**Permit No. GAG640000**
**Issuance Date:** 12/15/2020

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

# AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM GENERAL PERMIT FOR DRINKING WATER TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGERS

**In accordance with the provisions of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Georgia Laws 1964, p. 416, as amended), hereinafter called the State Act; the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S. C. 1251 et seq.), hereinafter called the Federal Act; and the Rules and Regulations promulgated pursuant to each of these Acts, new and existing water treatment plant filter backwash and basin washdown point sources within the State of Georgia, upon receipt of a Notice of Coverage, are authorized to discharge filter backwash associated with drinking water treatment plant activity to the waters of the State of Georgia in accordance with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in the permit.**

**This permit is issued in reliance upon the submitted Notices of Intent, any other applications upon which this permit is based, supporting data entered therein or attached thereto, and any subsequent submittal of supporting data.**

**This general permit shall become effective on January 1, 2021.**

**This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, December 31, 2025.**

STATE OF GEORGIA
CONSTITUTION
WISDOM
JUSTICE
MODERATION
1776

**Director,**
**Environmental Protection Division**

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## PART I. COVERAGE UNDER THIS GENERAL PERMIT

### A. Eligibility for Coverage

To obtain authorization under this general permit, the person discharging to waters of the state must meet the eligibility requirements identified below:

1. Facilities that discharge wastewaters associated with drinking water production from conventional, direct filtration, or membrane filtration Water Treatment Plants (WTP). These discharges include filter backwash water and sedimentation basin washdown water.

### B. Permit Application (Notice of Intent) (NOI) – Requirements

Any person wishing to maintain coverage under this general permit shall submit an NOI in accordance with the Federal Regulations, 40 CFR 122.22

1. NOI for Existing Discharges Already Covered Under Applicable General Permit:

   a. The owner/operator of a WTP currently covered under the existing NPDES general permit that is seeking coverage under this permit must submit a complete application (NOI) to the Georgia EPD within 180 days of the expiration date of this permit. For any facility covered under the existing NPDES general permit that meets this deadline, authorization under this general permit is automatically continued until coverage is granted under this permit. If a complete NOI is not submitted within 180 days of this permit expiration date, permit coverage will be terminated.

   b. The NOI shall be on forms as may be prescribed and furnished by EPD. The NOI requires the following information to be submitted:

      i. Name of facility;
      ii. Any and all information related to the facility contact person;
      iii. Location and mailing address of your facility;
      iv. Topographic map(s);
      v. A brief description of the operation;
      vi. Outfall location of final discharge;
      vii. Any and all information related to Impaired Waters and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs);
      viii. Other information provided on the NOI application as prescribed by EPD.

   c. EPD may delay the permittee's authorization for further review, may notify applicants that additional effluent limitations are necessary, or may deny coverage under this permit and require submission of an application for an individual or alternative general permit. EPD will notify permittees in writing of the delay, of the need for additional effluent limits, or of the request for submission of an individual NPDES permit application or alternative general permit applications.

2. Submittal of NOI and Notice of Termination (NOT)

The NOI and supporting documentation or the NOT must be signed by the owner or other authorized person in accordance with Part II.O of this permit and submitted to Georgia EPD's Online Application System (GEOS).

## C. Discharge(s) To Impaired Waters

1. This general permit does not authorize discharges of pollutants of concern into impaired waters, unless the effluent discharge limits are consistent with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Discharges that include pollutants of concern must be consistent with an EPA-approved or EPA/EPD established TMDL and applicable state law. Impaired waters are those that do not meet applicable water quality standards and are identified by an EPA-approved or EPA/EPD established TMDL and/or the State of Georgia's 303(d) list. Pollutants of concern are those pollutants for which the water body is listed as impaired and which contribute to the listed impairment.

2. The facility otherwise eligible for coverage, or currently covered, under this general permit must determine whether its discharge(s) contributes directly or indirectly to a water body that is included on the latest 303(d) list or otherwise designated by EPD as impaired or is included in an EPA/EPD-approved or EPA/EPD established TMDL. If the facility has discharges meeting this criterion, it must obtain an individual permit.

## D. Transfer of Ownership or Control

Coverage under this general permit may not be transferred. If the entity operating the facility changes, a new Notice of Intent must be submitted at least 30 days in advance of when the new owner will take over operation. The owner to whom the permit was originally issued should give Notice of Termination prior to the new owner.

