

## SUMMARY PAGE

### **NPDES Permit No.** GAG600000

This general permit allows discharges from stormwater ponds that receive and store reuse water from the City of Pooler. The discharges occur occasionally during rain and storm events, and for a period of time immediately after the event. The Division recognizes that 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.

Coverage under this permit will be initiated by submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI), for the specific wastewater treatment facility providing reuse water (City of Pooler) and its designated users with intermittently discharging stormwater/reuse storage ponds. There are currently 1 Reuse Provider (City of Pooler) and 3 Designated Users covered under this permit. The permit expires on June 30, 2023. The permit was placed on public notice from **XXXX to XXXXX**.

### **Please Note The Following Changes From The Existing Permit:**

#### *Part II – Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements for the City of Pooler (Provider):*

- Removed effluent monitoring requirements for total phosphorus, five-day biochemical oxygen demand, ammonia, total suspended solids, pH, Fecal Coliform Bacteria, and turbidity as these parameters are already monitored and reported by the City of Pooler under NPDES Permit No. GA0047066 .

#### *Part II – Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements for the discharge to waters of the state (Designated Users):*

- Added effluent monitoring requirements for total phosphorus, five-day biochemical oxygen demand, ammonia, total suspended solids, pH, *E. coli*, nitrite-nitrate, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, and total nitrogen to better characterize the discharges into waters of the state.

### **Standard Conditions and Boilerplate Modifications:**

- The permit boilerplate includes modified language or added language consistent with current NPDES permits.

**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 on
- Final permit includes changes from the draft permit placed on public notice. See attached permit revisions and/or permit fact sheet revisions.



The Georgia Environmental Protection Division proposes to issue a General NPDES permit that will authorize discharges to Waters of the State of Georgia during rainfall event and stormwater event from holding ponds in the Ogeechee River Basin that are associated with reclaimed water supplied by the City of Pooler. The draft permit places conditions on the discharge of pollutants from the holding ponds to waters of the State.

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 470-524-0596

**Draft permit:**

- (Check one)  First issuance  
 Reissuance with no or minor modifications from previous permit  
 Reissuance with substantial modifications from previous permit  
 Modification of existing permit  
 Requires EPA review

**1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION**

**NPDES Permit No.:** GAG600000

**Background:**

The State of Georgia has faced rapid development in the past and may see this development again in the coming years. The potential shortage of potable water is one of the impacts of this development. One way to minimize these shortages is to use reclaimed water for irrigation of landscaped areas. Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater, which replaces potable (drinking water) and other water used for irrigation purposes. This permit facilitates the use of reclaimed water in the City of Pooler thereby reducing the demand on potable water and diminishing the impact of water shortages in the future.

Reclaimed water used for irrigation purposes is not discharged to the waters of the State thereby reducing the discharge of pollutants. In accordance with EPD *Guidelines for Water Reclamation and Urban Reuse*, 2022 reclaimed water can be discharged to reuse holding ponds, many of which are also part of stormwater management systems and are built with overflows. Reuse holding ponds designed and maintained to store a specific volume of reclaimed water and stormwater may discharge intermittently into waters of the State in response to storm events. The bulk of the discharge will be stormwater. The holding ponds will be designed to meet a target rain event or storm event. This rain event or storm event is based on available data for a 24-hour rainfall with a recurrence of 1 year. It is anticipated that this rain event or storm event should occur only a few times per year and the holding pond should not have an overflow except during storm events of this intensity or greater.

