



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

**Jeffrey W. Cown, Director**

**EPD Director's Office**  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE  
Suite 1456, East Tower  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
404-656-4713

Sep 05, 2023

Mr. John Halley  
Athens-Clarke County Public Utilities Department  
124 E Hancock Avenue  
Athens, Georgia 30601

RE: Request for Variance under the Provisions of O.C.G.A. § 12-7-6(b)(15)  
Lake Meeler Property Sanitary Sewer Replacement  
Athens-Clarke County  
File: BV-029-23-04

Dear Mr. Halley,

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has reviewed your stream buffer variance application for the above-referenced project. The review was conducted to consider the potential impacts of the proposed project's encroachment on buffers to State waters within the context of the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act and the potential impact to State waters within the context of Georgia's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permits for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities. This review, and the variance granted herein, is limited to only the request(s) in the application that you submitted for permission to conduct land-disturbing activities within 25-foot areas located immediately adjacent to the banks of State waters where vegetation has been wrested by normal stream flow or wave action. To the extent that your buffer variance application includes a request to conduct land-disturbing activities within 25 feet of State waters where there is no vegetation that has been wrested by normal stream flow or wave action, such request has not been considered by EPD, and the related activity is not addressed in the variance granted herein.

Pursuant to Ga. Comp. R. and Regs. 391-3-7-.05(2)(e) and subject to the conditions and contingencies described further below, authorization is hereby granted to encroach within the 25-foot buffer adjacent to State waters as delineated in your application dated July 19, 2023. ***Buffer impacts authorized by this variance must be completed within five years of the date of this approval letter. If the approved buffer impacts cannot be completed prior to the expiration date, a time extension must be requested in writing at least 90 calendar days prior to the expiration date with justifiable cause demonstrated.***


Authorization for the above referenced project is subject to the following conditions and contingencies:

- 1) All graded slopes 3:1 or greater must be hydroseeded and covered with Georgia DOT approved wood fiber matting or coconut fiber matting. If not hydroseeded, Georgia DOT approved matting that has been incorporated with seed and fertilizer must be used. All slopes must be properly protected until a permanent vegetative stand is established;
- 2) The amount of land cleared during construction must be kept to a minimum;

- 3) All disturbed areas must be seeded, fertilized, and mulched as soon as the final grade is achieved. Also, these disturbed areas must be protected until permanent vegetation is established;
- 4) A double row of Georgia DOT type "C" silt fence or an approved high performance silt fence must be installed between the land disturbing activities and State waters where appropriate;
- 5) Buffer variance conditions must be incorporated into any Land Disturbing Activity Permit issued by Athens-Clarke County for this project; and
- 6) This project must be conducted in strict adherence to the approved erosion and sedimentation control plan and any Land Disturbing Activity Permit issued by Athens-Clarke County.

The granting of this approval does not relieve you of any obligation or responsibility for complying with the provisions of any other law or regulations of any federal, local, or additional State authority, nor does it obligate any of the aforementioned to permit this project if they do not concur with its concept of development/control. As a delegated "Issuing Authority," Athens-Clarke County is expected to ensure that the stream buffer variance requirements are met for this project and is empowered to be more restrictive in this regard.

If you have questions concerning this letter, please contact Samantha DeLucca, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Unit, Nonpoint Source Program, at (470) 684-0095.

Sincerely,  


Jeffrey W. Cown  
Director

JWC:sd

cc: John Halley, Athens-Clarke County  
Michael Bret Thurmond, Armentrout Matheny Thurmond, P.C.  
Chase Zech, Armentrout Matheny Thurmond, P.C.  
Blaine Williams, Athens-Clarke County  
Jesse Houle, Athens-Clarke County  
Mike Rodock, Georgia Environmental Protection Division  
Robert Amos, Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
Anthony Rabern, Georgia Wildlife Resources Division

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