## E. Termination of Coverage

1. EPD may deny coverage under this permit based on an incomplete or incorrect NOI submittal. The Director may at any time revoke coverage under this permit in accordance with the State Rules, Section 391-3-6-.15(11).

2. In order to terminate permit coverage, the permittee must submit a complete and accurate Notice of Termination (NOT). The permittee is responsible for complying with the terms of this permit until authorization is terminated.

3. A permittee must submit a NOT within 30 days after one or more of the following conditions have been met:

   a. A new permittee has taken over responsibility of the facility covered under an existing NOI;

b. All discharges have ceased for which permit coverage was obtained and the permittee does not expect to discharge during the remainder of the permit term or any of the discharges covered under this permit.

## F. Expiration of Permit

This permit will expire five (5) years from the effective date. The permittee must re-apply for permit coverage 180 days prior to the expiration of this permit unless the permit has been terminated consistent with 40 CFR §122.64(b). If this permit is not reissued or replaced prior to the expiration date, the permit will be administratively continued and remain in force and effect. Any permittee who has submitted a completed application as provided by EPD 180 days prior to the expiration date of the permit and has been granted permit coverage will automatically remain covered by the administratively continued permit until the earlier of:

1. Reissuance or replacement of this permit, at which time the permittee must comply with the application conditions of the new permit to maintain authorization to discharge;

2. Issuance of an individual permit for the discharges;

3. A formal decision by the permitting authority not to reissue this general permit, at which time the permittee must seek coverage under an individual permit; and/or

4. The permitting authority grants the permittee's request for termination of permit coverage.

## PART II. MONITORING AND REPORTING

### A. Monitoring

a. Fecal coliform bacteria and *Escherichia Coli* will be reported as the geometric mean of the values for the samples collected during the time periods.

b. The monthly average is the arithmetic mean of values obtained for samples collected during a calendar month.

c. The weekly average is the arithmetic mean of values obtained for samples collected during a 7-day period. The week begins 12:00 midnight Saturday and ends at 12:00 midnight the following Saturday. To define a different starting time for the sampling period, the permittee must notify the EPD in writing. For reporting required by Part II.L. of this permit, a week that starts in one month and ends in another month shall be considered part of the second month. The permittee may calculate and report the weekly average as a 7-day moving average.

d. Effluent samples required by Part III of this permit shall be collected after the final treatment process and before discharge to receiving waters. Composite samples, if required, may be collected before disinfection with written EPD approval.

e. Flow measurements shall be conducted using the flow measuring device(s) in accordance with the approved design of the facility. If instantaneous measurements are required, then the permittee shall have a primary flow measuring device that is correctly installed and maintained. If continuous recording measurements are required, then flow measurements must be made using continuous recording equipment. Calibration shall be maintained of the continuous recording instrumentation to ± 10% of the actual flow.

Flow shall be measured manually to check the flow meter calibration at a frequency of once a month. If secondary flow instruments are in use and malfunction or fail to maintain calibration as required, the flow shall be computed from manual measurements or by other method(s) approved by EPD until such time as the secondary flow instrument is repaired. For facilities which utilize alternate technologies for measuring flow, the flow measurement device must be calibrated semi-annually by qualified personnel.

Records of the calibration checks shall be maintained.

f. If secondary flow instruments malfunction or fail to maintain calibration as required in II.A.e., the flow shall be computed from manual measurements taken at the times specified for the collection of composite samples.

g. Some parameters will be reported as "not detected" when they are below the detection limit and will then be considered in compliance with the effluent limit. The detection limit will also be reported.

**B. Sludge Disposal and Monitoring Requirements**

a. The permittee shall develop and implement procedures to ensure adequate year-round sludge disposal. The permittee shall monitor and maintain records documenting the quantity of sludge removed from the facility. The total quantity of sludge removed from the facility during the reporting period shall be reported on the Discharge Monitoring Reports as required under Part II.L. of this permit. The quantity shall be reported on a dry weight basis (dry tons).

b. Sludge may be sent to another permitted facility or third party for further treatment and/or ultimate disposal (Refer to Part V for reporting requirements).

c. Sludge generated by drinking water treatment plants shall be disposed in accordance with the federal regulations under 40 CFR 258 and the Georgia Rules for Solid Waste Management in Chapter 391-3-4. If land applying the generated sludge, the permittee shall comply with the requirements in 40 CFR 257 and the recovered materials requirements in the Georgia Rules for Solid Waste Management Chapter 391-3-4-.04(7).

