

Summary Page

Name of Facility General Land Application System (LAS) Permit for Large Community Systems

LAS Permit No. GAG278000

This is a reissuance of the General Land Application System Permit (LAS) for Large Community Systems which discharge pretreated domestic wastewater into a subsurface fluid distribution system.

The draft permit was placed on public notice from October 31, 2024 to December 9, 2024. A virtual public hearing was held on Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 7pm to discuss the proposed changes to the permit. No comments were received on the draft permit during the public hearing or the public comment period.

Please Note The Following Changes to the Proposed General Permit From The Existing Permit

Part I.A. Eligibility and Permit Coverage Area

- Clarified that the general permit does not cover facilities with flows less than 10,000 gpd, even if the system is designed to serve more than 20 persons per day.
- Clarified that the general permit does not cover facilities with site-specific design flow figures less stringent than those identified in EPD's Large Community Design Guidance.
- Clarified that the general permit does not cover discharges from underdrain systems.
- Clarified that the general permit does not cover discharges to surface waters.

Part I.C. Notice of Coverage

- Clarified that public notices for individual new or expanding facilities after the issuance date of the general permit may be limited to a facility's eligibility under the general permit.
- Clarified that a facility may be denied coverage under the general permit based on reasonable availability to connect to existing systems.

Part I.G. Expansion of System / New Connections

- Clarified that expanding facilities with site-specific design flow figures less stringent than those identified in EPD's Large Community Design Guidance may be removed from eligibility under the general permit.

Part III.B. Application Area and Loading Rates

- Removed reference to underdrain systems, as this type of discharge is not an eligible activity under the general permit.

Summary Page

Part IV.G. Groundwater Monitoring Exceedances

- Clarified that the permittee must submit the plan to EPD if groundwater monitoring indicates an exceedance.
- Clarified that the permittee may be required to cease discharges to the affected site if groundwater monitoring indicates an exceedance.

Final Permit Determinations and Public Comments

- Final issued permit did not change from the draft permit placed on public notice.
- Public comments were received during public notice period.
- Public hearing was held.
- Final permit includes changes from the draft permit placed on public notice. See attached permit revisions and/or permit fact sheet revision.

Permit No. GAG278000
Issuance Date: 01/24/2025



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

GENERAL LAND APPLICATION SYSTEM PERMIT FOR LARGE COMMUNITY SYSTEMS

In accordance with the provisions of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (O.C.G.A. §12-5-20), and the Rules and Regulations (Chapters 391-3-6-.13 and 391-3-6-.19, as amended) promulgated pursuant thereto, this permit is issued for the discharge of sanitary wastes from any large community system with a monthly average design flow of 10,000 to 150,000 gallons per day, located within the State of Georgia to a preapplication treatment system and then to a subsurface fluid distribution system.

Owners of existing and proposed large community systems may, on submittal of a notice of intent to discharge sanitary wastes to a preapplication treatment system and subsurface fluid distribution system, and after acknowledgement by the Environmental Protection Division of coverage under this permit, discharge sanitary wastes to such systems in accordance with the preapplication treatment system effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth in this permit.

This permit is conditioned upon the permittee complying with the preapplication treatment system effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in the permit, with the statements and supporting data submitted with the Notice of Intent and filed with the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources and with any requirements specified in the Notice of Intent acceptance letter.

This general permit shall become effective on February 1, 2025.

This permit shall expire at midnight on January 31, 2030.