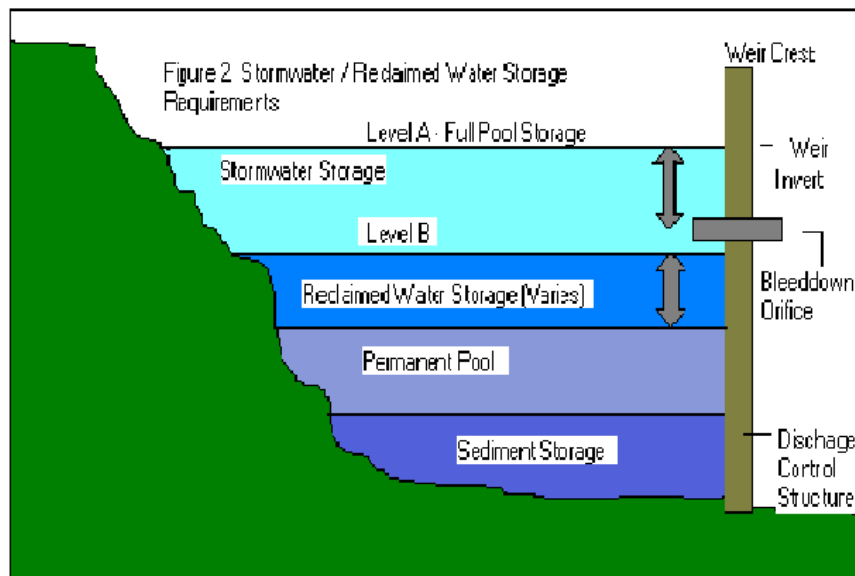
Intermittent discharges from reuse holding ponds into waters of the State are subject to comprehensive NPDES requirements. General Permit No. GAG600000 will authorize rainfall event and stormwater event discharges to Waters of the State of Georgia from reuse holding ponds in the Ogeechee River Basin that are associated with reclaimed water supplied by the City of Pooler.

Coverage under this permit will be initiated by submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI), for the specific wastewater treatment facility (City of Pooler) providing reuse and its designated users with intermittently discharging reuse ponds. The NOI will include basic information about the facility and the specific waters of Georgia where the discharges will occur during or immediately after rainfall events. Specific forms will be available from EPD and must be used for the NOI.

**Permit coverage:**

This General NPDES permit will provide coverage for the discharges of reclaimed water from the City of Pooler - Bloomingdale Regional Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) to reuse holding ponds in the Ogeechee River Basin at designated sites, where the reclaimed water may be used for irrigation or for cooling condensers. This general permit also allows the discharge from holding ponds in the Ogeechee River Basin, which receive reclaimed water from the Bloomingdale Regional WPCP, during rain and storm events, and for a period of time immediately after the event.

As shown on Figure below, reuse holding ponds will be designed to store reclaimed water and stormwater. When the water level in the reuse holding pond exceeds the designed stormwater storage level (Level A), stormwater will overflow over the weir. The flow will continue to bleed down until the pond reaches the reclaimed water storage level (Level B). The reclaimed water storage level (Level B) is the maximum fill level of the holding pond that allows for storage of the reclaimed water.



**Type of Wastewater Discharge**

- Process wastewater
- Stormwater
- Domestic wastewater
- Combined: Reuse water (treated domestic wastewater) and stormwater
- Other (Describe)

**2.0 APPLICABLE REGULATIONS**

**2.1 State Regulations**

Chapter 391-3-6 of the Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control

**2.2 Federal Regulations**

Source	Activity	Applicable Regulation
Municipal/Domestic/POTW	Municipal/Domestic Effluent Discharge	40 CFR 122
		40 CFR 125
		40 CFR 127
		40 CFR 133
		40 CFR 136
	Non-Process Water Discharges	40 CFR 122
		40 CFR 125
		40 CFR 127
		40 CFR 136
		40 CFR 122
Municipal/Domestic Sludge Use and Disposal	40 CFR 127	
	40 CFR 136	
	40 CFR 257	
	40 CFR 501 & 503	

**3.0 WATER QUALITY STANDARDS & RECEIVING WATERBODY INFORMATION**

Section 301(b)(1)(C) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires the development of limitations in permits necessary to meet water quality standards. Federal Regulations 40 CFR 122.4(d) require that conditions in NPDES permits ensure compliance with the water quality standards which are composed of designated use classifications, numeric and or narrative water quality criteria and an antidegradation policy. The designated use classification system identifies the designated uses that each waterbody is expected to achieve, such as drinking water, fishing, or recreation. The numeric and narrative water quality criteria are deemed necessary to support the designated use for each water body. The antidegradation policy represents an approach to maintain and to protect various levels of water quality and uses. Section 391-3-6-.3(5) of the GA Water Quality Control Act provide General Criteria for All Waters, commonly referred to as the narrative water quality standards, and Specific Criteria for Specific Designated Uses. In addition to the General Criteria the Specific Criteria in Section 3.1 below are deemed necessary for this waterbody and shall be required for the specific designated uses.