**C. Effluent Toxicity and Biomonitoring Requirements**

The permittee shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established by Section 307(a) of the Federal Act and with Chapter 391-3-6-.03(5) of the State Rules and may not discharge toxic pollutants in concentrations or combinations that are harmful to humans, animals, or aquatic life.

If toxicity is suspected in the effluent, the EPD may require the permittee to perform any of the following actions:

a. Acute biomonitoring tests;

b. Chronic biomonitoring tests;

c. Stream studies;

d. Priority pollutant analyses;

e. Toxicity reduction evaluations (TRE); or

f. Any other appropriate study.

The EPD will specify the requirements and methodologies for performing any of these tests or studies. Unless other concentrations are specified by the EPD, the critical concentration used to determine toxicity in biomonitoring tests will be the effluent instream wastewater concentration (IWC) based on the permitted monthly average flow of the facility and the critical low flow of the receiving stream (7Q10). The endpoints that will be reported are the effluent concentration that is lethal to 50% of the test organisms (LC50) if the test is for acute toxicity and the no observed effect concentration (NOEC) of effluent if the test is for chronic toxicity.

The permittee must eliminate effluent toxicity and supply the EPD with data and evidence to confirm toxicity elimination.

**D. Representative Sampling**

Samples and measurements of the monitored waste shall represent the volume and nature of the waste stream. The permittee shall maintain a written sampling plan and monitoring schedule.

**E. Reporting**

a. Unless otherwise specified in this permit, quarterly samples shall be taken during the periods January-March, April-June, July-September, and October-December.

b. Unless otherwise specified in this permit, semiannual samples shall be taken during the periods January-June and July-December.

c. Unless otherwise specified in this permit, annual samples shall be taken during the period of January-December.

**F. Monitoring Procedures**

All analytical methods, sample containers, sample preservation techniques, and sample holding times must be consistent with the techniques and methods listed in 40 CFR Part 136. The analytical method used shall be sufficiently sensitive. EPA approved methods must be applicable to the concentration ranges of the NPDES permit samples.

**G. Recording of Results**

For each required parameter analyzed, the permittee shall record:

a. The exact place, date, and time of sampling, and the person(s) collecting the sample. For flow proportioned composite samples, this shall include the instantaneous flow and the corresponding volume of each sample aliquot, and other information relevant to document flow proportioning of composite samples;

b. The dates and times the analyses were performed;

c. The person(s) who performed the analyses;

d. The analytical procedures or methods used; and

e. The results of all required analyses.

## H. Additional Monitoring By Permittee

If the permittee monitors required parameters at the locations designated in III.A. more frequently than required, the permittee shall analyze all samples using approved analytical methods specified in II.G. The results of this additional monitoring shall be included in calculating and reporting the values on the Discharge Monitoring Report forms. The permittee shall indicate the monitoring frequency on the report. The EPD may require in writing more frequent monitoring, or monitoring of other pollutants not specified in this permit.

## I. Records Retention

The permittee shall retain records of:

a. All laboratory analyses performed including sample data, quality control data, and standard curves;

b. Calibration and maintenance records of laboratory instruments;

c. Calibration and maintenance records and recordings from continuous recording instruments;

d. Process control monitoring records;

e. Facility operation and maintenance records;

f. Copies of all reports required by this permit;

g. All data and information used to complete the permit application; and

h. All monitoring data related to sludge use and disposal.

These records shall be kept for at least three years. Sludge handling records must be kept for at least five years. Either period may be extended by EPD written notification.

## J. Penalties

Both the Federal and State Acts provide that any person who falsifies or tampers with any monitoring device or method required under this permit, or who makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record submitted or required by this permit shall, if convicted, be punished by a fine or by imprisonment or by both. The Acts include procedures for imposing civil penalties for violations or for negligent or intentional failure or refusal to comply with any final or emergency order of the Director of the EPD.