Jeffrey W. Cown

Jeffrey W. Cown, Director
Environmental Protection Division

Table of Content

PART I. Coverage Under This General Permit.....3
A. Eligibility and Permit Coverage Area3
B. Permit Application (Notice of Intent) (NOI) - Requirements3
C. Notice of Coverage.....5
D. Transfer of Ownership or Control5
E. Notice of Termination5
F. Elimination of Discharge.....5
G. Expansion of System / New Connections6
H. Expiration of Permit6
I. Severability.....6
PART II. Monitoring and Analysis.....7
A. Representative Sampling.....7
B. Additional Monitoring by Permittee7
C. Monitoring Well Requirements.....7
D. Sampling Period7
E. Analytical Procedures.....8
F. Recording of Results8
G. Reporting.....8
H. Records Retention8
I. Sewage Sludge Disposal and Monitoring Requirements9
J. Oil and Grease Management Program10
Part III. Limitations and Monitoring Requirements11
A.1.Preapplication Treatment System Monitoring – Aerated Systems11
A.2.Preapplication Treatment System Monitoring– Septic Tank Systems12
B. Application Area and Loading Rates13
C. Soil Monitoring Requirements13
PART IV. Management Requirements15
A. Facility Operation.....15
B. Noncompliance Notification15
C. Operator Certification Requirements16
D. Laboratory Analyst Certification Requirements16
E. Power Failures.....16
F. Adverse Impact.....16
G. Groundwater Monitoring Exceedances16
H. No Point Source Discharge(s) of a Pollutant to Surface Waters of the State.....17
I. Compliance.....17
J. Right of Entry17
K. Submittal of Information17
L. Penalties.....18
M. Civil and Criminal Liabilities.....18
N. Contested Hearings.....18
O. Introduction of Pollutants into the Treatment Works.....18
P. New and Expanding Systems19
PART V. Approved Sludge Management Plan20
PART VI. Definitions21

PART I. Coverage Under This General Permit

A. Eligibility and Permit Coverage Area

1. This permit regulates all new and existing discharges of sanitary wastes from large community systems to Class V septic systems within the State of Georgia.
2. This permit does not authorize the following discharges:
 - i. Discharges associated with non-domestic septic systems (NDSS);
 - ii. Discharges that are covered by an individual LAS permit;
 - iii. Single-family residences that are served by their individual subsurface disposal system;
 - iv. Discharges from small community systems to a subsurface disposal system that are designed for flows less than 10,000 gpd (0.001 MGD), including those designed to serve 20 or greater persons;
 - v. Discharges of sanitary wastes from community systems to subsurface disposal systems that are designed for flows greater than 150,000 gpd (0.15 MGD);
 - vi. Discharges of sanitary wastes from community systems with flows from 10,000 gpd to 150,000 gpd but which utilize less stringent flow figures than those outlined in EPD's Large Community Design Guidance;
 - vii. Discharges from an underdrain system; and,
 - viii. Discharges to surface waters.
3. Large community systems discharging or proposing to discharge sanitary wastes to subsurface land application systems must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) and any documents required therein to be covered under this general permit. Construction of a new large community system will be considered a violation of this permit, the State Rules, and the Water Quality Control Act; unless an NOI has been submitted to EPD and EPD has included coverage of the system under this general permit; or, unless the system is covered under an individual permit.

B. Permit Application (Notice of Intent) (NOI) - Requirements

1. Such Notice of Intent form shall be provided by EPD. The NOI requires the following information to be submitted:
 - i. Name, location, and mailing address of facility including site layout and site map;
 - ii. Contact information for facility point of contact, permittee, and operator;
 - iii. List of any associated permits;
 - iv. Pre-treatment process description and process flow chart;

- v. Description of subsurface disposal system;
 - vi. Description of underdrain collection system (if one exists);
 - vii. Solids treatment and disposal description;
 - viii. Effluent water quality design, monthly average, and peak values;
 - ix. Certification by a responsible corporate officer, proprietor, principal executive officer or other appropriate responsible official; and,
 - x. Any other information provided on the NOI application as prescribed by EPD.
2. For new or expanding facilities only, additional documents required include:
- i. Design Development Report (including soils investigation);
 - ii. Maintenance and Operations Agreement (if contract operated);
 - iii. Large Community Subsurface System Engineering Submittal;
 - iv. Sewer Use Ordinance, if publicly owned system only;
 - v. Sewer Use Agreement, if private development system only;
 - vi. Environmental Information Document, if publicly owned system only;
 - vii. Trust Indenture, if private development system only; and,
 - viii. Any other document provided on the NOI application as prescribed by EPD.
3. For existing facilities previously covered by a different regulatory agency, additional documents required include:
- i. Maintenance and Operations Agreement;
 - ii. Construction permit (or other vehicle) for the existing system;
Document must show the location of the existing system and the set-aside for replacement. If such construction permit is not available, then the owner may submit a site plan showing the location of the preapplication treatment system, the subsurface fluid distribution system, the point of application, and the replacement area.
 - iii. Sewer Use Agreement;
 - iv. Operations Manual approved by the original permitting agency;
Document must be available at the facility, or if an approved operations manual is not available, a schedule for the development of an operations manual subject to final approval from EPD and an understanding that a copy of the operations manual will be available at the plant after the final schedule date.
 - v. Trust Indenture;
 - vi. Large Community Subsurface System Engineering Submittal; and,
 - vii. Any other document provided on the NOI application as prescribed by EPD.

