

**Public Comments and EPD Responses on Draft Permit  
DiVine Village Development Water Pollution Control Plant  
LAS Permit No. GAJ040050**

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Due to the volume of comments received and the number of topics covered in a comment, EPD has summarized and grouped comments together based on the topic.

**Public Comments and EPD Responses on Draft Permit  
DiVine Village Development Water Pollution Control Plant  
LAS Permit No. GAJ040050**

Comment	Response to Comment
<b><i>Runoff and/or Overflow</i></b>	
<p>The amount of runoff and solid/liquid waste that will be generated will cause a significant environmental concern to the nearby streams and river.</p>	<p>The proposed facility will utilize subsurface drip irrigation. Effluent is stored in tanks, not ponds, therefore there are not concerns with overflow from the storage structures.</p>
<p>Runoff to our streams and rivers cause significant environmental concerns.</p>	<p>The approved DDR indicates that the proposed drip field will be installed in accordance with buffer requirements in EPD's Guidelines for Land Treatment of Municipal Wastewater by Drip Irrigation, 1996.</p> <p>The design hydraulic loading rate of 1.24 in/week was derived from onsite percolation test results (to which a safety factor of 5% was applied) and water balance calculations (taking into account precipitation and evapotranspiration). More detailed information about hydraulic loading rate determination can be found in the DDR and the Detailed Soil Investigation Report. These reports are available for public review by contacting: <a href="mailto:GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov">GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov</a>.</p> <p>Subsurface drip irrigation systems are designed not to produce any surface flow of wastewater. Therefore, EPD does not anticipate runoff from the proposed facility into the Chestatee River, Town Creek, neighboring properties, or any other surface waters. Flow monitoring and rainfall monitoring, which are both included in the permit, are the primary mechanisms for ensuring that surfacing of wastewater does not occur.</p> <p>Monitoring of surface water (Lake Arthur) is also required to confirm the land application system is not impacting surface water quality.</p> <p>Stormwater run-off from construction-related activities are outside of the scope of this wastewater permit.</p>
<p>This proposed large development will be in the middle of Lumpkin County's vineyards and will also cause runoff into local streams and rivers affecting our sport fishing industry as well as destroying our river and stream ecosystems.</p>	
<p>The effluents' impact on water quality would negatively affect fish, salamanders such as the Hellbender, as well as other aquatic dwellers. Overflow and Runoff due to the normal heavy rains in Lumpkin County is an issue. Such runoff and overflow muddy the Chestatee River, impact trout fishing, decrease water quality, and impairs esthetics of the river.</p>	
<p>As a member the Lumpkin County community, I would like to express my dislike for the proposed sewer treatment process for the above referenced RV/Tiny House development project. Not only in the form of waste water runoff, but also just the erosion that the construction and then subsequent use of the piece of property which is next to one of the most pristine rivers (Tesnatee Creek/Chestatee River Watersheds) in north Georgia.</p>	
<p>Our area is known for our Primary Trout streams, that will suffer from the runoff and the sewerage from the treatment facility. Algae will deplete the oxygen in the water, which will increase the temperature of the water and be detrimental to the life of our beautiful Trout. This project will adversely affect the many beautiful tributaries in this area.</p>	

The amount of runoff and solid/liquid waste that will be generated will cause a significant environmental concern to the nearby streams and river. This development will alter the local landscape for years to come.

This development will have significant environmental concerns including runoff into local streams and rivers.

I am writing today to express my opposition to this planned RV park and the proposed sewage plant with runoff to an open field which is part of the river basin, not to mention the danger that it will pose to contamination of the lake and nearby streams of water.

Adamantly opposed to the issuance of this wastewater treatment application. The upper stretches of the Chestatee River are pristine trout waters. This drip field would basically drain into the river 1.4 miles away. A feeder creek runs right next to the proposed drain field. Please, Do Not issue this permit.

Will the system be affected by heavy rains and overflow in our waterways and on land which will cause contamination?

How will this development impact our local waterways? With more developed land, the more runoff which contributes to pollution.

With the leach field only 8" in the ground, heavy rains saturate the ground and cause the waste to rise to the surface and run off into the lake or stream.

This development will have significant environmental concerns including runoff into local streams and rivers, noise issues, traffic issues and negative impact on our agratourism which has taken years to develop.

I am writing to express my concerns about imposing a water treatment facility in the sensitive area of the Upper Chestatee River basin. I have seen other facilities with holding ponds of raw sewage backfire on the users and pollute the neighboring waters.

Comment	Response to Comment
<i>System Failure</i>	
<p>What happens when system fails, polluting the streams and rivers? In the month of Dec. over 50 breaches occurred in the state of GA at municipal waste plants that were managed by certified technicians; what guarantees are in place to keep the Chestatee River protected with a system servicing the highest density of its type ever proposed for this rural county? This is not the time or the place for this sewage plant!</p>	<p>All proposed tanks and drip fields are located outside of floodplain, therefore the system is protected against 100-year flood and no impacts to surface waters, including Lake Arthur, are anticipated during a 100-year flood event.</p> <p>The drip management system is equipped with two dosing pumps (1 duty, 1 standby), that can be operated in fully-automated mode or in fully manual mode. The Permittee will be provided with spare parts such as solenoid valves, filters, relays, etc. for quick replacement as needed. Additionally, an emergency back up generator will ensure facility is operational during power outage.</p>
<p>The proposal for the sewage system at Divine Village could cause these waterways to be polluted if something were to malfunction or go wrong.</p>	
<p>We have major concerns regarding the sewage plant's potential for failure and the effect of a sewage disaster on water quality of adjacent tributaries and the Chestatee River. Capacity for this RV Park is +1,000 persons, and 348 total rental units, as shown on most recent site plan.</p>	<p>The facility is designed for one day of storage, provided the stored flows can be eliminated within seven days. To enable elimination of the stored flows sufficient additional drip field area must be provided. This amounts to 5,891 gallons per day (GPD) in addition to the 41,240 gallons of average daily flow and requires 6.8 acres of drip field area for elimination within seven days. The application of the design flow of 41,240 GPD requires a drip land area of 9.8 acres to maintain a nitrogen concentration below the target value of 7.0 mg/L which produces a nitrogen design loading limit of 1.08 in/wk. Thus, the system is designed for the larger area of 9.8 acres and results in a nitrogen concentration in the leachate of 6.93 mg/L. During periods of storage elimination, the application rate will be 1.24 in/wk as the permitted application rate. The 1.24 in/wk application rate for storage elimination results in no additional nitrogen being added to the drip disposal area.</p>
<p>My concern is what kind of action plan will be put in place because at that point in time, you don't have days to work, you've got minutes, and I'd like to know just what would happen in those conditions because I've seen those conditions in the past.</p>	
<p>This new development and its anticipated amount of sewage that it will generate daily may accidentally go over the concrete embankment (low spot on the property) if the LAS fields and the storage tanks become super saturated. Private property owners would receive the overflow waste first, eventually ending up in the Chestatee River where the fishing would be affected.</p>	
<p>This one little 10-acre Lake Arthur, itself "state waters," that is within a few feet of the proposed Land Application Sites, could overflow sewage "accidentally" bleeding downstream, flowing swiftly across neighboring properties, and then immediately into the Chestatee River, where trout thrive, although these trout are at risk, as I read, "The Chestatee River has</p>	<p>The permit requires that the person in responsible charge of the daily operation of the land application system is a Class III Certified Operator in accordance with the Georgia Certification of Water and Wastewater Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act and the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia (the Rules) 391-3-6-.12.</p>

a beneficial water use classification of fishing and is currently listed as an impaired water body (WMP 2014, pg 1). I believe it would be in opposition to the EPD's mitigation objectives—an impaired water body with a use class of fishing—to allow this risk. I believe that it's possible (during typical seasons of locally heavy rain) for sewage and seepage to leak from the LAS fields, septic tanks, and the 41,240-gallon storage tank, then releasing human sewage downstream, despite all efforts of surge-flow and emergency storage capacity. If this were to occur, the RV park would be a significant source of pollution—causing contamination of the upper Chestatee watershed, as you are aware, a major tributary of Lake Lanier and the Chattahoochee River.