### 3.1 Specific Designated Use(s) [391-3-6-.03(6)]:

**Fishing:** Propagation of Fish, Shellfish, Game and Other Aquatic Life; primary contact recreation in and on the water for the months of May – October, secondary contact recreation in and on the water for the months of November – April; or for any other use requiring water of a lower quality.

- (i) Dissolved Oxygen: A daily average of 6.0 mg/L and no less than 5.0 mg/L at all times for water designated as trout streams by the Wildlife Resources Division. A daily average of 5.0 mg/L and no less than 4.0 mg/L at all times for waters supporting warm water species of fish.
- (ii) pH: Within the range of 6.0 - 8.5.
- (iii) Bacteria:

1. Estuarine waters:

For the months of May through October, when primary water contact recreation activities are expected to occur, culturable enterococci not to exceed a geometric mean of 35 counts per 100 mL based on at least four samples collected from a given sampling site over a 30-day period at intervals not less than 24 hours. There shall be no greater than a ten percent excursion frequency of an enterococci statistical threshold value (STV) of 130 counts per 100 mL the same 30-day interval.

For the months of November through April, culturable enterococci not to exceed a geometric mean of 74 counts per 100 mL based on at least four samples collected from a given sampling site over a 30-day period at intervals not less than 24 hours. There shall be no greater than a ten percent excursion frequency of an enterococci statistical threshold value (STV) of 273 counts per 100 mL in the same 30-day interval.

2. All other fishing waters:

For the months of May through October, when primary water contact recreation activities are expected to occur, culturable E. coli not to exceed a geometric mean of 126 counts per 100 mL based on at least four samples collected from a given sampling site over a 30-day period at intervals not less than 24 hours. There shall be no greater than a ten percent excursion frequency of an E. coli statistical threshold value (STV) of 410 counts per 100 mL in the same 30-day interval.

For the months of November through April, culturable E. coli not to exceed a geometric mean of 265 counts per 100 mL based on at least four samples collected from a given sampling site over a 30-day period at intervals not less than 24 hours. There shall be no greater than a ten percent excursion frequency of an E. coli statistical threshold value (STV) of 861 counts per 100 mL in the same 30-day interval.

3. The State does not encourage swimming in these surface waters since a number of factors which are beyond the control of any State regulatory agency contribute to elevated levels of bacteria.
  4. For waters designated as shellfish growing areas by the Georgia DNR Coastal Resources Division, the requirements will be consistent with those established by the State and Federal agencies responsible for the National Shellfish Sanitation Program. The requirements are found in National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, 2007 Revision (or most recent version), Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- (iv) Temperature: Not to exceed 90°F. At no time is the temperature of the receiving waters to be increased more than 5°F above intake temperature except that in estuarine waters the increase will not be more than 1.5°F. In streams designated as primary trout or smallmouth bass waters by the Wildlife Resources Division, there shall be no elevation of natural stream temperatures. In streams designated as secondary trout waters, there shall be no elevation exceeding 2°F natural stream temperatures.

**Drinking Water Supplies:** Those waters approved as a source for public drinking water systems permitted or to be permitted by the Environmental Protection Division. Waters classified for drinking water supplies will also support the fishing use and any other use requiring water of a lower quality.