C. Notice of Coverage

1. EPD shall review the NOI and supporting information upon submittal. For new or expanding facilities proposing coverage during the effective period of this general permit, EPD must publish notice of a public comment period for the proposed system prior to granting coverage. Public comments for such new or expanding systems will be limited to the eligibility of the proposed facility under this general permit. Coverage under this permit shall be effective only after this review and written confirmation from EPD.
2. EPD may deny coverage under this permit and require submittal of an application for an individual land application system permit after review of the NOI. EPD may deny coverage based on an incomplete or incorrect NOI submittal, past noncompliance by the applicant at similar facilities, reasonable availability to connect to existing systems, or other factors.

D. Transfer of Ownership or Control

Permit coverage may be transferred to another person by a permittee if:

1. The permittee notifies the Director in writing of the proposed transfer;
2. A written agreement containing a specific date for transfer of permit responsibility and coverage between the current and new permittee (including acknowledgment that the existing permittee is liable for violations up to that date, and that the new permittee is liable for violations from that date on) and an NOI from the new permittee are submitted to the Director at least 30 days in advance of the proposed transfer; and
3. The Director, within thirty (30) days, does not notify the current permittee and the new permittee of EPD's intent to terminate coverage and to require that a new application be filed for coverage under another permit.

Failure to submit the information required in Part I.D.1 and Part I.D.2 above may be considered a violation of this permit. The Division may decline to allow continued coverage under this general permit and may require coverage by another permit.

E. Notice of Termination

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.

F. Elimination of Discharge

Operation of a covered facility will cease and the discharge will be eliminated by connection to an appropriate municipal water pollution control plant sewer system within three months of reasonable availability of the connection.

G. Expansion of System / New Connections

The permittee shall not allow any new connections to the facility beyond that capacity identified in the Notice of Intent and/or approved Design Development Report without written approval from EPD. Proposed new connections which result in the use of less stringent design flow figures than outlined in EPD's Large Community Design Guidance may remove a system from eligibility under this general permit and require application for an individual permit.

H. 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 permittee has submitted a Notice of Termination and the permit coverage has been terminated consistent with Rule 391-3-6-.19(9). 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 seeking renewal coverage who has submitted a completed application as provided by EPD 180 days prior to the expiration date of the permit 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 conditions of the new permit;
2. Issuance of an individual permit;
3. A formal decision by the permitting authority not to reissue this permit, at which time the permittee must seek coverage under an individual permit; or
4. The permitting authority grants the permittee's request for termination of permit coverage.

The Division may bring an enforcement action for failure to submit an NOI by the deadline or for any unauthorized disposal of domestic wastewater to the land application system that occurred after the deadlines provided in this permit.

I. 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.

PART II. Monitoring and Analysis

A. Representative Sampling

1. A primary flow measuring device(s) shall be installed in accordance with generally accepted engineering design. Secondary flow measurement devices are required which will measure and record the volume of flow distributed to the subsurface fluid distribution system(s) on a daily basis. Calibration of the secondary flow measuring devices must be maintained to $\pm 10\%$ of actual flows. Qualified personnel must calibrate the flow measurement device annually and records of the calibrations must be maintained. If secondary flow instruments malfunction or fail to maintain calibration as required, the flow shall be computed from either manual measurements or by other method(s) approved by EPD until such time as the secondary flow instrument is repaired.
2. For facilities which utilize alternate technologies for measuring flow, the flow measurement device must be calibrated semi-annually by qualified personnel and records of the calibration checks shall be maintained.
3. Samples and measurements of the monitored effluent shall represent the volume and nature of the effluent. The permittee shall maintain a written sampling and monitoring schedule that shall be available for EPD inspection.

B. Additional Monitoring by Permittee

If the permittee monitors required parameters at the locations designated in this permit more frequently than required, the permittee shall analyze all samples using approved analytical methods. 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.

C. Monitoring Well Requirements

The permittee, upon written notification by EPD, may be required to install groundwater monitoring wells at an existing land application system. This requirement may apply if monitoring wells were not included in the original design of the facility and/or if EPD determines the existing groundwater monitoring wells are not adequate.

D. Sampling Period

Unless otherwise specified in this permit:

1. Quarterly samples shall be taken during the periods January-March, April-June, July-September, and October-December.
2. Semiannual samples shall be taken during the periods January-June and July-December.
3. Annual samples shall be taken during the period of January-December.