My concern is the damage that will be done to the local ecological system by unforeseen emergencies. Even trained and experienced operators' accidents happen. I have no confidence that trained and/or experienced operators will be available 24/7/365. All it will take is ONE accident, please prevent this accident by not approving the DiVine Village Development Water Pollution Control Plant, GAJ040050.

The permitting, the compliance, the potential risks and maybe even potentially redesigning it to keep things further from the 50-foot stream-side buffer and make sure if there is a colossal flood event – which there will be – it will be mitigated somewhat because its further away from the river and will help protect the health of the river system.

I think some kind of a plan needs to be put in place and money set aside from the developers, so they can't say we don't have any money to take care of these things later, and put something in a system that will keep this money safe and earning money so that it can then be used for these disasters and I would like to know what the company – the development company – has for plans for a disaster. And, I would like something to be set up in perpetuity for it to be always this way. They were talking about getting rid of the – if the whole thing blows up and the developers go belly-up, something is set aside like a golden parachute for our community.

Due to the nature of the development (RV site, rental cabins, etc.), the permittee has full control of the wastewater flow going to the system. In case of catastrophic failure (drip management system non-operable, etc.), permittee can choose to shut down his business or require that RV customers use their own wastewater storage tank until adequate repair can be made.

Per the Rules at 391-3-6-.06(13), for permits involving non-governmentally owned sewerage systems, “a trust indenture or other legal contract or agreement, approved by the EPD, assuring continuity of operation of the system, may be required to be filed with the application for a permit”. Based on the nature of the development (rental units), it has been determined that a trust indenture with Lumpkin County is not required.

If the facility is transferred or sold, the permit may be transferred to the new owner in accordance with Part II.B.4. of the permit, Transfer requires that 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) is submitted to the Director at least thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed transfer.

<p>We live off of Porter Springs, but my thoughts as I listen to the comments and the questions, or the comments, is: what does happen if something goes wrong with this?</p>	
<p>There's not even enough information to share with us what would be done to handle something catastrophic, which seems sure to eventually happen. All we're hearing about is what we may test, we may look at, and not even what will we do if there's a problem."</p>	
<p>What is the course of action should there be a malfunction or system failure?</p>	
<p>The introduction of a high density RV park raises serious environmental concerns. Specifically, the potential for wastewater pollution could significantly impact the water quality, affecting both aquatic life and the health of the community. The proposed location of the treatment plant is troubling. Proximity to a water body like Lake Arthur increases the risk of contamination, especially in the event of system malfunctions or overflows. Increased nutrient levels from wastewater discharge can lead to algal blooms, affecting water clarity and oxygen levels, crucial for aquatic life.</p>	
<p>"I want to re-iterate what everybody has said in that I am definitely against this plan. I think there are too many variables in the plan where things can go wrong, and I would like to know: is EPD and the county planners and the developers, engineers, is everybody talking together?"</p>	

Comment	Response to Comment
<i>Surface Water</i>	
Town Creek is a tributary and we do not need anymore polluted Streams, creeks or rivers in the Great State of Georgia.	<p>Subsurface drip irrigation systems are designed not to produce any surface flow of wastewater. Therefore, EPD does not anticipate runoff from the proposed facility into the Chestatee River, Town Creek, neighboring properties, or any other surface waters.</p> <p>The approved DDR indicates that the proposed drip field will be installed in accordance with buffer requirements in EPD's <i>Guidelines for Land Treatment of Municipal Wastewater by Drip Irrigation</i>, 1996.</p> <p>A design hydraulic loading rate of 1.24 in/week was derived from onsite percolation test results (to which a safety factor of 5% was applied) and water balance calculations (taking into account precipitation and evapotranspiration) to ensure there will not be surfacing or ponding in the fields. More detailed information about hydraulic loading rate determination can be found in the DDR and the Detailed Soil Investigation Report. These reports are available for public review by contacting: <a href="mailto:GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov">GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov</a>.</p> <p>Monitoring of surface water (Lake Arthur) is also required to confirm the land application system is not impacting surface water quality.</p>
Nutrient pollution, hazardous chemicals, frequent excessive phosphorus and nitrogen released in treated wastewater, causing dead zones, anoxic conditions (reduced oxygen), fish-kill, high bacteria, tourism disruption: recreational fishing, tubing, kayaking, health issues for swimmers.	
Once our waterways are filled with waste from the park, we will no longer get to enjoy our creeks and waterways that provide us and our ecosystem with the resources and species needed to keep the environment thriving.	
This proposed sewage plant would have a negative impact on the tributaries into the Chestatee River which joins into Lake Lanier. This waterway is already exceeding the Total Daily Maximum Loading Rates set forth by the EPD and our county is working hard to reduce loading rates. The proposed sewage treatment project would not only increase pollution into the waterways, it would negatively impact the sensitive ecosystems in the surrounding areas and would also increase cost to our county by the incurred fines from EPD for exceeding TDML.	
“The overarching goal for the upper Chestatee River is . . . to render the river and all of its streams free of contaminants, healthy for its ecology and fully compliant with the measurable standards for water bodies with the State’s “Fishing” designation” (WMP 2014, pg 41.) Denying this LAS permit is in accordance with the EDP water quality goals as stated in the Upper Chestatee Watershed, 2014 Watershed Management Plan, a 5-10 year plan.	
Keep our rivers, creeks and streams in mind and the effect this will have on them.	

Allowing this RV Park opens the door for the inevitable pollution to ruin our environment around us. Once our waterways are filled with waste from the park, we will no longer get to enjoy our creeks and waterways that provide us and our ecosystem with the resources and species needed to keep the environment thriving.

What will this will do to nearby streams? Will their leach system handle that?

According to the Plat / layout of the proposed RV park, are 186 RV hookup pads and 31 “Casita Lots” for this planned development. It looks like several RV spaces will be around Lake Arthur. There are feeder creeks/streams into the lake, and one exiting the lake.

Please consider the effects of this approval on the surrounding beautiful streams and rivers in the middle of North Georgia wine country. The water collected to provide for the residents and businesses in this area is of utmost importance to our health and success.

I do not approve of this campground and the water pollution control plant associated with it. There are lakes and streams nearby that will be negatively impacted by the plant. Please keep North Ga clean and pristine!

My concerns are based on the containment of the wastewater facility because we had several larger than usual floods. I think sometimes in the 2- 5- or 50- year floods in the last few years. The erosion’s increased. We’ve got concerns about the water quality on the Chestatee River and I’m worried more about the riverine system, the life downstream from a microorganism zooplankton standpoint, businesses along the river like the fishery that Mr. Simmons has along the river being impacted by damaged water quality as result of effluent that escapes from this wastewater treatment facility, and the pertinent issues that could come for other species that may be in the river that we aren’t aware of – Eastern Hellbender, several other species of salamanders, this is a salamander hotspot for the world – and I would like to be furnished with both state and federal wildlife permits for endangered species to make sure those has been complied with.



What happens to our water supply, and in addition, to Lake Lanier which already has a shortage of water to continue to supply Atlanta and Florida.

