



National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit

Authorization To Discharge Treated Water Associated with The Use Of Reclaimed Water Discharges From The Reclaimed Water Treatment System In The City of Pooler

In compliance with the provisions of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Georgia Laws 1964, p.416, as amended), hereinafter called the "State Act," the Federal Clean Water Act, amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), hereinafter called the "Clean Water Act", and the Rules and Regulations promulgated to each of these Acts, the Reclaimed Water Treatment System located within the City of Pooler in the State of Georgia currently permitted as a Water Pollution Control Plant to Discharge to Waters of the State under the individual NPDES Permit No. GA0047066, and to beneficially reclaim wastewater for the purpose of reuse, may, on submittal of a notice of intent to produce and supply reclaimed water and acknowledgement by the Environmental Protection Division of coverage under this permit, discharge reclaimed water to Designated Users in accordance with the limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth in Parts I, II, III and IV hereof.

Designated Users in the Ogeechee River Basin, upon submittal of a notice of intent, and acknowledgement by the Environmental Protection Division, are authorized to discharge from the reclaimed water holding ponds during rain events and storm events, in accordance with the limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth in this permit.

This permit shall become effective on July 1, 2023.

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, June 30, 2028.



Director
Environmental Protection Division

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PART I. COVERAGE UNDER THIS GENERAL PERMIT

A. COVERAGE

This general permit allows the discharge from holding ponds in the Ogeechee River Basin, which receive reclaimed water from the Provider, during rain and storm events, and for a period of time immediately after the event.

B. PURPOSE

1. The permit is to allow the use of reclaimed water by a Designated User. .
2. The permit allows occasional discharges from the Designated User's holding ponds in the Ogeechee River Basin, which are used to store reclaimed water. The Division recognizes that many of these holding ponds are part of the stormwater management system and will discharge intermittently to waters of the State. Therefore, this permit will allow discharges from these impoundments to waters of the State in response to rain events and storm events.
3. The discharge allowed under this permit is the release of water from holding ponds via the overflow or peak discharge control structure and the bleed-down device. After the water level lowers from the peak discharge level, it is recognized that a bleed-down to the maximum reclaimed water level will occur for a period of time (up to 7 days depending on design). Once the water level lowers to the bleed-down level, there shall be no discharge allowed from the holding pond until the next rain events or storm event.

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. NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI)

1. User Agreement:

Any Designated User receiving reuse water from the Provider must enter into an agreement with the Provider. The Provider shall ensure that agreements executed with reuse customers shall meet the requirements of EPD's *Guidelines for Urban Reuse*, including the areas regarding Access Control and Warning Signs and Potable Water Cross Connections.

2. NOI for existing facilities (provider and designated users) already covered under this General Permit:

- a. Existing permittees that are currently covered under the existing NPDES general permit that are 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 to discharge under this general permit is automatically continued until renewed coverage is granted under the reissued permit. If a complete NOI is not submitted within 180 days of this permit expiration date, permit coverage will be terminated.
- b. 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 NPDES 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.

3. NOI for new facilities (designated users):

- a. New Designated Users seeking coverage under this general permit must submit a completed NOI and an Antidegradation Analysis at least 30 days prior to the date of desired coverage. Coverage under this general permit shall be effective upon the date of the NOC letter as provided by EPD. After coverage under the General Permit is granted by the Division, the Provider may provide reclaimed water to the Designated User.
- b. EPD may delay the permittee's authorization for further review, may notify permittees that additional effluent limitations are necessary, or may deny coverage under this permit and require submission of an application for an individual or alternative NPDES permit. EPD will notify permittees in writing of the delay, or the need for additional effluent limits, or of the request for submission of an individual NPDES permit application.

4. NOI for change of ownership:

When ownership of a facility that is covered by this general permit changes, the new owner must submit a new NOI to EPD in accordance with the requirements of this permit at least thirty (30) days prior to the change of ownership. Authorization to discharge will commence immediately upon the submittal of the completed NOI (i.e. on the day the complete NOI is received by EPD). Failure to submit the new NOI may be considered a violation of this permit and an unauthorized discharge to waters of the State.

E. TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

1. In 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. A Designated User must submit a NOT within 30 days after all discharges for which permit coverage was obtained have ceased.

PART II. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

A.1 EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS - PROVIDER

The reclaimed water from the Provider shall be monitored as follows prior to delivery to the Designated User:

Parameters	Discharge Limitation Monthly Average, mg/l unless otherwise specified	Monitoring Requirements ⁽¹⁾		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Volume (MG) ⁽¹⁾	Report	Seven Days/Week	Continuous	Effluent

⁽¹⁾ The Provider must report the monthly volume of reuse water provided to the Designated Users covered under this permit. Daily volume shall be reported on the Operation Monitoring Reports (OMR). Total monthly volume shall be reported on the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR).