E. Analytical Procedures

Analytical methods, sample containers, sample preservation techniques, and sample holding times must be consistent with the techniques and procedures listed in 40 CFR Part 136 for monitoring the waste stream. The analytical method used shall be sufficiently sensitive.

F. Recording of Results

1. For each required parameter analyzed, the permittee shall record:
 - i. The exact place, date, and time of sampling, and the person(s) collecting the samples;
 - ii. The dates and times the analyses were performed;
 - iii. The person(s) who performed the analyses;
 - iv. The analytical procedures or methods used; and
 - v. The results of all required analyses.
2. Parameters shall be reported as "not detected" when they are below the method detection limit and will then be considered in compliance with the effluent limit. The method detection limit shall also be reported.

G. Reporting

1. 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 each month with the summarized monitoring results; signed in accordance with the State Rule 391-3-6-.11 (5) e. and shall be maintained on file at the facility, unless otherwise notified in writing by EPD. EPD may require the permittee to provide additional monitoring results by written notification.
2. The monthly report shall also include a log of the time spent on site by the operator and a summary of solids removed from the preapplication treatment system.
3. All reports or information generated in compliance with this permit must be signed in accordance with the State Rule 391-3-6-.11 (5) e.
4. The results of each monitoring event shall be reported on an Operating Monitoring Report (OMR) and submitted as an attachment to the DMR. The permittee shall submit the required reports no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 15th day of the month following the reporting period.

H. Records Retention

All records shall be kept for at least five years unless extended by EPD written notification.

The permittee shall retain records of:

1. All laboratory analyses performed including sample data, quality control data, and standard curves;
2. Calibration and maintenance records of laboratory instruments;
3. Calibration and maintenance records and recordings from continuous recording instruments;
4. Process control monitoring records;
5. Facility operation and maintenance records;
6. Copies of all reports required by this permit;
7. All data and information used to complete the NOI;
8. Pumping of any grease traps serving food preparation establishments (or other connections with high concentrations of oil and grease) that are connected to this system; and
9. All monitoring data related to sludge use and disposal.

I. Sewage Sludge Disposal and Monitoring Requirements

The following requirements apply to preapplication treatment systems that include an aerobic treatment system:

1. Sludge shall be disposed of according to the regulations and guidelines established by EPD and the Federal Act section 405(d) and (e), and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).
2. Sludge must be disposed of in a permitted landfill or sent to an off-site preparer for further treatment and ultimate disposal (Refer to Part V for reporting requirements).
3. If sludge generated at the facility is not disposed of in a permitted landfill or sent to an off- site preparer, then EPD may terminate coverage under the general permit for a facility.
4. 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. Records shall be maintained documenting that the quantity of solids removed from the facility equals the solids generated on an average day. 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.G. of this permit. The quantity shall be reported on a dry weight basis (dry tons).

5. This general permit does not authorize permittees to dispose of sludge through land application.

J. Oil and Grease Management Program

The permittee must develop and maintain a written program for regular pumping of grease traps serving all food preparation establishments connected to the system. Records of the pumping, including the person performing the pumping and the location of final disposal of the removed material, must be submitted as an attachment to Discharge Monitoring Report Forms and maintained on file for a minimum of five years.

Part III. Limitations and Monitoring Requirements

A.1. Preapplication Treatment System Monitoring – Aerated Systems

Discharge from preapplication treatment system:

For aerated systems, as identified by the Notice of Coverage letter, the preapplication treatment system shall be monitored by the permittee for the parameters and at the frequency listed below, unless waived by EPD ⁽¹⁾:

Parameter (units)	Discharge Limitations Monthly (Weekly) average, unless otherwise stated	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location ⁽¹⁾
Flow (MGD) ^(2,3)	Report	Seven Days/Week	Continuous	Effluent
Five-Day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	30 (45)	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)	30 (45)	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Oil and Grease (mg/L)	25	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Nitrate-Nitrogen (mg/L)	Report	One Day/Quarter	Grab	Effluent
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (mg/L)	Report	One Day/Quarter	Grab	Effluent
pH (standard units), Daily Minimum & Daily Maximum	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent

⁽¹⁾ For sample collection purposes, the effluent sample point is defined as the point of injection. For existing large community systems originally permitted by another regulatory agency that do not have a point of injection, EPD may waive the requirement for effluent flow measurements and sampling. Any such waiver will be included in the Notice of Coverage and will be limited only to the existing large community system. Any expansion or upgrade will require the permittee to install a point of injection for flow measurement and sample collection.