The high density RV park/casita village proposed for Town Creek Road in Lumpkin County Georgia is a terrible fit due to the general topography of the area as well as the projects proximity to the Chestatee River, a waterway listed by the GA DNR as a trout stream. As a resident of Lumpkin County I stand firmly in opposition to this project.

I do not approve of this campground and the water pollution control plant associated with it. There are lakes and streams nearby that will be negatively impacted by the plant.

This development will have significant environmental concerns including runoff into local streams and rivers, noise issues, traffic issues and negative impact on our agratourism which has taken years to develop.

Comment	Response to Comment
<b>Groundwater</b>	
<p>It is a very rural area where everyone uses underground wells. This development will impact the water table and the natural streams and rivers nearby. We get a considerable amount of rain and the sewage generated by this dense community will permeate the water table, create huge run offs and end up spewing into our beautiful waterways.</p>	<p>In accordance with the Guidelines for Land Application, a 300 ft minimum buffer has been included in the design of the drip irrigation fields.</p> <p>There are no public water supply wells within five miles of the drip irrigation fields.</p>
<p>Our water system like many of our neighbors is well water. We have not seen any evidence that our water will be protected.</p>	<p>Three potential private water supply wells were identified within 500 ft of the proposed drip irrigation fields. Of the three wells, two are south of an intermittent stream and one is downgradient from the proposed fields. It is noted in the DDR that most residential wells in the project vicinity are between 100 and 300 feet deep and tap deep fracture zones in the bedrock.</p> <p>The facility is required by the permit to meet all maximum contaminant levels for drinking water. So long as groundwater leaving the site meets maximum contaminant levels, there is no expectation that impacts to groundwater could negatively impact downgradient private water supply wells.</p> <p>There will be no sewage pipes to the river and no direct discharge of wastewater authorized by the permit.</p>
<p>What will this will do to nearby wells? Nearby streams? Will their leach system handle that?</p>	
<p>Now let's talk about the people who live in the area. They get their drinking water from wells, which can certainly be affected by contaminants in the nearby rivers and creeks.</p>	
<p>My well is two-hundred and four feet deep – that's a hundred feet from the river. So, I wonder how far that sewage could get through the earth. And, I wonder how much that's going to change if they were to put a sewage pipe going down into the river, but I don't believe it would be too good.</p>	
<p>What does this do to our drinking water wells nearby? Will our water be safe?</p>	
<p>I want some assurance that the large amount of wastewater being treated will not affect the underground water of this county as most people have wells that provide drinking water.</p>	
<p>North Georgia is famous for its waterfalls, creeks and rivers originate in ground water providing water for the growing population here and southward.</p>	

Comment	Response to Comment
<b><i>Completeness of permit application</i></b>	
In reading the application for permit, I was looking for the number of persons this treatment system could accommodate, but didn't find this information. Much of the application was left blank.	The permit application, signed by the owner on October 18, 2023 is considered complete for consideration of the issuance of an LAS permit. Due to the nature of the development, several sections of the permit application were not applicable.
To whomsoever is reviewing this permit, I have the following observations about the permit application document. It looks like the application is missing information; this is sloppy work to me. Is this normal for the GA Department of Natural Resources?: 1. Section 1, questions 2 and 3 were not answered 2. Section 2 has no applicant identification 3. Section 3, question 2 is missing contact person information 4. Section 4 was not answered 5. Section 5 - Description of the Treatment Facility is unanswered other than MGD - Millions of Gallons per Day. Section 5 questions 5, 6, & 7 are void of any information 6. Sections 7 - 10 are void of information.	<p>Because the applicant submitted a paper application, the online form may show blanks in areas that are answered in the attached documents which are also located in the Georgia EPD Online System (GEOS) under Submittal ID 805263.</p> <p>Section I: Item 2 is marked "Land application of treated wastewater onto a dedicated site. Item 3 is marked "no".</p> <p>Section II: Lists the name as "DiVine Village Development, LLC", with a street address of "100 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, Suite 1202, St. Petersburg, FL 33701" in" Pinellas County." The contact person is listed as "Mr. Paul Petrillo, CEO, (704) 400-0347, <a href="mailto:ppetco@outlook.com">ppetco@outlook.com</a>".</p> <p>Section III: Item 2, the applicant has marked an "X" for "Same as in Section II above".</p>
Dear Permit Approval Members, As a resident of Lumpkin County, I beg you not to approve this permit for several reasons. The online application is not complete. Only the name and address of the proposed project are completed. One cannot understand the project when about 12 pages of the application are not filled in.	<p>Section IV: 1.a. is marked as "Separate (sanitary sewer only). 1.b. is marked as "No", 1.c. is marked as "No – Skip questions 1.d. &amp; 1.e. below and go to Section V".</p> <p>Section V: As required by 5.a., a map or drawing is provided in Attachment Figure 5 of the application. On Item 5.b., the applicant has marked the "X" by "Dripfields" and "Subsurface emitters".</p>
The LAS permit GAJ040050, sections of the application had missing information. The developer has left these sections blank. As a matter of fact, there were twelve sections that were not completed. This is too much missing information.	
I do not like the fact that there is too much information missing on the "Application For A Land Application System (LAS) Permit".	
The Georgia Department of Natural Resources has failed to conduct due diligence as far as I can tell by allowing missing information on the	Section VI: Item 6.a. is listed as "9.8 acres". Item 6.b. is listed as "9 fields or zones". Item 6.c. is listed as "forest vegetation (mixed hardwoods and

Application. This is sloppy and unconscionable for the GA Department of Natural Resources.

pine). Item 6.d. is listed as “1.24 in/week”. Item 6.e. is listed as “0.17 in/hour”. Item 6.f. is not applicable. Item 6.g. is marked “no”.

Section VII: Applicant has marked the “X” for “Not Applicable”

Comment	Response to Comment
<b>Permitting Process</b>	
<p>“Who are the individuals who will make the decisions? Are we able to know all comments from the other side as well – not just the public comments – on what went into the decision?”</p>	<p>Consideration of an application for issuance of a State Land Application System (LAS) permit is contingent upon approval of the DDR. EPD conducted a site suitability inspection on June 28, 2023 concurred with the DDR on October 4, 2023. Issuance of the final permit and response to comments is contingent upon determination by the EPD Director.</p>
<p>Who will be operating this system? A developer is certainly not capable of providing reliable wastewater treatment operations over the long haul. I have been a water professional for 40 years at this point. Even if a private 3rd party wastewater operations firm were to be involved with the treatment operations, it would be ill-advisable to grant this permit without Lumpkin County Government to act as a trustee for this system.</p>	<p>Per the Rules at 391-3-6-.06(13), for permits involving non-governmentally owned sewerage systems, “a trust indenture or other legal contract or agreement, approved by the EPD, assuring continuity of operation of the system, may be required to be filed with the application for a permit”. Based on the nature of the development (rental units), it has been determined that a trust indenture with Lumpkin County is not required.</p>
<p>I was forwarded an article from the Dahlonega Nugget “RV park proposal causes controversy”. The article states that “even though the window for public comments doesn’t expire until ..the EPD Director had already made a decision” according to Manager Fenwick. This statement indicates EPD has deprived the people of due process.</p>	<p>The full quote from the article written by Keith Murden and issued in the Dahlonega Nugget on January 10, 2024 reads:</p> <p><i>“Even though the 30-day window for public comments doesn’t technically expire until January 20, Fenwick indicated that the EPD Director had already made a decision. “We have received significant interest in the draft permit, and have received several requests for us to hold a hearing. We will be scheduling a public hearing for the end of February,” Fenwick stated.”</i></p> <p>The decision which had already been made at the time of the news article, was the decision to hold a public hearing. At the time the article was published, EPD had already received multiple requests for the hearing and had made a determination that a hearing would be scheduled in the future, though a date had not been set. The EPD Director had not made a determination regarding the issuance of the permit at that time.</p>

