



REGULATORY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE UPDATE



JULY 2019 RAC UPDATE

Check out the latest news from the HBAG Regulatory Affairs Committee.

Chairman: Jim Chapman
Vice-Chair: Bradley Jones
Regulatory Consultant: Bettie Sleeth

[Click here to visit the RAC page of the HBAG website.](#)

ENERGY CODE WORKSHOPS BEING HELD AROUND STATE

The Georgia DCA Building Codes Department and Southface were awarded grant through GEFA, Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, to provide training on the updates and changes of the new Energy Code and Amendments for the State of Georgia. The code becomes effective January 1, 2020. These workshops will cover the changes in commercial and residential energy codes, best practices for implementation and compliance of new rules, as well as a Q&A session.

The Energy Code Workshops have been approved by Southface as qualifying for AIA, ICC, BPI, and HERS Continuing Education Credits. They have also been approved by the Home Builders Assn of Georgia (HBAG) as qualifying under the Rules of the State Licensing of Residential and General Contractors for Licensing Continuing Education Units.

[Click here for the current list of classes.](#)

"SUMMER BURN BAN" (MAY 1 – SEPTEMBER 30)

Air quality can deteriorate in the summer due to the formation of ground-level ozone. The Summer Burn Ban reduces ozone by prohibiting certain open burning activities from May 1 through September 30 in specific counties. During this period, the following open burning activities are prohibited in [54 counties](#): (1) reduction of leaves on premises, (7) acquired structure burns, (8) vegetative debris from storms, (9) weed abatement, disease, and pest prevention, (11), land clearing, construction, and right-of-way maintenance, and (13) land clearing with air curtain destructors.

Prescribed burning (4) is also prohibited in 19 counties that include Bartow, Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Newton, Paulding, Rockdale, Spalding and

Walton.

To learn more visit the [Summer Burn Ban page](#).

DOCK FEES PERMIT INCREASES

Property owners on major lakes in Georgia and other Southeast states will see fees more than double for renewing existing dock permits, and increase by more than four times the current fee for new permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers South Atlantic Division starting next year.

Georgia lakes affected by the new fee schedule are Hartwell Lake, J. Strom Thurmond Lake, Lake Seminole, Lake Sidney Lanier, Walter F. George Lake and West Point Lake.

Earlier this month, the Corps announced that the total cost for dock and land-based facilities would change to a flat fee for both new and re-issued permits of \$835, including \$35 for a Shoreline Permit and \$800 for a Real Estate License, starting Jan. 1. Previously, dock owners were charged \$400 for a new permit or \$175 to renew an existing permit. Modifications to permits and licenses, currently \$90, will involve getting a new permit and license for \$835. Permits are issued for five-year terms.

A statement from the Corps said the new fee is to cover costs incurred by the government in issuing and re-issuing permits. The change, which takes effect Jan. 1, is the first permit fee increase since 2006

Individuals will no longer be charged a fair market value fee for certain facilities, which currently range from \$20-67. Some Georgia Congress members, including Congressman Barry Loudermillk, Doug Collins and Jody Hice, have questioned the dramatic increase. Loudermillk and four other representatives sent a letter, dated June 14, to the Corps asking for clarification, calling the rise in fees "unexpected and significant"

HBAG continues to monitor this issue.

SEPTIC SYSTEMS MANUAL BEING REWRITTEN

George McClure, HBAG Past President, helped write the Manual for On-Site Waste. George is on the TRC (Technical Review Committee. The Revised Manual is in process.

HBAG needs data – need to know if there are problems obtaining septic tank permits, length of time. Need to know which county. Please send any information to [George McClure](#).

Questions or concerns? Contact Bettie Sleeth at bsleeth@hbag.org or 678-468-9900