⁽²⁾ A daily log will be kept by the land treatment system operator of the volume (gal) of wastewater distributed to the subsurface fluid distribution system and shall be submitted to EPD in accordance with Part II.G.4 of this permit.

⁽³⁾ Refer to the Notice of Coverage letter to determine applicable flow limit.

A.2. Preapplication Treatment System Monitoring– Septic Tank Systems

Discharge from preapplication treatment system:

For Septic Tank Systems, as identified by the Notice of Coverage letter, the preapplication treatment system shall be monitored by the permittee for the parameters and at the frequency listed below, unless waived by EPD ⁽¹⁾:

Parameter (units)	Discharge Limitations Monthly average, unless otherwise stated	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location ⁽¹⁾
Flow (MGD) ^(2,3)	Report	Seven Days/Week	Continuous	Effluent
Five-Day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Oil and Grease (mg/L)	25	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Nitrate-Nitrogen (mg/L)	Report	One Day/Quarter	Grab	Effluent
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (mg/L)	Report	One Day/Quarter	Grab	Effluent
pH (standard units), Daily Minimum & Daily Maximum	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent

- (1) For sample collection purposes, the effluent sample point is defined as the point of injection. For existing large community systems originally permitted by another regulatory agency that do not have a point of injection, EPD may waive the requirement for effluent flow measurements and sampling. Any such waiver will be included in the Notice of Coverage and will be limited only to the existing large community system. Any expansion or upgrade will require the permittee to install a point of injection for flow measurement and sample collection.
- (2) A daily log will be kept by the land treatment system operator of the volume (gal) of wastewater distributed to the subsurface fluid distribution system and shall be submitted to EPD in accordance with Part II.G.4 of this permit.
- (3) Refer to the Notice of Coverage letter to determine applicable flow limit.

B. Application Area and Loading Rates

1. The hydraulic wastewater loading to the infiltrative area shall not exceed 2.8 in/week unless:
 - i. adequate documentation is provided in the written hydrogeologic determination that the soils are capable of absorbing the planned higher loading rate (as required by the Engineering Submittal Form); and
 - ii. a replacement area has been set aside to remain undisturbed which is sufficient to install a replacement area for the planned loading rate.
2. The area of the subsurface land application system (and replacement area, if applicable) shall consist of the number of acres identified in the Notice of Intent.

C. Soil Monitoring Requirements

1. A Soil Fertility Test(s) shall be performed annually in the fourth (4th) calendar quarter in accordance with the latest edition of Methods of Soil Analysis (published by the American Society of Agronomy, Madison, Wisconsin) or other methods approved by EPD. Representative soil samples shall be collected from the land treatment system using the Mehlich-1 extraction procedure. Results of the Soil Fertility Test(s) shall be utilized by the permittee in the continuing operation and maintenance of the land treatment system. The sampling analysis shall be reported in accordance with Part I.A.3 of this permit.
2. If the Soil Fertility Test(s) indicates a change in the pH value of one standard unit from the previous year's pH value, the permittee shall immediately perform a Cation Exchange Capacity and Percent Base Saturation analysis for the land treatment system. The monitoring results of the Cation Exchange Capacity and Percent Base Saturation analysis shall be submitted to EPD in accordance with Part I.A.3 of this permit.
3. Where there are categorical and/or significant industrial discharges to the sewer system, the permittee may be required, upon written notification by the Division, to sample for additional parameters or to submit an application for coverage under another permit.

D. Groundwater Monitoring Requirements

1. Groundwater leaving the land disposal system boundaries must not exceed the primary maximum contaminant levels for drinking water. Groundwater from each groundwater monitoring well (identified in the Design Development Report or NOI) shall be monitored by the permittee for the parameters and at the frequency listed below:

Parameter	Limit	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Depth to Groundwater (ft.)	Report	Once/Six Months	Measured
pH, standard units (SU)	Report	Once/Six Months	Grab
Specific Conductivity (µmho/cm)	Report	Once/Six Months	Grab
Nitrate-Nitrogen (mg/L) ⁽¹⁾	Report	Once/Six Months	Grab
<i>Escherichia coli</i> (#/100mL) ⁽²⁾	Report	Once/Six Months	Grab

⁽¹⁾ The maximum contaminant level for nitrate nitrogen is 10.0 mg/L, as amended in the Safe Drinking Water Rules and Regulations.