- (i) Bacteria:
1. For the months of May through October, when primary water contact recreation activities are expected to occur, culturable E. coli not to exceed a geometric mean of 126 counts per 100 mL based on at least four samples collected from a given sampling site over a 30- day period at intervals not less than 24 hours. There shall be no greater than a ten percent excursion frequency of an E. coli statistical threshold value (STV) of 410 counts per 100 mL in the same 30-day interval.
  2. For the months of November through April, culturable E. coli not to exceed a geometric mean of 265 counts per 100 mL based on at least four samples collected from a given sampling site over a 30-day period at intervals not less than 24 hours. There shall be no greater than a ten percent excursion frequency of an E. coli statistical threshold value (STV) of 861 counts per 100 mL in the same 30-day interval.
  3. The State does not encourage swimming in these surface waters since a number of factors which are beyond the control of any State regulatory agency contribute to elevated levels of bacteria.
- (ii) Dissolved oxygen: A daily average of 6.0 mg/L and no less than 5.0 mg/L at all times for waters designated as trout streams by the Wildlife Resources Division. A daily average of 5.0 mg/L and no less than 4.0 mg/L at all times for water supporting warm water species of fish.

- (iii) pH: Within the range of 6.0 - 8.5.
- (iv) No material or substance in such concentration that, after treatment by the public water treatment system, exceeds the maximum contaminant level established for that substance by the Environmental Protection Division pursuant to the Georgia Rules for Safe Drinking Water.
- (v) Temperature: Not to exceed 90°F. At no time is the temperature of the receiving waters to be increased more than 5°F above intake temperature except that in estuarine waters the increase will not be more than 1.5°F. In streams designated as primary trout or smallmouth bass waters by the Wildlife Resources Division, there shall be no elevation of natural stream temperatures. In streams designated as secondary trout waters, there shall be no elevation exceeding 2°F of natural stream temperatures.

**Recreation:** Primary contact recreational activities that occur year round such as swimming, diving, whitewater boating (class III and above), water skiing, and surfing, or for any other use requiring water of a lower quality, such as recreational fishing. These criteria are not to be interpreted as encouraging water contact sports in proximity to sewage or industrial waste discharges regardless of treatment requirement. Secondary contact recreation is incidental contact with the water not involving a significant risk of water ingestion such as canoeing, fishing, kayaking, motor boating, rowing, tubing, splashing, wading, and occasional swimming.

- (i) Bacteria:
  - 1. Coastal and estuarine waters: Culturable enterococci not to exceed a geometric mean of 35 counts per 100 mL based on at least four samples collected from a given sampling site over a 30-day period at intervals not less than 24 hours. There shall be no greater than a ten percent excursion frequency of an enterococci statistical threshold value (STV) of 130 counts per 100 mL in the same 30-day interval.
  - 2. All other recreational waters: Culturable E. coli not to exceed a geometric mean of 126 counts per 100 mL based on at least four samples collected from a given sampling site over a 30-day period at intervals not less than 24 hours. There shall be no greater than a ten percent excursion frequency of an E. coli statistical threshold value (STV) of 410 counts per 100 mL in the same 30-day interval.
- (ii) Dissolved Oxygen: A daily average of 6.0 mg/L and no less than 5.0 mg/L at all times for waters designated as trout streams by the Wildlife Resources Division. A daily average of 5.0 mg/L and no less than 4.0 mg/L at all times for waters supporting warm water species of fish.
- (iii) pH: Within the range of 6.0 - 8.5.
- (iv) Temperature: Not to exceed 90°F. At no time is the temperature of the receiving waters to be increased more than 5°F above intake temperature except that in



estuarine waters the increase will not be more than 1.5°F. In streams designated as primary trout or smallmouth bass waters by the Wildlife Resources Division, there shall be no elevation of natural stream temperatures. In streams designated as secondary trout waters, there shall be no elevation exceeding 2°F natural stream temperatures.

**Wild River:** For all waters designated in 391-3-6-.03(14) as "Wild River," there shall be no alteration of natural water quality from any source.

**Scenic River:** For all waters designated in 391-3-6-.03(14) as "Scenic River," there shall be no alteration of natural water quality from any source.

**Coastal Fishing:** For waters designated in 391-3-6-.03(14) as "Coastal Fishing," site specific criteria for dissolved oxygen will be assigned. All other criteria and uses for the fishing designated use will apply for coastal fishing.