## K. Reporting Requirements

1. The permittee must electronically report the DMR, OMR and additional monitoring data using the web based electronic NetDMR reporting system, unless a waiver is granted by EPD.

   a. The permittee must comply with the Federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Electronic Reporting regulations in 40 CFR §127. The permittee must electronically report the DMR, OMR, and additional monitoring data using the web based electronic NetDMR reporting system online at: https://netdmr.epa.gov/netdmr/public/home.htm

   b. Monitoring results obtained during the calendar month shall be summarized for each month and reported on the DMR. The results of each sampling event shall be reported on the OMR and submitted as an attachment to the DMR.

   c. The permittee shall submit the DMR, OMR and additional monitoring data no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 15th day of the month following the sampling period.

   d. All other reports required herein, unless otherwise stated, shall be submitted to the EPD Office listed on the permit issuance letter signed by the Director of EPD.

2. **No later than December 21, 2025,** the permittee must electronically report the following compliance monitoring data and reports using the online web based electronic system approved by EPD, unless a waiver is granted by EPD:

   a. Sewer Overflow/Bypass Event Reports;

   b. Noncompliance Notification;

   c. Other noncompliance; and

   d. Bypass

## L. Other Reports

All other reports required in this permit not listed above in Part II.L.2 or unless otherwise stated, shall be submitted to the EPD Office listed on the permit issuance letter signed by the Director of EPD.

## M. Signatory Requirements

All reports, certifications, data or information submitted in compliance with this permit or requested by EPD must be signed and certified as follows:

a. Any State or NPDES Permit Application form submitted to the EPD shall be signed as follows in accordance with the Federal Regulations, 40 C.F.R. 122.22:

1. For a corporation, by a responsible corporate officer. A responsible corporate officer means:

   i. a president, secretary, treasurer, or vice president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy- or decision making functions for the corporation, or
   ii. the manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities employing more than 250 persons or having gross annual sales or expenditures exceeding $25 million (in second-quarter 1980 dollars), if authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.

2. For a partnership or sole proprietorship, by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively; or

3. For a municipality, State, Federal, or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.

b. All other reports or requests for information required by the permit issuing authority shall be signed by a person designated in (a) above or a duly authorized representative of such person, if:

   1. The representative so authorized is responsible for the overall operation of the facility from which the discharge originates, e.g., a plant manager, superintendent or person of equivalent responsibility;

   2. The authorization is made in writing by the person designated under (a) above; and

   3. The written authorization is submitted to the Director.

c. Any changes in written authorization submitted to the permitting authority under (b) above which occur after the issuance of a permit shall be reported to the permitting authority by submitting a copy of a new written authorization which meets the requirements of (b) and (b.1) and (b.2) above.

d. Any person signing any document under (a) or (b) above shall make the following certification:

   "I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

## PART III. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

A.1.a EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Facilities Using Surface Water as a Raw Source Water:

The discharge from the water treatment plant shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below starting on the effective date of the permit and continuing for 12 months:

| Parameters | Discharge limitations in mg/L unless otherwise specified | | Monitoring Requirements | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Monthly Average | Weekly Average | Measurement Frequency | Sample Type | Sample Location |
| Flow (MGD) | Report | Report | One Day/Week | Instantaneous | Effluent |
| Total Suspended Solids | 30 | 45 | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Recoverable Aluminum [1] | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Recoverable Iron [2] | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Phosphorus, as P | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| *Escherichia coli* (#/100 mL) [3] | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Fecal Coliform Bacteria (#/100 mL) [3] | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |

| Parameters | Discharge limitations in mg/L unless otherwise specified | Monitoring Requirements | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Measurement Frequency | Sample Type | Sample Location |
| pH, Daily Minimum – Daily Maximum (Standard Unit) | 6.0 – 8.5 | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Residual Chlorine, Daily Maximum [4] | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |

[1] Total recoverable aluminum monitoring requirement is only applicable if aluminum-based chemicals are used in the treatment process. The permittee must use the appropriate No Data Indicator (NODI) code in the Discharge Monitoring Reports if monitoring is not required.

[2] Total recoverable iron monitoring requirement is only applicable if iron-based chemicals are used in the treatment process. The permittee must use the appropriate No Data Indicator (NODI) code in the Discharge Monitoring Reports if monitoring is not required.

[3] Either fecal coliform bacteria or *Escherichia coli* monitoring is required. Refer to your Notice of Coverage Letter to determine the applicable bacteria effluent monitoring requirements.