⁽²⁾ The maximum contaminant level for *E. coli* is zero positive samples, as amended in the Safe Drinking Water Rules and Regulations.

2. Monitoring wells shall be identified in all reports submitted to EPD as up-gradient, mid-field, and down-gradient, as referenced below. The down-gradient groundwater monitoring wells shall be considered the compliance wells.
3. As per Part II.C. and Part IV.G. of this permit, upon written notification to EPD, additional up-gradient, mid-field and down-gradient monitoring wells may be added in accordance with EPD’s Manual for Groundwater Monitoring, September 1991, as amended, the Environmental Protection Agency Guidance Design and Installation of Monitoring Wells, or other approved guidance without EPD approval and without modification to this permit. The additional wells are subject to the sampling parameters and sampling frequency(s) in Part IV.G. of this permit, Groundwater Requirements. The sampling analysis of additional wells shall be reported in accordance with Part II.G. of this permit.
4. The permittee may be required, upon written notification by the Division, to sample for additional parameters. These parameters may include, but are not limited to, heavy metals and organic compounds.

PART IV. Management Requirements

A. Facility Operation

1. The permittee shall at all times maintain in good working order and operate as efficiently as possible all treatment or control facilities (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit.
2. Proper operation and maintenance includes effective performance, adequate funding, adequate operator staffing and training, and adequate laboratory and process controls, including appropriate quality assurance procedures.
3. Proper operation of the land application system also includes the best management practice of establishing and maintaining a vegetative cover on the land application site.

B. Noncompliance Notification

1. If, for any reason the permittee does not comply with, or will be unable to comply with any terms and limits specified in the permit, the permittee shall provide the Division with an oral report within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances followed by a written report within five (5) days of becoming aware of such condition. The written submission shall contain the following information:
 - a. A description of the noncompliance and its cause;
 - 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 non-complying discharge.
2. If, for any reason the permittee anticipates a noncompliance event, the permittee shall give written notice to the Division at least 10 days before:
 - a. Any planned changes in the permitted facility; or
 - b. Any activity that may result in noncompliance with the permit.
3. 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.

C. Operator Certification Requirements

The permittee shall ensure that:

1. The operator in responsible charge of the daily operation of this Land Application System is, at a minimum, a Class III Certified Operator in accordance with the Georgia Certification of Water and Wastewater Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act, as amended, and specified by State Rule 391-3-6-.12.
2. The operator in responsible charge is physically on site for a minimum of 2 hours per month. Records must be maintained at the preapplication treatment system to document the time spent on site by the operator and to document all operation and maintenance activities are conducted in accordance with Part I.C. of this permit.

D. Laboratory Analyst Certification Requirements

The permittee shall ensure that all persons performing the laboratory analyses for this wastewater treatment plant are Certified Wastewater Laboratory Analysts unless such analyses are performed in a commercial environmental laboratory that is approved by the Division under the Rules for Commercial Environmental Laboratories, Chapter 391-3-26.

E. Power Failures

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

F. Adverse Impact

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

G. Groundwater Monitoring Exceedances

If any groundwater samples taken from the groundwater monitoring wells at the land treatment system are above the primary maximum contaminant levels for drinking water, the permittee shall immediately develop and submit to EPD a plan which will ensure that the primary maximum contaminant levels for drinking water are not exceeded, which may include ceasing discharge to the affected site.

If any pollutants which are being discharged to the land treatment system are detected in the groundwater samples taken from the compliance monitoring wells at the land treatment system in amounts or concentrations which could be toxic or otherwise harmful to humans or biota if those pollutants mingle with waters of the State, then the permittee shall immediately develop a plan which will reduce the amounts or concentrations of the pollutants to ensure they are not toxic or otherwise harmful to humans or biota if those pollutants mingle with waters of the State.

H. No Point Source Discharge(s) of a Pollutant to Surface Waters of the State

Land treatment system permits are not point source discharge permits to surface water regulated under the CWA, but nonpoint source permits regulated under State law. The land treatment system must be operated and maintained to ensure there is no point source discharge(s) of pollutants to surface waters of the State.

I. Compliance

1. The permittee must comply with this permit. Any permit noncompliance is a violation of the State Act, and the Georgia Rules and regulations for Water Quality Control and is grounds for:
 - a. Enforcement action;
 - b. Permit termination, revocation and reissuance; or
 - c. Denial of coverage under this permit.
2. 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.

