



FINAL Fact Sheet

General Land Application System (LAS) Permit for Large Community Subsurface Systems General LAS Permit No. GAG278000

Technical Contact:

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Permit is:

- First Issuance
- Reissuance with no significant modifications
- Reissuance with modifications
- Modifications only

1. General Permit Information

1.1 Background information

The General LAS Permit No. GAG278000 allows Class V septic systems to obtain coverage under the permit if those facilities treat domestic wastewater, have a design flow between 10,000 gpd and 150,000 gpd, and they discharge the pretreated domestic wastewater into a subsurface fluid distribution system. This general permit does not allow coverage for the discharge of hazardous substances.

1.2 Eligibility for Coverage

Sections 391-3-6-.13(11) and 391-3-6-.19 of the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control and the Safe Drinking Water Act have provisions for the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to regulate Class V underground injection wells under a general permit. Class V wells include septic system wells used to inject the waste or effluent from a multiple dwelling business establishment community or regional business establishment septic system. These rules do not apply to single family residential septic system wells, nor to non-residential septic system wells that are used solely for the disposal of sanitary waste and have the capacity to serve fewer than 20 persons a day.

Large community systems covered under the general LAS permit typically serve subdivisions, mobile home parks, shopping centers, schools, campgrounds/RV parks, etc. Industrial facilities are excluded from coverage under the general LAS permit unless the only waste discharged are sanitary wastes.

Pre-treatment of the domestic wastewater generally consists of an aerobic process (for instance trickling filters, activated sludge, moving bed bioreactors, sequencing batch reactors, etc.) or a septic tank system, or a combination of both. Treated effluent is then land applied via a subsurface fluid distribution system such as infiltration trenches (drain field) or drip emitters (drip field).

Facilities that must submit a signed and completed Notice of Intent (NOI) and other required documents for coverage under general LAS permit include:

1. Facilities covered under the general permit requesting reissuance;
2. Proposed new facilities with a design flow between 0.01 MGD and 0.15 MGD;
3. Existing facilities that were originally permitted by another regulatory agency (e.g. Georgia Department of Health) and that have a design flow between 0.01 MGD and 0.15 MGD; and
4. Existing facilities that were originally permitted by another regulatory agency (e.g. Georgia Department of Health) with a design flow less than 0.01 MGD and that are planning to expand above 0.01 MGD but lower than 0.15 MGD.

Required documents to be submitted with NOI include: a process flow chart, site layout, a site map, and any additional documents requested by the Division as specified in the NOI before conducting any new activity.

The owner must receive, in writing, a final authorization to begin operation from EPD (new/expanding facilities only).

1.3 Expiration of permit

This permit will be valid for a period of five years. Facilities covered under the general permit requesting reissuance are required to submit a new Notice of Intent (NOI) no later than 180 days prior to the expiration date of the permit.

1.4 Terminating Coverage

The Division may deny coverage under this permit based on incomplete or incorrect Notice of Intent submittal or failure to obtain a Division-approved Design Development Report. The Director may at any time revoke coverage under this permit in accordance with the State Rules, Section 391-3-6-.19(3)(b)(3).

1.5 Notice of Termination (NOT)

A permittee that has ceased operation of a facility for which permit coverage was obtained must submit a NOT to the Division within thirty (30) days after the activity has ceased.

2. Pre-treatment System Discharge Limitations

2.1. Permitted design flow

0.01 MGD – 0.15 MGD

The monthly average flow limit will be specified in a letter to the Permittee approving coverage of the facility under the permit GAG278000.

2.2. BOD, TSS, and pH limitations

Aerobic treatment systems

BOD: 30 mg/L; TSS: 30 mg/L; pH: Report

Septic tank systems

BOD: Report; TSS: Report; pH: Report

The proposed BOD, TSS and pH limits are technology-based effluent limitations.

2.3 Oil and grease limitations

A monthly average limit of 25 mg/L has been included in the draft permit to protect the subsurface fluid distribution system and ensure proper operation.

2.4 Nitrogen loading

Quarterly monitoring for nitrate and total Kjeldahl nitrogen for the storage pond effluent has been included in the draft permit to quantify nitrogen loading to the subsurface fluid distribution system and verify design assumptions.

3. Land Treatment System

3.1. Groundwater Monitoring Requirements

The intent of monitoring is to determine the influence of the land treatment system on the quality of the groundwater. Groundwater leaving the subsurface fluid distribution system boundaries must meet drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).

In accordance with EPD requirements for all municipal LAS facilities, groundwater will be monitored for the following parameters:

Parameter (units)

Depth to Groundwater (feet)
Nitrate, as N (mg/L)
pH (standard units)
Specific Conductivity (μ mhos/cm)
Fecal Coliform Bacteria (# col/100mL)

3.2 Soil Monitoring Requirements

The intent of monitoring is to determine the influence of the treated wastewater on the soil chemistry/composition. It will also aid the permittee with operation and maintenance of the land treatment system.

In accordance with EPD requirements for all municipal LAS facilities, requirements to conduct soil fertility tests, as well as Cation Exchange Capacity and Percent Base Saturation analysis (depending on pH results), have been included in the draft permit.