- (i) Dissolved Oxygen: A daily average of 5.0 mg/L and no less than 4.0 mg/L at all times. If it is determined that the "natural condition" in the water body is less than the values stated above, then the criteria will revert to the "natural condition" and the water quality standard will allow for a 0.1 mg/L deficit from the "natural" dissolved oxygen value. Up to a 10% deficit will be allowed if it is demonstrated that resident aquatic species shall not be adversely affected.

### 3.2 Georgia 305(b)/303(d) List Documents:

Coverage under this permit will not be granted for facilities discharging into 303(d) listed waters for parameters of concern for this category of discharges. If the facility's receiving waters become listed on the 303(d) list during the current General Permit cycle, the EPD will reach out to the facility on a case by case basis.

### 3.0 PERMIT CONDITIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

***Provider (City of Pooler):***

Effluent from the Bloomingdale Regional Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) will meet treatment requirements from EPD’s *Guidelines for Water Reclamation and Urban Reuse* and will be monitored under the City of Pooler’s NPDES permit GA0047066 prior to distribution to the Designated Users.

The following monitoring requirements have been included in the draft general NPDES permit for the Provider:

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

<sup>(1)</sup> The Provider must report the monthly volume provided to each Designated User covered under the General NPDES permit in the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR). Daily volumes will be reported in the Operation Monitoring Report (OMR).

FACT SHEET

**Designated Users:**

Effluent monitoring has been included in the draft general NPDES permit to characterize the combined stormwater/reuse water discharges from the holding ponds. The discharge to waters of the state from the Designated User's holding pond(s) shall be monitored as follows:

Parameters	Discharge Limitation Monthly Average, unless otherwise specified	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Volume (gallons) <sup>(1)</sup>		Each Discharge Event	Calculated	Effluent
Dry weather	0			
During or immediately after a rain or a storm event	Report total volume of each discharge			
Duration (hr) <sup>(1)</sup>	Report total duration of each discharge	Each Discharge Event		
Rainfall (in) <sup>(2)</sup>	Report	Daily	Measured	--
Five-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L) <sup>(3)</sup>	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Grab	Effluent
Total Suspended Solids (mg/L) <sup>(3)</sup>	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Grab	Effluent
pH (standard units) <sup>(3)</sup>	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Grab	Effluent
<i>E. coli</i> (count/100mL) <sup>(3)</sup>	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Grab	Effluent
Total Phosphorus, as P <sup>(3)</sup>	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Grab	Effluent
Ammonia, as N <sup>(3)</sup>	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Grab	Effluent
Nitrite-nitrate, as N <sup>(3)</sup>	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Grab	Effluent
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, as N <sup>(3)</sup>	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Grab	Effluent
Total Nitrogen, as N <sup>(3)</sup>	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Calculated	Effluent

<sup>(1)</sup> 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).

<sup>(2)</sup> 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).

<sup>(3)</sup> 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).

**4.0 OTHER PERMIT REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS**

**4.1 Compliance Schedules**

Effluent limitations are applicable immediately upon the effective date of the permit.

**4.2 Anti-Backsliding**

The limits in this permit are in compliance with the 40 C.F.R. 122.44(l), which requires a reissued permit to be as stringent as the previous permit.

**5.0 REPORTING**

**5.1 Compliance Office**

The Bloomingdale Regional WPCP and the designated user's holding ponds have been assigned to the following EPD office for reporting, compliance and enforcement.

Georgia Environmental Protection Division  
Coastal District – Brunswick Office  
1050 Canal Road  
Brunswick, GA 31525

**5.2 E-Reporting**

The Provider and Designate Users are required to electronically submit documents in accordance with 40 CFR Part 127.

**6.0 REQUESTED VARIANCES OR ALTERNATIVES TO REQUIRED STANDARDS**

Not applicable.

**7.0 PERMIT EXPIRATION**

The permit will expire five years from the effective date.

**8.0 PROCEDURES FOR THE FORMULATION OF FINAL DETERMINATIONS**

**8.1 Comment Period**

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) proposes to issue a permit to this applicant subject to the effluent limitations and special conditions outlined above. These determinations are tentative.