<p>Why was the public not included at the beginning stages of EPD's permitting process?</p>	<p>Applications are available in GEOS upon their submittal. In accordance with the Rules at 391-3-6-.26, when a complete has been submitted, EPD makes a tentative determination to issue or deny the permit. If the tentative determination is to issue the permit, a draft permit is prepared prior to the issuance of the public notice. After the draft LAS permit was prepared, EPD posted the draft for public notice.</p>
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Comment	Response to Comment
<b><i>Operation and Monitoring Requirements</i></b>	
<p>Land Application Systems (LAS) are identified as contributing to the chlorophyll-a impairment of Lake Lanier ("Final Total Maximum Daily Load Evaluation for Lake Lanier in the Chattahoochee River Basin for Chlorophyll a", section 3 .2.3 .2). In 2017, there were 17 permitted LAS in the Lanier Watershed. In the initial months of 2024, we are aware of 3 new proposed LAS in local or state permitting process within the upper Chattahoochee Watershed. As this new proposed LAS is in the upper Chattahoochee watershed, we believe that additional consideration should be given for more frequent and expansive nutrient monitoring.</p> <p>The permittee has not sufficiently justified that monitoring of surface waters should not be required (Draft Permit No. GAJ040050 Part I B.4). The permit package states that the permittee is unable to collect and compare upstream and downstream surface water samples (Permit No. GAJ040050 Fact Sheet Section 6.4). Based on the maps provided by the permittee, it is unclear why this is not possible. Portions of the stream which are dammed to form the manmade pond appear to be accessible for sampling upstream and downstream of the drip fields.</p> <p>Groundwater and Surface water monitoring should include total phosphorus (TP) and ammonia (Draft Permit No. GAJ040050 Part I B.2 and Part I B.4). As written, the permit requires only limited nutrient monitoring. Additional effort and attention must be given to quantifying phosphorus contributions to tributaries to the Lake Lanier Watershed. LAS are identified as potential contributors to nutrient impairments in Lake Lanier, but data quantifying the potential magnitude of their contribution is scarce. Monitoring for phosphorous and nitrogen in LAS permits will inform efforts to quantify and address contributions Lake Lanier's Chlorophyll-a impairment.</p>	<p>The “Final Total Maximum Daily Load Evaluation for Lake Lanier in the Chattahoochee River Bains for Chlorophyll a” (2017) identifies LAS as possible contributors. Specifically, the TMDL identifies runoff during storm events and exceeding percolation rate as possible sources of contributions to nutrients in surface waters. The proposed LAS consists of a septic-tank system and below ground drip irrigation. Flow monitoring and rainfall monitoring, which are both included in the permit, are the primary mechanisms for ensuring that surfacing of wastewater does not occur. Therefore, monitoring for additional parameters is not warranted at this time.</p> <p>The purpose of groundwater monitoring in LAS permits is to verify compliance with drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) in order to be protective of sources of drinking water. Groundwater monitoring for nutrients would not be representative of potential nutrient loading to surface water, nor would it help with the identification of instances of runoff or over-application.</p> <p>The permit requires monitoring of the effluent and groundwater for nitrate to evaluate the impact of the system on groundwater sources of drinking water.</p> <p>A man-made pond (Lake Arthur) is located near the proposed drip field. Monitoring of the effluent and surface water for total Kjeldahl nitrogen has been added to draft permit to evaluate the impact of the system on surface waters.</p>

Why does EPD only monitor nitrogen and fecal coliform bacteria under and not other specific and known toxins, pathogens, and carcinogens?	Nitrogen and <i>Escherichia coli</i> are identified as pollutants for which there are maximum contaminant levels established for drinking water, and which are expected to be present in domestic wastewater effluent. The system does not receive any industrial waste, and therefore there is no expectation that the effluent will contain metals or priority pollutants.
What assurances do the citizens have regarding monitoring/maintaining standards of wastewater runoff for a development of this density that directly feeds into the Chestatee?	Monitoring is required for the effluent to the drip fields, soil, groundwater, and surface water (Lake Arthur) to ensure there are no impacts to surface water or violations of maximum contaminant levels for drinking water in the groundwater leaving the permitted site. Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) are submitted monthly to EPD.
What are the guarantees for management/monitoring of this system when our own local water and environmental dept is not certified to handle this?	The permit requires that the person in responsible charge of the daily operation of the land application system is a Class III Certified Operator in accordance with the Georgia Certification of Water and Wastewater Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act and the Rules and Regulations of the State of Georgia 391-3-6-.12
Who will be monitoring the facility, I assume a certified waste water treatment operator but will it be an outside firm or an employee of the village?	The permittee shall ensure that, when required, the person(s) performing the laboratory analyses for this land treatment system is a Certified 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.
And then, the other concern I have is about the monitoring. I've seen monitoring my whole life that is questionable at times. I just want to make sure that that is accurate.	The Georgia Water Quality Control Act (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 State 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 EPD.
I am concerned about the sewage filtration system, Will the Registered PE, who drew up the plan of the development, monitor the installation to ensure it is installed correctly?	



Comment	Response to Comment
<i>Application Method</i>	
Am I correct that the method of removing the waste from the LAS tanks is to spread the effluent over the property? If this is correct, then any heavy downpour will send the sprayed material into the runoff and continue to the Chestatee.	The proposed wastewater pretreatment system consists of septic tanks, filtration, and subsurface drip irrigation. The operation of the system will be similar to that of a “normal” septic system, with additional filtration.
I don’t feel that such a high density subdivision ever in Lumpkin County should be able to spray their waste water on the property rather than handle it through a normal septic system.	Subsurface drip irrigation systems are designed not to produce any surface flow of wastewater. Effluent will be stored in tanks. Therefore, EPD does not anticipate runoff from the proposed facility or odor concerns from the effluent.
Please do not issue a permit enabling the construction of the highest density subdivision ever in rural Lumpkin County that wishes to spray their waste on the property rather than handle it through a normal septic system.	The proposed permit does not authorize spray irrigation.
The thought of all those people spraying their waste is disgusting and unsanitary, to say nothing of the damage to our water supply.	
I am opposed to the issuance of the requested permits to allow raw sewage to be sprayed on the land. They should be required to have a fully functional sewage septic system that handles all the raw sewage for the development.	
The developers wish to spray their waste on the property rather than handle it through a normal septic system. This would be an enormous amount of RAW sewage in the heart of our beautiful wine country.	
As I understand it, the owners will be given permission to dump waste water on the land itself resulting in massive amounts of nitrogen and other substances running off into our streams and rivers.	
To put a sewage treatment plant and to have waste water to drain in an open field is unacceptable!	