[4] Total residual chlorine (TRC) monitoring requirements only apply if chlorine is in use at the facility. The TRC limit shall be calculated as follows:

Dilution Factor = (7Q10 + Wastewater Discharge Flow) / Wastewater Discharge Flow

Daily maximum TRC limit = 0.011 mg/L x Dilution Factor

The limit for TRC shall be the lower of either 0.5 mg/L or the calculated TRC limitation. If the TRC limit calculation is greater than 0.5 mg/L, the permittee will be required to meet the technology-based limit of 0.5 mg/L.

## A.1.b EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Facilities Using Surface Water as a Raw Source Water:

The discharge from the water treatment plant shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below starting 12 months after the effective date of the permit:

| Parameters | Discharge limitations in mg/L unless otherwise specified | | Monitoring Requirements | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Monthly Average | Weekly Average | Measurement Frequency | Sample Type | Sample Location |
| Flow (MGD) | Report | Report | One Day/Week | Instantaneous | Effluent |
| Total Suspended Solids | 30 | 45 | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Recoverable Aluminum [1] | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Recoverable Iron [2] | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Phosphorus, as P | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| *Escherichia coli* (#/100 mL) [3] | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Fecal Coliform Bacteria (#/100 mL) [3] | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |

| Parameters | Discharge limitations in mg/L unless otherwise specified | Monitoring Requirements | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Measurement Frequency | Sample Type | Sample Location |
| pH, Daily Minimum – Daily Maximum (Standard Unit) | 6.0 – 8.5 | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Residual Chlorine, Daily Maximum [4] | 0.011 | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |

[1] Total recoverable aluminum monitoring requirement is only applicable if aluminum-based chemicals are used in the treatment process. The permittee must use the appropriate No Data Indicator (NODI) code in the Discharge Monitoring Reports if monitoring is not required.

[2] Total recoverable iron monitoring requirement is only applicable if iron-based chemicals are used in the treatment process. The permittee must use the appropriate No Data Indicator (NODI) code in the Discharge Monitoring Reports if monitoring is not required.

[3] Either fecal coliform bacteria or *Escherichia coli* monitoring is required. Refer to your Notice of Coverage Letter to determine the applicable bacteria effluent monitoring requirements.

[4] Total residual chlorine (TRC) monitoring requirements only apply if chlorine is in use at the facility. The permittee must use the appropriate No Data Indicator (NODI) code in the Discharge Monitoring Reports if monitoring is not required.

A.2.a EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Facilities Using Groundwater as a Raw Source Water:

The discharge from the water treatment plant shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below starting on the effective date of the permit and continuing for 12 months:

| Parameters | Discharge limitations in mg/L unless otherwise specified | | Monitoring Requirements | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Monthly Average | Weekly Average | Measurement Frequency | Sample Type | Sample Location |
| Flow (MGD) | Report | Report | One Day/Week | Instantaneous | Effluent |
| Total Suspended Solids | 30 | 45 | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Recoverable Aluminum | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Recoverable Iron | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Recoverable Arsenic | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Phosphorus, as P [(1)] | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |

| Parameters | Discharge limitations in mg/L unless otherwise specified | Monitoring Requirements | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Measurement Frequency | Sample Type | Sample Location |
| pH, Daily Minimum – Daily Maximum (Standard Unit) | 6.0 – 8.5 | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Residual Chlorine, Daily Maximum [(2)] | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |

(1) Total phosphorus, as P monitoring requirement is only applicable if phosphorus-based chemicals are used in the treatment process.

(2) Total residual chlorine (TRC) monitoring requirements only apply if chlorine is in use at the facility. The permittee must use the appropriate No Data Indicator (NODI) code in the Discharge Monitoring Reports if monitoring is not required.
The TRC limit shall be calculated as follows:

Dilution Factor = (7Q10 + Wastewater Discharge Flow) / Wastewater Discharge Flow

Daily maximum TRC limit = 0.011 mg/L x Dilution Factor

The limit for TRC shall be the lower of either 0.5 mg/L or the calculated TRC limitation. If the TRC limit calculation is greater than 0.5 mg/L, the permittee will be required to meet the technology-based limit of 0.5 mg/L.

