Flint River Basin Irrigation Efficiency Requirements

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." This legislation established irrigation system efficiency requirements for all farm use permits in the 2012 Suspension Area. Please refer to the *Conservation Use Area Maps* document, that can be accessed at the Georgia Water Withdrawal Permitting Forms webpage in the Agricultural section, to determine if these requirements are applicable to your withdrawal(s). (https://epd.georgia.gov/forms-permits/watershed-protection-branch-forms-permits/water-withdrawal-permitting-forms)

If your withdrawal(s) is (are) located in the 2012 Suspension Area, these irrigation system efficiency requirements will become **permanent** conditions of your permit, if a permit is issued, and the required practices must be maintained while the permit is in effect.

Center Pivot, Lateral (Linear) Move, & Drip Irrigation Systems

All systems are required to exhibit at least 80% efficiency. All irrigation systems **must** utilize at least one of the options below. *If you are utilizing a land effluent system, you do not need to implement one of the following*.

- Low pressure system (i.e., spray nozzles on top of pipe with or without pressure regulators, spray nozzles on drops below pipe, LEPA package at approximately 18" above ground, variable rate irrigation (VRI) sprinkler system)
- 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 switch
- Irrigation consultant

Traveler, Solid-Set, and Big Gun

All systems are required to exhibit at least 60% efficiency. At least one of the following practices **must** be utilized:

- Low trajectory angle delivery
- Hard hose with speed compensation
- Buried pipe water delivery system

All Irrigation Systems

All systems are required to implement the following:

- Leak Correction and Operational Maintenance Procedure - All leaks **must** be corrected once they become apparent.
- Operational pump shutdown safety, or any other device, valve, or mechanism to interrupt the flow of water in the event of irrigation system failure.

General Management/Maintenance

The following practices are not required for irrigation system certification of efficiency but are recognized as quality water management practices.

- Night-time only irrigation
- Conservation tillage
- GPS enabled control panel for positioning