

NOTE: Projects that include “streambank or shoreline stabilization” (e.g., criterion (a)) or “streambank restoration” (e.g., criterion (b)) should adhere to the most current guidance documents: Streambank and Shoreline Stabilization Guidance, Guidelines for Streambank Restoration and Streambank and Shoreline Stabilization – Techniques to Control Erosion and Protect Property.

Projects reviewed under criteria (h), (i), (j) or (k) should adhere to the most current EPD guidance document, Buffer Mitigation Guidance, when applicable. All guidance documents are available on the EPD website, www.epd.georgia.gov.

- 2) **Mail completed buffer variance application to:** Erosion and Sedimentation Control Unit
Georgia Environmental Protection Division
2 Martin Luther King Jr Drive SW, Suite 1462
Atlanta, GA 30334

NOTE: APPLICATIONS MUST BE ON THE MOST CURRENT FORMS PROVIDED BY EPD.

- 3) **Address all items on the attached Buffer Impact Checklist and submit the completed checklist and other pertinent information with the buffer variance application to EPD.**

NOTE: INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE RETURNED TO THE APPLICANT.

- 4) **Within 60 days of receipt of a complete buffer variance application, EPD will either provide written comments to the applicant or propose to issue a buffer variance. EPD may request additional information related to the project necessary to effectively evaluate the buffer variance application. When EPD proposes to issue a buffer variance, the application process will continue in the following order:**

- (a) EPD will issue a public notice.
- (b) The public notice shall describe the proposed buffer encroachment, the location of the project, where the public can review site plans, and where comments should be sent.
- (c) The public shall have 30 days to comment on the proposed buffer variance.
- (d) Public notices are posted on EPD’s website at <https://epd.georgia.gov/public-advisories-requests-state-waters-buffer-variance>.