A.2.b EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Facilities Using Groundwater as a Raw Source Water:

The discharge from the water treatment plant shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below starting 12 months after the effective date of the permit:

| Parameters | Discharge limitations in mg/L unless otherwise specified | | Monitoring Requirements | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Monthly Average | Weekly Average | Measurement Frequency | Sample Type | Sample Location |
| Flow (MGD) | Report | Report | One Day/Week | Instantaneous | Effluent |
| Total Suspended Solids | 30 | 45 | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Recoverable Aluminum | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Recoverable Iron | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Recoverable Arsenic | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Phosphorus, as P [(1)] | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |

| Parameters | Discharge limitations in mg/L unless otherwise specified | Monitoring Requirements | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Measurement Frequency | Sample Type | Sample Location |
| pH, Daily Minimum – Daily Maximum (Standard Unit) | 6.0 – 8.5 | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Residual Chlorine, Daily Maximum [(2)] | 0.011 | One Day/Month | Grab | Effluent |

(1) Total phosphorus, as P monitoring requirement is only applicable if phosphorus-based chemicals are used in the treatment process.

(2) Total residual chlorine (TRC) monitoring requirements only apply if chlorine is in use at the facility. The permittee must use the appropriate No Data Indicator (NODI) code in the Discharge Monitoring Reports if monitoring is not required.

## PART IV. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

### A. Management Requirements

#### 1. Facility Operation

The permittee shall maintain and operate efficiently all treatment or control facilities and related equipment installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with this permit. Efficient operation and maintenance include effective performance, adequate funding, adequate operator staffing and training, and adequate laboratory and process controls, including appropriate quality assurance procedures. Back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems shall be operated only when necessary to achieve permit compliance.

#### 2. Change In Discharge

Any anticipated facility expansions, or process modifications which will result in new, different, or increased discharges of pollutants require the submission of a new NPDES permit application. If the changes will not violate the permit effluent limitations, the permittee may notify EPD without submitting an application. The permittee should notify EPD if their water intake changes or their water treatment process changes significantly. The Notice of Coverage may then be modified to specify and limit any pollutants not previously limited.

#### 3. Noncompliance Notification

A permittee who does not comply with any permit effluent limit shall provide EPD with an oral report within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances, followed by a written report within 5 days. The written report shall contain:

a. A description of the noncompliance and its cause; and

b. The period of noncompliance, including the exact date and times; or, if not corrected, the anticipated time the noncompliance is expected to continue; and

c. The steps taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncomplying discharge.

#### 4. Anticipated Noncompliance Notification

The permittee shall give written notice to the EPD at least 10 days before:

a. Any planned changes in the permitted facility; or

b. Any activity which may result in noncompliance with the permit.

**5. Other Noncompliance**

The permittee must report all instances of noncompliance not reported under other specific reporting requirements, at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information required under conditions of twenty-four hour reporting.

**6. Operator Certification Requirements**

The person responsible for the daily operation of the facility must be a Certified Operator in compliance with the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act, as amended. The class level for the certified Operator must comply with the minimum plant or system classification level specified in Section 391-3-6-.39 of Rules for Safe Drinking Water. In lieu of a wastewater operator certification, the appropriate certification requirements for a water plant operator for this facility will be sufficient.

**7. Laboratory Analyst Certification Requirements**

Laboratory Analysts must be certified in compliance with the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act, as amended. In lieu of wastewater laboratory analyst certification, the appropriate certification requirements for a water laboratory analyst for this facility will be sufficient.

**8. Bypassing**

Any diversion of wastewater from or bypassing of wastewater around the permitted treatment works is prohibited, except if:

a. Bypassing is unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;

b. There are no feasible alternatives to bypassing; and

c. The permittee notifies the EPD at least 10 days before the date of the bypass.

Feasible alternatives to bypassing include use of auxiliary treatment facilities and retention of untreated waste. The permittee must take all possible measures to prevent bypassing during routine preventative maintenance by installing adequate back-up equipment.

The permittee shall operate the facility and the sewer system to minimize discharge of pollutants from combined sewer overflows or bypasses and may be required by the EPD to submit a plan and schedule to reduce bypasses, overflows, and infiltration.

Any unplanned bypass must be reported following the requirements for noncompliance notification specified in Part IV.A.4. The permittee may be liable for any water quality violations that occur as a result of bypassing the facility.

**9. Power Failures**

If the primary source of power to this water pollution control facility is reduced or lost, the permittee shall use an alternative source of power to reduce or control all discharges to maintain permit compliance.