<p>How they are treating the wastewater matters, and there is no indication on how it will be treated. It appears from the information given that it could be a bunch of very large septic yams [sic] with a drip field. Or is it "spray fields" that are totally different and not acceptable? Will either system create an odor?</p>	
<p>I do not approve of DiVine Village coming into a small community. This is not what we need. It's not the place for that. I'm opposed to it. I do not want crap sprayed everyday on the grounds.</p>	
<p>The EPD rates waterways on their waterway report 305(b)/303(d). The list includes the tributary that comes through Lake Arthur and that is on this property that's in question. It contributes to the Chestatee and is a section of the Chestatee River that is on the EPD list called "impaired streams." The section of the Chestatee River that this tributary impacts is already listed as "not supporting" life based on Fecal coliform levels. Fecal coliform is the gut bacteria directly related to the waste like that of the spray land treatment that is being proposed tonight.</p>	
<p>Development of this kind in Lumpkin County would put tremendous stress on this area's ecosystem as well. In addition to pulling even more groundwater from our already stressed systems, we shudder to think what sprayed sewage would do to the vineyards of the Dahlonega plateau.</p>	
<p>How does Georgia EPD plan to remove or mitigate cumulative toxic substances such as arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, selenium, and zinc from septage and commercial grease trap waste that is applied to the land surface at Divine Village commercial development?</p>	<p>The proposed permit does not authorize the surface application of wastewater, sewage sludge, biosolids, septage, grease trap, or any other industrial or commercial waste to the site.</p>
<p>Does EPD have the necessary knowledge, scientific expertise, standards and procedural safeguards needed to assess risks, design facilities, permit, and responsibly monitor Class B type sewage sludge at the proposed Divine Village facility? Does EPD have sufficient safeguard standards for sludge facility design and for adequate and effective monitoring procedures that would ensure safe Class B type biosolid output or end use</p>	

land application facility performance? Does EPD require or monitor air and other vector transfer components that could foreseeably transmit pathogens, carcinogens, and other toxic pollutants originating from land application facilities?	
Does EPD have sufficient safeguard standards for sludge facility design and for adequate and effective monitoring procedures that would ensure safe Class B type biosolid output or end use land application facility performance? Does EPD require or monitor air and other vector transfer components that could foreseeably transmit pathogens, carcinogens, and other toxic pollutants originating from land application facilities?	
Are the permitted operators of Class B sludge and septage treatment facilities and land application properties required to go through any kind of specific testing to qualify for an EPD operating permit?	
As it currently stands, they will be spreading the waste from their 186 RV sites, 81 casitas, 2 duplexes, welcome center, club house, pool and ball court in the middle of Lumpkin county's wine country.	
The amount of sewage that will be discharged daily is certainly a problem for our environment, Not to mention our eco system.	There is no direct discharge of sewage authorized by the proposed permit.

Comment	Response to Comment																																								
<b>Density and design capacity</b>																																									
The proposed density of development for the site is unmanageable in terms of water use and human waste management.	A hydrologic budget which balances inputs (design precipitation and wastewater) and outputs (potential evapotranspiration and percolation)																																								
Please do not allow the proposed DiVine Village to ever be allowed to build and pollute Dahlonge's waterways and environment. They are asking for WAY too many RV sites and tiny homes for the 90 buildable acres on this property. The plan for waste materials is disgusting.	Evapotranspiration and design precipitation have been calculated based on an analysis of 30 years of monthly precipitation data from the U.S. Weather Service station in Cleveland, Georgia. The design precipitation is the mean monthly precipitation with a 5-year return period, which implies that there is a 20 percent chance that the design precipitation will be equaled or exceeded in any given year.																																								
I feel that the developer needs to submit a realistic application for your review listing contingencies, how they arrived at their density use formula, and answering the concerns of the residents opposed to this project.	The design hydraulic loading rate of 1.24 in/week was derived from onsite percolation test results. A total design flow for the facility was calculated to be 41,240 GPD based on the following flow schedule:																																								
The proposed development has increased in density since it was originally proposed. This is not right.	<table><tr><th>Item</th><th>Number of Units</th><th>Unit Flow (GPD)</th><th>Flow Calculated (GPD)</th></tr><tr><td>RV Spaces:</td><td>188</td><td>100</td><td>18,800</td></tr><tr><td>Duplexs/Cabin</td><td>2</td><td>300</td><td>600</td></tr><tr><td>Casita Lots</td><td>72</td><td>200</td><td>14,400</td></tr><tr><td>Club House/Pool</td><td>170</td><td>15</td><td>2,550</td></tr><tr><td>Club House Washing Machines</td><td>3</td><td>500</td><td>1,500</td></tr><tr><td>BathHouse</td><td>164</td><td>10</td><td>1,640</td></tr><tr><td>BathHouse Washing Machines</td><td>3</td><td>500</td><td>1,500</td></tr><tr><td>Maintenance Building</td><td>1</td><td>100</td><td>100</td></tr><tr><td>Office</td><td>5</td><td>30</td><td>150</td></tr></table> <p>Total Design Flow (GPD): 41,240</p>	Item	Number of Units	Unit Flow (GPD)	Flow Calculated (GPD)	RV Spaces:	188	100	18,800	Duplexs/Cabin	2	300	600	Casita Lots	72	200	14,400	Club House/Pool	170	15	2,550	Club House Washing Machines	3	500	1,500	BathHouse	164	10	1,640	BathHouse Washing Machines	3	500	1,500	Maintenance Building	1	100	100	Office	5	30	150
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The proposed RV park was originally much smaller than what the sewage permit now says that it is for. It was for 86 RV sites, now the proposed water management permit is for 186 sites and then townhouses and casitas.																																									
Furthermore, in 2021, DiVine Village Development presented a plan for 60 RV sites, cabins, and tent campsites (approved). However, now DVDC wants to build 186 RV/campsites and 81 Casitas plus other buildings. Quite an increase over their original plan. We value our beautiful county and do not want it ruined by money-hungry developers.																																									
As a twelve year resident of Dahlonge, I am very concerned with the changes in the original approved version of the DiVine Village RV Park in Lumpkin County. It appears to me that the new version has seriously too many homesites for the proposed density.	Using the design hydraulic loading rate of 1.24 in/week, the drip field capacity will be 47,140 gal/day.																																								
The developer does not love our community as do we. For nearly three years he has pursued this project, changing the proposed development after	Since the wastewater application will take place in the subsoil there is little potential for wet weather to effect performance of the system. Therefore, wet weather storage is not needed. There will be 100 percent equipment																																								

<p>each legitimate challenge to his plans. I oppose this plan and request that the Environmental Protection Agency prohibit it from going forward.</p>	<p>back up so one day of emergency storage (41,240-gallons) will be provided. To enable elimination of the stored flows sufficient additional drip field area must be provided. This amounts to 5,891 GPD in addition to the 41,240 gallons of average daily flow and requires 6.8 acres of drip field area for elimination within seven days. The application of the design flow of 41,240 GPD requires a drip land area of 9.8 acres to maintain a nitrogen concentration below the target value of 7.0 mg/L which produces a nitrogen design loading limit of 1.08 in/wk. During periods of storage elimination, the application rate will be 1.24 in/wk as the permitted application rate. The 1.24 in/wk application rate for storage elimination results in no additional nitrogen being added to the drip disposal area.</p> <p>More detailed information about hydraulic loading rate determination can be found in the DDR and the Detailed Soil Investigation Report. These reports are available for public review by contacting: <a href="mailto:GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov">GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov</a>.</p>
<p>The DiVine Village RV Park would sit on just 90 buildable acres and would have 186 Class A RV Sites, 81 small self-contained homes, 2 duplexes, a welcome center, a clubhouse, pool and ball courts. The EPA states the average house generates 300gal/day of waste water so the 41,124 gal/day if permitted would be equivalent to 137 homes.</p>	
<p>How much woops factor was put into the design of the facility in terms of how many gallons would be treated based on current design and potential increased deluge from climate change?</p>	
<p>Climate Conditions, this location's excessive rainfall increasing input, causing overloading. GA weather station, near Lake Arthur, a mile as the crow flies. In 2020 annual precipitation was 87.32 inches at station, greater than average annual precipitation at highest elevations (of county and state) within the "Appalachian Temperate Rainforest" (rainfall 70-78"). Heavy rainfall is a factor in sewage plant failure.</p>	
<p>Overloading occurring when more sewage than plant capacity, raw sewage released untreated, bacteria (E.coli).Capacity for this RV Park is +1,000 persons. Blockages occurring when sludge, stuck in pipe system, causes malfunction. Difficulty finding obstruction. Blockages occurring when sludge, stuck in pipe system, causes malfunction. Difficulty finding obstruction.</p>	
<p>What measures will be in place for unusual circumstances, such as drought or other efficacious events.</p>	<p>The number of proposed RV spaces has been reduced to 188. The proposed design has a capacity of 47,140 GPD, and a proposed design flow of 41,420 GPD. The conservative application rate calculations, along with the additional capacity and one day of emergency storage, will allow the system to handle occasional instances increased flow.</p>
<p>Will this become a dumping station for RVs in transit, such that quantity of dumping will greatly exceed the "applied for" site capacity.</p> <p>There should be a multiplication factor applied to the volume of treated waste. RV's often times travel to these "RV parks" and can have several days of accumulated waste in their holding tanks. If for example an RV arrived at the park and stayed for the weekend while on their journey, they</p>	