J. Right of Entry

The permittee shall allow the Director of the EPD, the Regional Administrator of EPA, and any 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 for any parameter at any location.

K. Submittal of Information

The permittee shall furnish to EPD, within a reasonable time frame, any information which EPD may request to determine whether cause exists for revoking and reissuing, or terminating this permit or to determine compliance with this permit. The permittee shall also furnish to EPD upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this permit. When the permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to EPD, the permittee shall promptly submit such facts or information.

L. Penalties

- a. The State Act provides that any person who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under this permit, makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or noncompliance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine or by imprisonment, or by both. The State Act also provides procedures for imposing civil penalties which may be levied for violations of the Act, any permit condition or limitation established pursuant to the Act, or negligently or intentionally failing or refusing to comply with any final or emergency order of the Director of the Division.
- b. Nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee from civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance.

M. Civil and Criminal Liabilities

The permittee is liable for civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance with this permit and must comply with applicable State 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.

N. Contested Hearings

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

O. Introduction of Pollutants into the Treatment Works

The permittee must notify EPD and obtain approval from EPD of:

- a. Any introduction of pollutants into the treatment works or sewerage system from an indirect discharger that does not result from normal domestic activities;
- b. Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants from a source that existed when the permittee obtained coverage under this permit; and
- c. Any industrial users connected to the system or proposing to connect to the system from the date of coverage of this permit.

This notice shall include information on the quality and quantity of the indirect discharge introduced and any anticipated impact on the quantity or quality of effluent to be discharged from the treatment works.

Upon a determination by EPD that the permittee meets the definition of a non-domestic septic system, EPD may notify the permittee of the intent to withdraw coverage under this general permit and require coverage under another general permit or an individual permit.

P. New and Expanding Systems

Prior to start-up of a new pre-treatment system and/or land application site and initiation of discharge:

- a. The professional engineer responsible for the system design must certify that the system has been constructed according to the design plans and specifications and submit as-built plans in electronic format (.pdf).
- b. The professional engineer responsible for the system design must submit an operations manual. This operations manual will be considered a part of the permit requirements and will be enforceable under this general permit for the owner/operator covered by the NOI. The operations manual must be retained on site.
- c. Final authorization to begin operation of the system must be received in writing from EPD.

PART V. Approved Sludge Management Plan

1. This general permit allows for sewage sludge generated at the facility to be sent to an off-site preparer/another permitted facility for further treatment and ultimate disposal.
2. The permittee will report on an annual basis the amount of sewage sludge sent to the off-site preparer 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.J. of the general permit.
4. The permittee will notify EPD in writing of any planned changes to the permittee's sewage sludge use or disposal practices.

PART VI. Definitions

1. **“Class V septic system”** means a septic system that handles sanitary and/or other wastes and has the capacity to serve 20 or more persons a day. For the purposes of this permit, a person means a full-time resident.
2. **“Class V well”** consists of all injection wells not included in Classes I, II, III, IV. Typically, Class V wells are shallow wells used to place a variety of fluids directly below the land surface.
3. **“Community System”** means any system that treats sanitary wastes (other than those serving single family residences (SRF) or non-domestic sewage systems) and has a design flow greater than 2,000 gallons per day. Examples include subdivisions, mobile home parks, shopping centers, schools, towns, etc., and Class V septic systems, but exclude industrial facilities unless the only wastes discharged are sanitary wastes.
4. **“Design Flow”** for new facilities, means the design flow accepted by EPD in the NOI. For existing facilities, means the flow for which the system was designed at the time of construction or if unavailable, is based on EPD’s guidelines for the type of facilities presently served by the existing system.
5. **“Director”** means the Director of the EPD.
6. **“Division”** means the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.
7. **“Domestic Wastes”** means the same as sanitary wastes.
8. **“EPA” or “US EPA”** means the United States Environmental Protection Agency and any of its authorized personnel.
9. **“EPD”** means the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.
10. **“Land Application System”** means any method of disposing of pollutants in which the pollutants are applied to the surface or beneath the surface of a parcel of land and which results in the pollutants percolating, infiltrating, or being absorbed into the soil and then into the waters of the state.
11. **“Large Community System”** means any system that treats sanitary wastes (other than those serving single family residences (SFR) or non-domestic sewage systems) and has a design flow greater than 10,000 gallons per day and no greater than 150,000 gallons per day. Examples of communities include subdivisions, mobile home parks, shopping centers, schools, towns, etc., but exclude industrial facilities unless the only wastes discharged are sanitary wastes. This includes, but is not limited to, agricultural land, forest, and a reclamation site located in an unpopulated area.