**10. Adverse Impact**

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge or sludge disposal which might adversely affect human health or the environment.

**11. Upset Provision**

Provision under 40 CFR 122.41(n)(1)-(4), regarding "Upset" shall be applicable to any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding brought to enforce this permit.

## B. Responsibilities

**1. Compliance**

The permittee must comply with this permit. Any permit noncompliance is a violation of the Federal Act, State Act, and the State Rules, and is grounds for:

a. Enforcement action;

b. Denial of coverage under this permit.

It shall not be a defense of the permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

**2. Right of Entry**

The permittee shall allow the Director of the EPD, the Regional Administrator of EPA, and their authorized representatives, agents, or employees after they present credentials to:

a. Enter the permittee's premises where a regulated activity or facility is located, or where any records required by this permit are kept;

b. Review and copy any records required by this permit;

c. Inspect any facilities, equipment, practices, or operations regulated or required by this permit; and

d. Sample any substance or parameter at any location.

**3. Submittal of Information**

The permittee shall furnish any information required by the EPD to determine whether cause exists to modify, revoke and reissue, or terminate this permit or to determine compliance with this permit. The permittee shall also furnish the EPD with requested copies of records required by this permit. If the permittee determines that any relevant facts were not included in a permit application or that incorrect information was submitted in a permit application or in any report to the EPD, the permittee shall promptly submit the additional or corrected information.

**4. Availability of Reports**

Except for data determined to be confidential by the Director of EPD under O.C.G.A. 12-5-26 or by the Regional Administrator of EPA under the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 2, all reports prepared to comply with this permit shall be available for public inspection at an EPD office. Effluent data, permit applications, permittee names and addresses, and permits shall not be considered confidential.

**5. Civil and Criminal Liabilities**

The permittee is liable for civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance with this permit and must comply with applicable State and Federal laws including promulgated water quality standards. The permit cannot be interpreted to relieve the permittee of this liability even if it has not been modified to incorporate new requirements.

**6. Property Rights**

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights of either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, or any infringement of Federal, State or local laws or regulations.

**7. Contested Hearings**

Any person aggrieved or adversely affected by any action of the Director of the EPD shall petition the Director for a hearing within 30 days of notice of the action.

**8. Severability**

The provisions of this permit are severable. If any permit provision or the application of any permit provision to any circumstance is held invalid, the provision does not affect other circumstances or the remainder of this permit.

**9. Previous Permits**

All previous State wastewater permits issued to this facility, whether for construction or operation, are hereby revoked on the effective date of this permit. This action is taken to assure compliance with the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, as amended, and the Federal Clean Water Act, as amended. Receipt of the permit constitutes notice of such action. The conditions, requirements, terms and provisions of this permit authorizing discharge under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System govern discharges from this facility.

## PART V. APPROVED SLUDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. This general permit allows for sludge generated at the facility to be sent to another permitted facility and/or third party for further treatment and/or ultimate disposal.

2. The permittee will report on an annual basis the amount of sludge sent to the off-site preparer/permitted facility during the most recent calendar year. The annual report shall be submitted to EPD no later than February 19 of the following year.

3. The permittee will maintain sludge handling records in accordance with Part II.B. of the Permit.

4. The permittee will notify EPD in writing of any planned changes to the permittee's sludge use or disposal practices.

**PART VI. DEFINITIONS**

a. **"Applicant"** means the owner of the site or the operator of the site.

b. **"Coagulation"** means a process using coagulant chemicals and mixing by which colloidal and suspended materials are destabilized and agglomerated into flocs.

c. **"Composite Sample"** means a combination of at least 5 discrete sample aliquots of at least 100 milliliters, collected over periodic intervals from the same location, during the operating hours of a facility for at least 8 hours. The composite must be flow proportional.

d. **"Conventional filtration treatment"** means a series of processes including coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration resulting in substantial particulate removal.

e. **"CWA"** means the Clean Water Act (formerly referred to as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972) found at 33 USC 1251 et seq.

f. **"Department"** means the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

g. **"Direct Filtration"** means a series of processes including coagulation and filtration but excluding sedimentation resulting in substantial particulate removal.

h. **"Director"** means the Director of the EPD.