could be dumping more than a weeks worth of waste.... same as staying a week or more. That process can happen many many times, especially with 267 spots up for grabs at this particular park!	
My concern is that all the parameters of this of post-development monitoring and analysis. There's no prerequisite as far as I can determine in the draft proposal for determining what the underlying geological formations are and where – how far – water may permeate in this environment particularly because of this private pond – if there's a significant rock formation under this strip plot – that's as far as the water will go and then will migrate downhill to wherever the water is. So, my concern is: what happens if this plan is granted and then subsequently we find that it can't operate as effectively as the planners intend? And, what is the contingency plan on this? Do we have an alternate disposal plan, like a true septic field or something like that? So, that's my concern."	<p>An evaluation of geology and groundwater on the site is provide in Section 1.4 (page 4) of the facility's approved DDR. Per the report, the project site is located in a complex area with six different geologic parent materials in close proximity.</p> <p>Per Figure 4 of the DDR, the geology of the immediately surrounding area is all metamorphic rock. A groundwater recharge map taken from Hydrologic Atlas 18 is included in Figure 5 of the DDR.</p> <p>The proposed permit requires ongoing monitoring of the effluent, groundwater, soil and surface water.</p>
What are the underlying geological formations that may affect the completion of the sewage system?	If the system does not perform as designed, action may be taken to require the permittee to take corrective action or cease discharge. Compliance activities may include (but are not limited to) pollutant reduction plans, enforcement action, permit termination, revocation and reissuance or modification.
The plan describing this endeavor shows (1) Drip Area of 3.66 acres and (1) Drip area of 6.14 acres; it also lists several proposed septic tanks for the endeavor. The plan also lists a 41,240-gallon storage / pump tank. Where would one find the calculations used to determine if this piece of property's drainage will accommodate the desired development?	The calculations are included in the facility's approved DDR. The full report is available for public review by contacting: <a href="mailto:GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov">GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov</a> .

Comment	Response to Comment
<b>LLC Registration</b>	
<p>We have uncovered there is not a business entity listed for the state of GA with the name, called “Divine Village Development, LLC” or “DiVine Village Development, LLC” or “Divine Village Motor Coach Park” or “3084 Town Creek Reserve LLC”. It is against GA law to issue any type of permit to any business not listed in the SoS registry for GA. If it is determined that the business is not or was not properly registered with the Georgia Secretary of State’s office at the time of the application then the permit should not be released, should be withdrawn and the application associated with this permit deemed defective and voided. We appreciate you protecting us now and into the future. Keeping our environment and waters safe and as clean as possible is why we have our faith in your organization. <i>Attached video transcript:</i> “This is now the second video, the white that you can see when you blow it up, you can hear it, is water coming out in a waterfall fashion from the spillway that’s given way. The dam’s completely collapsed and now it’s not holding anything. You can still hear it.”</p>	<p>In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 14-2-1501, a foreign corporation may not transact business in this state until it obtains a certificate of authority from the Secretary of State of Georgia. DiVine Village Development, LLC is a limited liability company registered with the State of Florida Division of Corporations with a principal address of 100 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave South, Suite 1202, Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701. O.C.G.A. § 14-2-1501 does not forbid a corporation registered in another U.S. state from transacting business in the State of Georgia, nor forbid issuance of a Georgia LAS permit to a registered corporate entity not registered with the Georgia Division of Corporations.</p>
<p>As it stands now, there does not appear to be a business registration for a business called “Divine Village Development, LLC” or “Devine Village Development, LLC” or “Divine Village Motor Coach Park” or “3084 Town Creek Reserve LLC” listed in the Georgia Secretary of State’s database. Nor does Mr. Patrillo appear to be listed as an agent for any of these entities within that database. Georgia laws require certain businesses and individuals operating as an agent for a foreign corporation to be registered with the Georgia Secretary of State prior to engaging in business in Georgia. Such business activities appear to include applications for the issuance of permits. Please reference: GA Code § 14-2-1501 (2022). It may be a violation of the law for the Georgia EPD to issue permits of any sort to an entity or an agent not registered with the Georgia Secretary of State’s Office at the time of the original application. If is determined the original application was made by an entity not registered in Georgia at the time of application submission, that application may not be valid. The issuance of any permit to any entity associated with this project should be</p>	

delayed until such time as the Georgia EPD ascertains the status of the registration of the business entity involved. If it is determined that the business is not or was not properly registered with the Georgia Secretary of State's office at the time of the application then the permit should not be released, should be withdrawn and the application associated with this permit deemed defective and voided.

Importantly, please note that the applicant's name of business Divine Village Development, LLC, a Florida company, is not registered with the Georgia Division of Corporations. Not to be confused with a different entity listed on GDC's business search, The Divine Village Corporation, which was dissolved in 2023, and apparently is not affiliated with the applicant Divine Village Development, LLC, a Florida company.



Comment	Response to Comment
<b><i>Compliance, enforcement, and oversight</i></b>	
Who will monitor compliance to EPD and other regulations?	<p>The permittee will be required to report compliance data in accordance with the requirements of LAS Permit No. GAJ040050. Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) are submitted monthly to EPD. These reports are available to the public by submitting a request to: <a href="mailto:GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov">GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov</a>. Additionally, EPD compliance is responsible for performing routine inspections of the facility and responding to complaint investigations related to wastewater.</p> <p>If, for any reason the permittee does not comply with, or will be unable to comply with any limitations specified in the 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 days of becoming aware of such condition.</p> <p>The permittee shall notify EPD immediately if mechanical failure, inclement weather or other factors cause a discharge of contaminated runoff from the fields or an overflow from a pond, or if any other problems occur which could cause an adverse effect on the environment.</p> <p>Any permit noncompliance, including failure to submit DMRs, is a violation of the State Act and the Rules, and is grounds for enforcement action, permit termination, revocation and reissuance, modification, or denial of a permit renewal application.</p> <p>The permit requires that the person in responsible charge of the daily operation of the land application system is a Class III Certified Operator in accordance with the Georgia Certification of Water and Wastewater Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act and the Rules at 391-3-6-.12</p>
How will the state (and county(ies)) monitor compliance, and what type of enforcement be stipulated for violation.	
What oversight / quality control will the state or county (if you know) will be performed to ensue that the owner/operator is not falsifying data generated for the monitoring program?	
My question is: what oversight is going to be in place and what accountability is it going to be if these tests are not taken daily or monthly or whatever is supposed to happen. What is going to be the outcome of that? Is somebody going to be held accountable? Can we log onto a website or something and see who is taking these tests? Who is supposedly reporting this data? Unless you're standing there next to the person, are we sure that they're actually going to be doing these tests? That's my question.	
Who provides oversight and accountability?	
Who is accountable for insuring regulations are followed?	
Here on EPD's website is Municipal and Industrial SEWAGE SPILL REPORT to EPD. Do you or I think a privately-owned RV Park on tributary to the Chestatee River of the Chattahoochee Basin is going to honestly self-monitor their sewage failures? No. Would test results and spill reports of this privately-owned Divine Village's Sewage Plant be immediately available to the public? Or will test results and spill reports be nondisclosed?	