The permit application, draft permit, and other information are available for review at 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 1462 East, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and on EPD's website accessible through the publicly available Georgia EPD Online System (GEOS) at: <https://geos.epd.georgia.gov/GA/GEOS/Public/GovEnt/Shared/Pages/Main/Login.aspx> For additional information, you can contact 404-463-1511.

## **8.2 Public Comments**

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the proposed determinations are invited to submit same in writing to the EPD address above, or via e-mail at [EPDcomments@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:EPDcomments@dnr.ga.gov) within 30 days of the initiation of the public comment period. All comments received prior to that date will be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the application. The permit number should be placed on the top of the first page of comments to ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the appropriate staff.

## **8.3 Public Hearing**

Any applicant, affected state or interstate agency, the Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or any other interested agency, person or group of persons may request a public hearing with respect to an NPDES permit application if such request is filed within thirty (30) days following the date of the public notice for such application. Such request must indicate the interest of the party filing the request, the reasons why a hearing is requested, and those specific portions of the application or other NPDES form or information to be considered at the public hearing.

The Director shall hold a hearing if he determines that there is sufficient public interest in holding such a hearing. If a public hearing is held, notice of same shall be provided at least thirty (30) days in advance of the hearing date.

In the event that a public hearing is held, both oral and written comments will be accepted; however, for the accuracy of the record, written comments are encouraged. The Director or a designee reserves the right to fix reasonable limits on the time allowed for oral statements and such other procedural requirements, as deemed appropriate.

Following a public hearing, the Director, unless it is decided to deny the permit, may make such modifications in the terms and conditions of the proposed permit as may be appropriate and shall issue the permit.

If no public hearing is held, and, after review of the written comments received, the Director determines that a permit should be issued and that the determinations as set forth in the proposed permit are substantially unchanged, the permit will be issued and will become final in the absence of a request for a contested hearing. Notice of issuance or denial will be made available to all interested persons and those persons that submitted written comments to the Director on the proposed permit.

If no public hearing is held, but the Director determines, after a review of the written comments received, that a permit should be issued but that substantial changes in the proposed permit are warranted, public notice of the revised determinations will be given and written comments accepted in the same manner as the initial notice of application was given and written comments accepted pursuant to EPD Rules, Water Quality Control, subparagraph 391-3-6-.06(7)(b). The Director shall provide an opportunity for public hearing on the revised determinations. Such opportunity for public hearing and the issuance or denial of a permit thereafter shall be in accordance with the procedures as are set forth above.

#### **8.4 Final Determination**

At the time that any final permit decision is made, the Director shall issue a response to comments. The issued permit and responses to comments can be found at the following address:

*<http://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch-permit-and-public-comments-clearinghouse-0>*

#### **8.5 Contested Hearings**

Any person who is aggrieved or adversely affected by the issuance or denial of a permit by the Director of EPD may petition the Director for a hearing if such petition is filed in the office of the Director within thirty (30) days from the date of notice of such permit issuance or denial. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the EPD Rules, Water Quality Control, subparagraph 391-3-6-.01.

Petitions for a contested hearing must include the following:

1. The name and address of the petitioner;
2. The grounds under which petitioner alleges to be aggrieved or adversely affected by the issuance or denial of a permit;
3. The reason or reasons why petitioner takes issue with the action of the Director;
4. All other matters asserted by petitioner which are relevant to the action in question.



**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 XXXXX, 20XX.**

**This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, XXXX XX, 20XX.**



**DRAFT**

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 <sup>(1)</sup>		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Volume (MG) <sup>(1)</sup>	Report	Seven Days/Week	Continuous	Effluent

<sup>(1)</sup> The Provider must report the monthly volume of reuse water provided to each Designated User 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) <sup>(1)(2)</sup> 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) <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	Report total duration of each discharge	Each Discharge Event		
Rainfall (in) <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	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 <sup>(1)</sup>	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 <sup>(2)</sup>	Report	Two Discharge Events/Year	Calculated	Effluent

<sup>(1)</sup> 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).

<sup>(2)</sup> 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 –Bloomingdale 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.