A.2 EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS -
DESIGNATED USERS

The discharge to waters of the State from the Designated User’s holding pond(s) shall be limited and monitored as follows:

Parameters	Discharge Limitation Monthly Average, unless otherwise specified	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Volume (gallons) ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ Dry weather During or immediately after a rain or a storm event	0 Report total volume of each discharge	Each Discharge Event	Calculated	Effluent
Duration (hr) ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Report total duration of each discharge	Each Discharge Event		
Rainfall (in) ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	Report	Daily	Measured	--

- ⁽¹⁾ The Designated User shall record date, volume, and duration of each discharge event. Information shall be reported on the Operation Monitoring Report (OMR). The maximum volume and duration for each month shall be reported on the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR).
- ⁽²⁾ Discharge events are only allowed during Storm Events and Rain Events, as defined in Part III. When a rain event occurs, discharge is allowed from the bleed down device. When a storm event occurs, discharge is allowed from the bleed down device and the peak discharge control structure.
- ⁽³⁾ The Designated User shall record daily rainfall within 0.5 miles of the holding pond(s). Information shall be reported on Operation Monitoring Report (OMR). The total monthly rainfall shall be reported on the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR).

A.2 EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS -
DESIGNATED USERS (CONTINUED)

The discharge to waters of the State from the Designated User's holding pond(s) shall be limited and monitored as follows:

Parameters	Discharge Limitation Monthly Average, unless otherwise specified	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency ⁽¹⁾	Sample Type	Sample Location
Five-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Grab	Effluent
Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Grab	Effluent
pH (standard units)	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Grab	Effluent
<i>E. coli</i> (count/100mL)	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Grab	Effluent
Total Phosphorus, as P	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Grab	Effluent
Ammonia, as N	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Grab	Effluent
Nitrite-nitrate, as N	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Grab	Effluent
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, as N	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Grab	Effluent
Total Nitrogen, as N ⁽²⁾	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Calculated	Effluent

⁽¹⁾ The Designated User shall collect one effluent sample during summer period (May 1 – October 31) and one sample during winter period (January 1 – April 30 or November 1 – December 31) each year. The designated user will use appropriate No Data Indicator (NODI) code if no discharge event occurs during the sampling period(s).

⁽²⁾ Ammonia, nitrate-nitrite, and total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN) must be analyzed or calculated from the same sample. Total nitrogen is the sum of all nitrogen and calculated as follows: TN = TKN + nitrite + nitrate.

B. MONITORING

1. Flow measurements shall be conducted using the flow measuring device(s) in accordance with the approved design of the facility. If secondary flow measurements are installed, calibration shall be maintained to $\pm 10\%$ 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.

2. The Provider shall ensure that the Designated User has a primary flow-indicating device installed for the discharge from both the bleed down device and the peak discharge control device.
3. The Designated User shall ensure that OMRs for any discharge from the holding pond allowed by this permit are submitted in accordance with Part I.C. of this permit. All records and information resulting from the monitoring activities and record keeping requirements required by this permit and the Rules shall be retained by the Designated User for a minimum of three (3) years. The Provider will report spills or unpermitted discharges from the distribution system under the individual NPDES permit GA0047066.
4. A composite sample shall consist of a minimum of 5 subsamples collected at least every 2 hours for at least 8 hours, and shall be composited proportionally to flow.
5. The monthly average, other than for *E. coli*, is the arithmetic mean of values obtained for samples collected during a calendar month.
6. *E. coli* will be reported as the geometric mean of values obtained for samples collected during a calendar month.
7. Analytical procedures, sample containers, sample preservation techniques and sample holding times must be consistent with the techniques and procedures approved pursuant to 40 CFR Part 136, unless other techniques and test procedures have been specified in this permit.
8. Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored waste stream. The Provider shall maintain a written sampling and monitoring schedule.

9. For each measurement of sample taken pursuant to the requirements of this permit, the Provider shall record the following information:
 - a. The exact place, date, and time of sampling, and the person(s) collecting the 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,
 - e. The results of all required analyses
10. If the Designated User monitors required parameters at the locations designated in Part II.A.2. more frequently than required, the Designated User shall analyze all samples collected using approved analytical methods, and the results of this additional monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the values on the Discharge Monitoring Reports. The increased monitoring frequency shall also be reported. The Division may require by written notification, more frequent monitoring or the monitoring of other pollutants not specified in this permit.
11. The Provider and Designated Users 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; and
 - g. All data and information used to complete the NOI.

These records shall be kept for at least three years but may be extended by Division written notification.
12. Monitoring results from the Designated User shall be retained on file for review by the Provider and submitted in accordance with Part I.C. of this permit.

C. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. The Provider and Designated User(s) 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 Provider and Designated User(s) must comply with the Federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Electronic Reporting regulations in 40 CFR §127. The Provider and Designated User(s) 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 Provider and Designated User(s) 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 Provider and Designated User(s) 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. Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Annual Program Reports provided that the permittee has an approved Sewage Sludge (Biosolids) Plan;
 - b. Pretreatment Program Reports provided that the permittee has an approved Industrial Pretreatment Program in this permit;
 - c. Sewer Overflow/Bypass Event Reports;
 - d. Noncompliance Notification;
 - e. Other noncompliance; and
 - f. Bypass
3. All other reports required in this permit not listed above or unless otherwise stated, shall be submitted to the EPD Office listed on the permit issuance letter signed by the Director of EPD.
4. All instances of noncompliance not reported under Part I.B. and Part II.A. shall be reported to EPD at the time the monitoring report is submitted.

D. 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:
- b. 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.
- c. For a partnership or sole proprietorship, by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively; or
- d. For a municipality, State, Federal, or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.
- e. 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:
 - i. 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;
 - ii. The authorization is made in writing by the person designated under (a) above; and
 - iii. The written authorization is submitted to the Director.
- f. 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.
- g. 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. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

A. DUTY TO COMPLY

The Provider and Designated User 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 Provider or Designated User 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.

B. FACILITY OPERATION

The Provider and Designated User shall maintain and operate efficiently all treatment or control facilities and related equipment installed or used by the Provider and Designated User 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.

C. TWENTY-FOUR HOUR REPORTING

If, for any reason the permittee does not comply with, or will be unable to comply with any effluent limitations specified in the permittee's NPDES permit, the permittee 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 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; 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.

E. 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.

F. 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.

G. OPERATOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Provider shall ensure that the Reclaimed Water Treatment System is operated in compliance with the Georgia Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act, as amended. The operator in responsible charge for the Provider shall be a certified Class I operator. On-site operation at the City of Pooler –Blooming dale Regional Water Pollution Control Plant shall be by an operator who is certified Class II or higher at any time Reuse Water is being provided to Designated Users.

H. LABORATORY ANALYST REQUIREMENTS

The Provider shall ensure that all persons performing laboratory analyses for the Reclaimed Water Treatment System is a Certified Wastewater Laboratory Analyst in accordance with the Georgia Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act, as amended, and the rules promulgated thereunder.

I. ADVERSE IMPACT

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

J. RIGHT OF ENTRY

The Provider and Designated Users shall allow the Director of the Division, and any authorized representatives, agents, or employees of the Division after they present credentials to:

- a. Enter the Provider's and the Designated Users 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.

K. 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 statements, 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 Division.

L. CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LIABILITY

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the Provider or the Designated User from civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance.

M. SUBMITTAL OF INFORMATION

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

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. 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.

P. DUTY TO REAPPLY

This permit will expire five (5) years from the effective date. The permittee shall not discharge after the expiration date. Permittees wishing to continue operation after the permit expiration date must submit a completed Notice of Intent (NOI) 180 days prior to expiration of the existing permit. Such NOI shall be on forms as provided by EPD. 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 NOI 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; or
4. The permitting authority grants the permittee's request for termination of permit coverage.

Part IV. DEFINITIONS

- a. Designated User: means any site or facility in the Ogeechee River Basin, which receives reclaimed water from the City of Pooler – Bloomingdale Water Pollution Control Plant, under a contract or written agreement with the Provider and has received a notice of coverage from the Division.
- b. Division: means the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.
- c. DMR: means Discharge Monitoring Report.
- d. The Federal Act referred to is The Clean Water Act
- e. Holding Pond: means storage tank, artificial impoundment, or pond constructed above, on, below or partly below the ground surface that is designed and maintained to store a specific volume of reclaimed water and/or stormwater.
- f. Monthly Average: the arithmetic mean of values for samples collected during a calendar month.
- g. OMR: means Operating Monitoring Report.
- h. Provider: means the City of Pooler–Bloomingdale Water Pollution Control Plant who has filed a Notice of Intent under this permit.
- i. Rain Event: means any event where precipitation could cause the water level in the holding pond to rise by less than six (6) inches within a 48-hour period.
- j. Reclaimed Water: means water that has received treatment to urban water reuse standards, and is reused at a reuse area or is sent to a Designated User for reuse.
- k. Reclaimed Water Treatment System: means the treatment system for urban water reuse shall include biological oxidation/clarification, coagulation/filtration, and disinfection.
- l. Reuse: means the use of reclaimed water for the beneficial irrigation of areas that are accessible to the public. This includes areas such as golf courses, residential and commercial landscaping, parks, athletic fields, roadway medians, industrial processes, landscape impoundments, and other uses. Reuse reduces the demand on potable water or other surface or ground waters.
- m. Reuse Area: means the irrigated area of any Designated User. For the purposes of this permit, it is defined as the irrigated area of any Designated User in the Ogeechee River Basin which receives reclaimed water from the City of Pooler–Bloomingdale Water Pollution Control Plant.
- n. State Act: means the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Official Code of Georgia Annotated; Title 12, Chapter 5, Article 2).
- o. State Rules referred to are the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control (Chapter 391-3-6).

- p. Storm Event: means any event in which precipitation exceeds the design 24-hour one-year storm event.
- q. Urban Water Reuse: means the same as Reuse.