<p>What type of equipment will be used to "monitor" the water quality, runoff, and saturation levels? How are the samples taken and tested? Does this require a trained individual, and if so, who certifies the individuals? What measures will be taken to assure the proper testing and frequency is performed, and if not what accountability will be in place? How often will the EPD monitor or check on the site and the data? What info is available to the public?</p>	<p>The permittee shall ensure that, when required, the person(s) performing the laboratory analyses for this land treatment system is a Certified 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.</p>
<p>As shown on your Sewage Spillage Report even the municipal and industrial sewage/wastewater plant often breach, spilling raw sewage. If government and big business entities aren't reliably compliant, then small business will also breach, and pollute the water. All it will take is ONE major spill, or continual neglect of compliance.</p>	<p>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 State 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 EPD.</p>
<p>Further, I would like to know that as a fellow government employee, that compliance is always an issue and I would like to make sure that there is adequate oversight to make sure that if this thing does happen that it's not one of those that happen to fall through the cracks because of lack of enforcement, money, or monitoring.</p>	

Comment	Response to Comment
<b>Public Notice</b>	
<p>Also, in the Public Notice published in The Dahlonge Nugget on Dec. 20, the Submittal No. 797418 was incorrect. The correct Submittal No. is 805263.</p>	<p>The permittee completed all public notice requirements for consideration of the LAS permit in accordance with the Rules at 391-3-6-.26.</p>
<p>Notice on the property re the project was inadequate with a small sign far off the road.</p>	<p>Despite not being required by the Rules, the applicant, at EPD's request posted an additional newspaper notice and at the proposed project location.</p>
<p>In the letter from the office of the EPD to Paul Petrillo dated December 12, 2023, regarding the sewage treatment plant, the instructions are clear. The developer is to place a public notice on a conspicuous location on a nearby property in question, notifying the public of the sewage permit request. The implication clearly being that the developer has a duty to let the people who may be impacted know about the situation. The location of the posted notice, in our opinion, is far from conspicuous. For someone to see what is written on this notice requires entry into the property beyond the public's right-of-way. You have to go onto the property, actually past the first out building, and go to a cow gate to see an eight-and-a-half by eleven sheet of paper. Between the rain and the sun, the posted notice was quickly rendered unreadable, and no one with whom we spoke to saw the notice from the road. There's no way an individual going by the property could see the notice.</p>	<p>There was a typographical error in the December 20, 2023 newspaper notice, which resulted in the incorrect submittal ID to be included. Due to this error, those wishing to review the application had to instead use the search bar in GEOS to search for the facility name or address. The submittal ID was correct on the notices posted to EPD's website on December 18, 2023 and January 17, 2024.</p> <p>Per the Rules, the public notice for the hearing was posted to the EPD website. A newspaper posting is not required. In addition to the website posting, the details of the public hearing were transmitted to commenters who had requested the hearing via email.</p> <p>The public comment period was open between December 18, 2023 and March 4, 2024, allowing a significant period of time to provide comment irrespective of the winter holidays.</p>
<p>First of all, the Submittal Number (797418) listed in the paper on December 20, 2023 was incorrect. It took searching on your site to find New Applications and obtain the correct number (805263) to be able to look at documents regarding this Permit. Some people may have given up responding, since they couldn't find the correct Submittal number listed. I believe they should be made to publish the Notice again with the correct number so everyone can respond. Otherwise, the notice is flawed.</p>	

I have driven by the property and have failed to see any Notice that has been posted in a conspicuous location near or on the proposed development concerning this permit.	
I believe it was totally unethical that the Notice was posted on December 20, 2023 just prior to the holidays. They knew or should have known people were less likely to see a notice and be too busy to fight it during the holiday period.	
I must admit that I was taken back by the lack of conspicuous posting of the public hearing. It was clearly not visible on the property to any interested party. I'm not sure who is responsible for the postings? 2.	
There was no mention of any Public Hearing about the proposed DiVine RV park in the Dahlonega Nugget, the local Lumpkin County newspaper. Why?	

Comment	Response to Comment
<i>Request for a Public Hearing</i>	
This is unacceptable and I would like to request a public hearing on the matter.	<p>In accordance with the requirements of the Rules at 391-3-6-.26(3), after receiving requests to hold a public hearing, EPD posted a notification on January 17, 2024 to announce the public hearing to be held on February 29, 2024. Per the Rules, the hearing was held in the geographical area of the draft permit, at the Lumpkin County Community Center on February 29, 2024. The meeting was also hosted virtually using the Zoom platform.</p> <p>As presented by EPD at the start of the hearing, the objective of the public hearing was to receive comments on the proposed draft LAS permit for the wastewater treatment system. Requests for public hearings regarding other aspects of the development not related to the wastewater permit are outside of the purview of EPD. Attendees were informed that any questions asked by participants during their statements would be answered by EPD in writing at a later date.</p>
I object to the proposed high-density RV park and its sewage control plant and I request a public hearing.	
Key expert witnesses are required, which is good reason for a public hearing.	
At the minimum, we need a public hearing on the proposal.	
I request a Public Hearing concerning this proposed Development	
I would like to object to this matter and seek a public hearing.	
We need a public hearing on this matter before it goes any further.	
I am asking for a public hearing in regards to this matter.	
I think a public hearing should be scheduled as this will affect a lot of people and the land they cherish so much.	
While we appreciate you hosting a public hearing, there was no meaningful discussion or answers given to the issues raised at the meeting held on February 29, 2024 at EPD Public Hearing in Lumpkin County, GA. Another hearing is necessary in order to properly afford the concerned citizens due process.	
I ask that you hold a public hearing on the LAS Permit proposed for the DiVine Village Development Water Pollution Control Plant.	

Regarding the above project I am asking that there be a public hearing to discuss it further.	
I ask that there be a public hearing to allow the concerns of those of us that will be impacted to be addressed.	
I am extremely apposed to this project and permit and demand a public hearing before this is permitted.	
I am requesting a public hearing be held to further discuss and look into how this will impact our county.	
I am requesting a public hearing regarding the subject planned development which will deface the beauty of the area, do irreparable damage, and potentially contaminate our soil and streams	
Let us have a town meeting and you listen to the people of our community. Please stop this before it goes any further.	
I believe that there should be a county meeting with all parties invited to voice their support, in favor, or against the proposal.	
I have read with great alarm about the plans for the DiVine Village RV Park slated for Lumpkin County and am writing to request a public hearing on this matter.	
A public hearing would be an important step in preventing this mistake from having an adverse effect on those of us who call Lumpkin County home.	
At the minimum, we need a public hearing on the proposal.	
Please deny this proposal or at the very least have a public hearing so the people who are impacted by this will have a say.	
I highly disagree with this permit and would like to have a public meeting in regards to the permit request!	

