change proposed)
EGUs	\$37.34/ton (no change proposed)
Permit Application Fee Increases	
Expedited Permit Fees	25% increase
All Permit Application Fees	100% increase

Timeline:

The comment period for this rule will take place in March – April 2020. If no changes are proposed to the rule, this will take effect on July 1, 2020. This will affect the annual emission fees due in September 2020 and permit application fees due beginning March 1, 2021.

Link to EPD Article: <https://epd.georgia.gov/air-protection-branch-technical-guidance-0/types-air-quality-permits/air-permit-fees>