12. **“Method Detection Limit”** is defined as the minimum measured concentration of a substance that can be reported with 99% confidence that the measured concentration is distinguishable from method blank results.
13. **“Monthly Average”** means the arithmetic mean of values for samples collected during a calendar month.
14. **“New Connection”** means any sewer customer(s) that has not been approved by EPD at the time the facility was originally permitted.
15. **“New System”** means any system for which design and/or construction had not begun prior to the date of issuance of this permit.
16. **“Non-Domestic Septic Systems”** means an on-site sewage management system consisting of a preapplication treatment system and a subsurface fluid distribution system which accepts wastes other than sanitary wastes. Examples include, but are not limited to, systems for industrial process wastewater, photo laboratories, carwashes, etc.
17. **“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.
18. **“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.
19. **“Permittee”** means the owner of a large community system that has submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under this general permit and for which the EPD has authorized coverage under this permit.
20. **“Person”** means a full-time resident.
21. **“Point of Injection”** means the last accessible sampling point prior to waste fluids being released into the subsurface environment through an injection well. For example, the point of injection for a Class V septic system might be the distribution box.
22. **“Preapplication Treatment System”** means the wastewater treatment system which treats the high strength wastewater prior to the subsurface fluid distribution system. Examples include septic tanks, aerobic treatment systems, or any other system which has been approved by the Division.
23. **“Replacement Area”** means an area that is set aside for installation of another subsurface fluid disposal system should the initial system fail to perform as designed.
24. **“Sanitary wastes”** means the liquid or solid wastes originating solely from humans and human activities, such as wastes collected from toilets, showers, wash basins, sinks used for cleaning domestic areas, sinks used for food preparation, clothes washing operations, and sinks or washing machines where food and beverage serving dishes, glasses, and utensils are cleaned. Sources of sanitary wastes may include single or multiple family residences, hotels and motels, restaurants, schools, campgrounds, and commercial and industrial facilities provided the waste is not mixed with industrial

- waste. Sanitary wastes and domestic waste mean the same for the purpose of this permit.
25. **“Septage”** means the liquid or solid material removed from a septic tank, cesspool, portable toilet, type III marine sanitation device, or a similar system that receives only domestic sewage. Domestic septage does not include liquid or solid material removed from a septic tank or similar treatment works that receives either commercial wastewater or industrial wastewater. Domestic septage does not include grease removed from a grease trap.
 26. **“Septic System”** means a well or subsurface fluid distribution system that is used to emplace sanitary wastes below the surface and is typically comprised of a preapplication treatment system and subsurface fluid distribution system or disposal system.
 27. **“Septic Tank”** means a watertight tank designed or used to receive sewage and to affect separation and organic decomposition of sewage solids and which discharges effluent to a subsurface disposal system.
 28. **“Sewage Sludge”** means the liquid or solid residue generated during the treatment of domestic sewage in a preapplication treatment system.
 29. **“Small Community System”** means any system that treats sanitary wastes (other than those serving single family residences (SFR) or non-domestic sewage systems) and has a design flow greater than or equal to 2000 gallons per day and less than or equal to 10,000 gallons per day. Examples include subdivisions, mobile home parks, shopping centers, schools, etc., and Class V septic systems, but exclude industrial facilities unless the only wastes discharged are sanitary wastes.
 30. **“State Act”** The Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Official Code of Georgia Annotated; Title 12, Chapter 5, Article 2).
 31. **“State Rules”** means the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control.
 32. **“Subsurface Disposal System”** means any system where the pretreated wastewater is injected into a system beneath the soil surface at a rate where it will be absorbed by the soil and will prevent saturation of the soil.
 33. **“Subsurface Fluid Distribution System”** means an assemblage of perforated pipes, drain tiles, emitter systems, chamber systems, or similar mechanisms intended to distribute fluids below the surface of the ground.
 34. **“Subsurface Land Application System”** means any system where the pretreated wastewater is injected beneath the surface of a parcel of land and which results in the pollutants percolating, infiltrating, or being absorbed into the soil and then into the waters of the state.
 35. **“Well Injection”** means the subsurface emplacement of fluids through a well.