FLINT RIVER BASIN IRRIGATION SYSTEM CERTIFICATION OF EFFICIENCY FORM

INTRODUCTION & SUMMARY

Georgia Senate Bill 213 was passed during the 2014 Legislative session, amending Article 9 of Chapter 5 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, the "Flint River Drought Protection Act." A portion of the bill provides for water conservation by means of new irrigation system efficiency requirements. The bill differentiates between active surface and groundwater permits and applications for new permits.

Efficiency requirements established for all valid permits:

- The 2014 legislation established irrigation system efficiencies for all farm use permits in the affected areas of the Flint River basin based on the type of irrigation equipment that is used.
  - Center pivot, lateral (linear) move, drip, and micro irrigation systems must exhibit **at least 80% efficiency**.
  - Solid-set irrigation sprinklers and mobile (traveler/big-gun) irrigation systems are required to exhibit **at least 60% efficiency**.
- The 2014 legislation establishes the following schedule for active permit holders to come into compliance:
  - Permits issued after 2005 shall achieve minimum irrigation system efficiency by January 1, 2016.
  - Permits issued from 1991 through 2005 shall achieve minimum irrigation system efficiency by January 1, 2018.
  - Permits issued before 1991 shall achieve minimum irrigation system efficiency by January 1, 2020.
- Active permit holders must complete and keep the irrigation system efficiency certification for their own records. However, if requested by EPD, you must submit the certification that your system meets the required irrigation efficiency. Please review the following pages and be prepared to certify that your system meets all requirements within the timeframes noted above.

New surface and groundwater permit application requirements:

- Applicants for new permits must certify, in the application, that your system meets the required irrigation efficiency. Please review and submit the following form based on the type of irrigation equipment that you are installing or using.
- A water conservation plan is also required for all new agricultural permits issued for surface and groundwater withdrawals in the Flint River Basin Plan area.

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Application/Permit Number: _____

All irrigation systems including any center pivot, lateral (linear) move, traveling gun, solid set, permanent set, mobile, micro, drip, cable-tow traveler or hose-pull traveler, or other agricultural water delivery system operating under the Division's water withdrawal permitting requirement **must utilize a Leak Correction and Operational Maintenance Procedure**. By signing this form you certify that all leaks are or will be corrected once they become apparent. In addition, all center pivot and lateral move irrigation systems **must utilize the following practices listed under Section 1, OR as indicated under Section 2.** Please check the appropriate selections.

A. Center Pivot, Lateral (Linear) Move, & Drip Irrigation Systems (80% Efficiency)

SECTION 1:

✓ **Practice**

Operational pump shutdown safety, or any other device, valve, or mechanism to interrupt the flow of water in the event of irrigation system failure. If you use a device other than an operational pump

_____ shutdown safety, please specify: _____

Low pressure or plan to convert to low pressure in accordance with compliance dates established in the Flint River Basin Drought Protection Act (**If your system does not use low pressure, then you must**

_____ **complete Section 2, UNLESS you indicate below that you land apply effluent.**)

☐ Check this box if your irrigation system (center pivot or lateral move) is or will be used to land apply effluent from a waste treatment lagoon and requires a surface water withdrawal permit from the division.

SECTION 2: If you are not using a low pressure system, you must utilize the following practice, as well as select and implement at least one of the advanced practices listed below.

✓ **Practice**

Operational pump shutdown safety, or any other device, valve, or mechanism to interrupt the flow of water in the event of irrigation system failure. If you use a device other than an operational pump

_____ shutdown safety, please specify: _____

✓ **Advanced Practice**

_____ Advanced irrigation scheduling (i.e. Irrigator Pro, soil moisture sensors, remote access and control of irrigation system, web or smart phone applications for irrigation scheduling, or other computer models)

_____ Operational rain shut-off switch

_____ End gun shut-off

_____ Irrigation consultant

B. Traveler, Solid-Set, and Big Gun (60% Efficiency)

You must select and implement at least one of the practices listed below.

✓ **Practice**

_____ Low trajectory angle delivery

_____ Hard hose with speed compensation

_____ Buried pipe water delivery system

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☐ Check this box if your irrigation system (traveler, solid-set or big gun) is or will be used to land apply effluent from a waste treatment lagoon and requires a surface water withdrawal permit from the division.

The following practices are not required for irrigation system efficiencies certification, but are recognized as quality water management practices. You may indicate which of the practices listed below you are implementing or explain other practices in use.

✓	**Practice**
_____	Night-time only irrigation
_____	Conservation tillage
_____	GPS-enabled control panel for positioning
_____	Other (please specify): _____

I hereby certify that the information in this document is current, correct and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also certify that I utilize a Leak Correction and Operational Maintenance Procedure. I understand that, if issued, the agricultural water use permit may be revoked for falsification of information provided on this form.

Owner/Operator/Agent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Agent's Organization: _____