3.3 Surface Water Monitoring Requirements

The intent of monitoring is to determine if the facility has an impact on perennial surface water adjacent to or traversing the land treatment system. Design criteria requires a minimum buffer of 50 ft be maintained between the edge of the wetted area and any surface waters to be eligible for coverage under the general LAS permit. It has been determined that this buffer requirement is protective; and therefore, surface water monitoring has not been included in the draft permit.

4. Other Permitting Considerations

4.1 Industrial Pre-treatment Program (IPP)

Not applicable. Facilities covered under this general permit are privately-owned or serving an institutional development.

4.2 Sludge Management Plan (SMP)

This general permit authorizes permittees to dispose of sludge in a permitted landfill or to send sludge to an off-site preparer for further treatment and ultimate disposal.

If sludge generated at a facility is not disposed of in a permitted landfill or sent to an off-site preparer/permitted third-party, then EPD may terminate coverage under the general permit for a facility and issue an individual LAS permit. The permittee shall submit a sludge management plan to EPD for review and approval. The SMP will become part of the individual LAS permit.

Disposing of sludge through land application is not permitted under this general permit.

4.3 Watershed Protection Plan (WPP)

Not applicable. Facilities covered under this general permit are privately-owned or serving an institutional development.

4.4 Service Delivery Strategy

Not applicable. Facilities covered under this general permit are privately-owned or serving an institutional development.

4.5 Reporting and Record Keeping

Required analytical results obtained by the permittee shall be summarized on a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) form. The DMR forms shall be completed and submitted monthly.

4.6 Public Notice

New or expanding facilities must complete a 30-day public notice in a local newspaper, or other approved public notice mechanism, in the area of the proposed activity.

Existing facilities that were originally covered by another regulatory agency and that are not expanding are not required to complete a 30-day public notice.

5. Procedures for the Formulation of Final Determinations

5.1 Comment Period

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) proposes to issue a permit to this applicant subject to the effluent limitations and special conditions outlined above. These determinations are tentative.

The permit application, draft permit, and other information are available for review at 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 1152 East, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For additional information, you can contact 404-463-1511.

5.2 Public Comments

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the proposed determinations are invited to submit same in writing to the EPD address above, or via e-mail at EPDcomments@dnr.ga.gov within 30 days of the initiation of the public comment period. All comments received prior to that date will be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the application. The permit number should be placed on the top of the first page of comments to ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the appropriate staff.

5.3 Public Hearing

Any applicant, affected state or interstate agency, the Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or any other interested agency, person or group of persons may request a public hearing with respect to an LAS permit application if such request is filed within thirty (30) days following the date of the public notice for such application. Such request must indicate the interest of the party filing the request, the reasons why a hearing is requested, and those specific portions of the application or other LAS form or information to be considered at the public hearing.

The Director shall hold a hearing if he determines that there is sufficient public interest in holding such a hearing. If a public hearing is held, notice of same shall be provided at least thirty (30) days in advance of the hearing date.

In the event that a public hearing is held, both oral and written comments will be accepted; however, for the accuracy of the record, written comments are encouraged. The Director or a designee reserves the right to fix reasonable limits on the time allowed for oral statements and such other procedural requirements, as deemed appropriate.

Following a public hearing, the Director, unless it is decided to deny the permit, may make such modifications in the terms and conditions of the proposed permit as may be appropriate and shall issue the permit.

If no public hearing is held, and, after review of the written comments received, the Director determines that a permit should be issued and that the determinations as set forth in the proposed permit are substantially unchanged, the permit will be issued and will become final in the absence of a request for a contested hearing. Notice of issuance or denial will be made available to all interested persons and those persons that submitted written comments to the Director on the proposed permit.

If no public hearing is held, but the Director determines, after a review of the written comments received, that a permit should be issued but that substantial changes in the proposed permit are warranted, public notice of the revised determinations will be given and written comments accepted in the same manner as the initial notice of application was given and written comments accepted pursuant to EPD Rules, Water Quality Control, subparagraph 391-3-6-.19(6). The Director shall provide an opportunity for public hearing on the revised determinations. Such opportunity for public hearing and the issuance or denial of a permit thereafter shall be in accordance with the procedures as are set forth above.

5.4 Final Determination

At the time that any final permit decision is made, the Director shall issue a response to comments. The issued permit and responses to comments can be found at the following address:

<http://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch-permit-and-public-comments-clearinghouse-0>

5.5 *Contested Hearings*

Any person who is aggrieved or adversely affected by the issuance or denial of a permit by the Director of EPD may petition the Director for a hearing if such petition is filed in the office of the Director within thirty (30) days from the date of notice of such permit issuance or denial. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the EPD Rules, Water Quality Control, subparagraph 391-3-6-.01.

Petitions for a contested hearing must include the following:

- a. The name and address of the petitioner;
- b. The grounds under which petitioner alleges to be aggrieved or adversely affected by the issuance or denial of a permit;
- c. The reason or reasons why petitioner takes issue with the action of the Director;
- d. All other matters asserted by petitioner which are relevant to the action in question.