i. **"Discharge of a Pollutant"** means any addition of any "pollutant" or combination of pollutants to "waters of the State" from any "point source." This definitions includes additions of pollutants into waters of the State from: surface runoff which is collected or channeled by man; discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances owned by a State, municipality, or other persons which do not lead to treatment works; and discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances, leading into privately owned treatment works. This term does not include an addition of pollutants by any "indirect discharger."

j. **"DMR"** means discharge monitoring report.

k. **"Division"** means the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

l. **"Effluent"** means wastewater that is discharged (treated or partially treated).

m. **"Effluent limitation"** means any restriction imposed by the Director on quantities, discharge rates, and concentrations of "pollutant" which are "discharge" from "point sources" into waters of the United States, the waters of the "contiguous zone," or the ocean.

n. **"EPA"** or **"US EPA"** means the United States Environmental Protection Agency and any of its authorized personnel.

o. **"EPD"** means the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

p. **"Federal Act"** mean The Clean Water Act.

q. **"Filtration"** means a process for removing particulate matter from water by passage through porous media.

r. **"Flocculation"** means a process to enhance agglomeration or collection of smaller floc particles into larger, more easily settleable particles through gentle stirring by hydraulic or mechanical means.

s. **"Grab Sample"** means an individual sample of at least 100 milliliters collected at a randomly-selected time over a period not exceeding 15 minutes.

t. **"General Permit"** means an NPDES permit issued under Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR), Part 122.28 authorizing a category of discharges under the Federal Clean Water Act (Federal Act) within a geographical area.

u. **"Influent"** means wastewater, treated or untreated, that flows into a treatment plant.

v. **"Membrane filtration"** is a pressure or vacuum driven separation process in which particulate matter larger than 1 micrometer is rejected by an engineered barrier, primarily through a size-exclusion mechanism, and which has measurable removal efficiency of a target organism that can be verified through the application of a direct integrity test. This definition includes the common membrane technologies of microfiltration, ultrafiltration, nanofiltration, and reverse osmosis.

w. **"MGD"** means millions gallons per day.

x. **"Monthly Average"** means the arithmetic mean of values obtained for samples collected during a calendar month, other than for fecal coliform bacteria and *Escherichia Coli.*

y. **"Notice of Intent (NOI)"** means the form used by a potential permittee to notify the EPD that they intend to seek coverage under a general permit.

z. **"Notice of Termination (NOT)"** means the form used by a permittee to notify the EPD that they wish to cease coverage under a general permit"

aa. **"Operator" or "certified operator"** means the person who has direct general charge of the day-to-day field operation of the septage storage, pretreatment, and disposal systems and who is responsible for the quality of the treated septage; and who holds a valid certification acceptable to the Division.

bb. **"Owner"** means any person owning a facility that discharges to waters of the State.

cc. **"Permittee"** means the owner or operator of the water treatment plant that has submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under this general permit and who is authorized for coverage under this permit.

dd. **"Point Source"** means any discernible, confined, or discrete conveyance, including, but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture or agricultural storm water runoff.

ee. **"Pollutant"** means dredges spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt, industrial wastes, municipal waste, and agricultural waste discharged into the waters of the state.

ff. **"Rules"** means the Georgia Rules and regulations for Water Quality Control.

gg. **"Sedimentation"** means a process of removal of solids before filtration by gravity or separation.

hh. **"Slow Sand Filtration"** means a process involving passage of raw water through a bed of sand at low velocity (generally less than 0.4 m/h) resulting in substantial particulate removal by physical and biologicals mechanisms.

ii. **"State Act"** means the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Official Code of Georgia Annotated; Title 12, Chapter 5, Article 20).

jj. **"State Rules"** means the Georgia Rules and regulations for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, as amended.

kk. **"Waters of Georgia or Waters of the State"** means any and all rivers, streams, creeks, branches, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, drainage systems, springs, wells, wetlands, and all other bodies of surface or subsurface water, natural or artificial, lying within or forming a part of the boundaries of the State which are not confined and retained completely upon the property of a single individual, partnership, or corporation.

ll. **"Weekly Average"** means the arithmetic mean of values obtained for samples collected during a 7-day period, other than for fecal coliform bacteria and *Escherichia Coli*. The week begins 12:00 midnight Saturday and ends at 12:00 midnight the following Saturday. For reporting required of this permit, a week that starts in one month and ends in another month shall be considered part of the second month. The permittee may calculate and report the weekly average as a 7-day moving average.