I object strenuously to the above permit being issued, and request a public hearing before this application goes any further.
I ask for a public hearing and to stop this project once and for all.
We kindly request a public hearing locally. Many of our farmers do not travel.
We would like you to come to our county, Lumpkin County, meet our neighbors and then you decide if this is best.
I oppose this development and the sewage treatment plant. I request a public hearing.
I am requesting a scheduled public hearing for the public to ask questions directly to EPD representatives.
I oppose the above referenced development and ask for a public hearing.
Please let me know when the public hearing will be held before issuing a water pollution plant permit to the DiVine "Village" development on Town's Creek Road
Please schedule a public hearing for this matter.
I would like a public hearing to voice our concerns not only from the neighbors in this community but all citizens of Lumpkin county.
We implore you not to pass this permit and are asking for a public hearing.
This email is a formal objection to the issuance of the above named permit to DiVine Village Development. A public hearing is requested.
As a concerned citizen of Lumpkin County I oppose the issuance of the permit enabling the construction of the DiVine Village RV Park and request a public hearing

I request that the citizens of Lumpkin County should be heard before the revised density is approved.
I would strongly request a Public Hearing on this proposal!
As a resident of Lumpkin County, I have concerns regarding the 41,240 gallon per day wastewater treatment plant for the proposed RV Park in the Chattahoochee River Basin and would like to request a Public Hearing.
I am writing today to oppose the proposed RV campground at 3084 Town Creek Church Rd Dahlonega and request a public hearing.
I strongly oppose and ask for a public hearing!
In regards to the above subject matter, I, as a resident of Lumpkin County, request a Public Hearing on this issue.
Please schedule a public hearing on this matter and hold it in Lumpkin County.
Please call for a public hearing on this matter so this project can be more fully explored.
I urge you to deny this permit. The DiVine village development is too much for this agricultural community. I urge you to have a public hearing together the opinions and concerns of the people living in Lumpkin county and halt the activation of this permit.
Will there be a public hearing on the proposal? There certainly should be.
Thank you for holding the public hearing, however most of the many residents were hugely disappointed that the EPD agents were (or experts) unprepared to answer our questions expediently.



Regarding the above project I am, again, asking that there be a public hearing to discuss it further. I am very much opposed to this project for a number of reasons.	
I would respectfully ask that you hold a public hearing on the above noted Subject.	
Regarding the above project I am, again, asking that there be a public hearing to discuss it further.	
I urge you to have a public hearing to gather the opinions and concerns of the people living in Lumpkin County and halt the activation of this permit.	
I am writing you today to oppose the LAS Permit for the DiVine Village Development proposed on Town Creek Church Rd in rural Lumpkin County and to require a public hearing on this matter.	
Again I would like to thank-you for your consideration of this very disturbing matter and to please do not issue the permit and require a public hearing on the matter.	
A public hearing cannot be successfully held on Zoom. Elderly people and people who do not have computers would be at an extreme disadvantage. Their concerns and objections would never be heard.	
No questions were answered at the meeting, no presentation was given, no explanations offered as to how this RV park was being built to handle wastewater runoff or who was accountable for ensuring rules and regulations would be followed to prevent FURTHER pollution.	
I am asking that this permit be denied until the following has been done: A public meeting be scheduled to address and answer our concerns.	
I would like to thank you for having an in-person public hearing instead of a Zoom format for the above mentioned project. The effort was certainly appreciated by the folks in Lumpkin County. While there was very little	

information learned from the meeting, it served as a great format to hear concerns from some of our citizens.

When was the hearing about the impact of the overall project on the county? Will there be a hearing in the near future?

Comment	Response to Comment
<i>Comments Outside of the Scope of Wastewater Permitting</i>	
The traffic is crazy from the Wine business as it is.	Comments have been noted.
To whom it may concern Who runs the Great State of Georgia It appears to be "developers" Who care about nothing but the bottom line. This beautiful Green State is being dismantled, flattened and polluted by developers at an alarming rate! Where are the "check and balances" Yes I understand it's the Fools who owned the land, who sold it and sold out to what only God knows. While the rest of us who love our treed state watch it slow demise. Here in Lumpkin County the development is astounding from wineries to apartments to traffic jams never heard of 5 years ago. And now this!	<p>Issues related to the development itself, including zoning, density, noise, traffic, tourism, clear cutting and energy consumption are not within the scope of the LAS permitting process for on-site wastewater pretreatment facilities.</p> <p>Additionally, comments related to other local or environmental permits, including construction stormwater, safe dams, and water withdrawal are outside of the scope of this wastewater permit.</p> <p>The proposed permit does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of Federal, State or local laws or regulations. The issuance of an LAS permit is independent of other local determinations and does not preclude the need for additional permits or approvals for the overall development.</p>
The traffic from such a dense development is going to cause massive problems on our tiny one lane roads as they are already breaking down from the traffic we have now.	
I'd like to address traffic concerns.	
It will have a negative impact on our Agra-tourism area, which has taken years to develop. In 2018 it became official that the Dahlonega Plateau in northern Georgia was recognized as a viticultural area, which means its unique soil quality, sun exposure, and climate make it extra special for growing wine.	
There are obvious issues that come with increased tourism, such as noise, more people, and traffic than our roads leading to the development and especially Town Creek Church Road itself can accommodate. A lot of our roads are quite smaller roads and quite curvy, especially Town Creek Church Road. The intersection at Town Creek Church Road and Cavender Creek Road is already a hazard to turn from to go back to Ga 400 or to Dahlonega, as it sits in a curve with little visibility.	

<p>I just have a question not a comment. Why are you considering a ‘septic-sewage-whatever-it-is’ anyway when the project has not even been approved?</p>	
<p>This development is more of a heavy commercial type of development that will impact this area very adversely with pollutants, and traffic flow with very little egress and ingress.</p>	
<p>The DiVine Village development is proposed to have 186 "luxury" RV sites along with 93 casitas and several duplexes. All of this traffic has but one road (Town Creek Church Rd) to come and go from. Town Creek Road is a two lane, very curvy road that is not designed for this increase in traffic, let alone the number of large RV's.</p>	
<p>Additionally, the increased traffic and human activity associated with the RV park could lead to further environmental degradation.</p>	
<p>Why was this plan grandfathered in, only to change the number and type of housing on the plans from the developers. It should be re-examined, as the new plan would harm our environment, our tourism and the traffic in the area on a two-lane curvy dark road.</p>	
<p>We DO NOT need this additional RV park in our county. The short term rentals as planned are too dense for our county infrastructure to handle. As well as traffic and noise, our beautiful countryside will be impacted.</p>	
<p>How is this going to impact the view from other peoples' homes? Will it ruin the neighbors' property value aesthetically?</p>	
<p>At the present time Lumpkin County seems to be in the midst of a proposed uncontrolled building boom. New housing developments are being proposed at a rate that seems impossible to keep up with or control. The current infrastructure in Lumpkin County already seems to be overburdened and there seems to be little concern or control of growth. Why does Lumpkin County need a facility like this? What are the positive outcomes for Lumpkin County? What positive impacts will this facility have on life in general for Lumpkin County residents? Because this type</p>	

of development seems so contrary to the current lifestyle we have in Lumpkin County	
This will cause significant environmental concerns to our rivers, traffic concerns on our 2 lane curvy roads and our agriculture. Not to mention the precedent it would set for future developments in our county. According to Lumpkin County land use, a subdivision with more than three homes must have a lot size for each home of three acres. This new plan does not do that. Please don't allow this happen in my county.	
There's not enough law enforcement, emergency services, etc to uphold such a development.	
In the 20+ years I have lived in the area the traffic has increased immensely. It's already like Daytona 500. More traffic, more accidents. I don't understand why the powers that be can't see this.	
The DiVine Village development is proposed to have 186 "luxury" RV sites along with 93 casitas and several duplexes. All of this traffic has but one road (Town Creek Church Rd) to come and go from. Town Creek Road is a two lane, very curvy road that is not designed for this increase in traffic, let alone the number of large RV's.	
It grew from 60 to now 186 RVs + 81 casita , small trailer sites and is outside the land use laws for Lumpkin County. It is outside any land use in the area and no density this great has been seen before ever.	
This sounds terrible. I've been aware, as a Dahlonega resident, that something was going in there. But the scale and density of the proposed site is INSANITY. That's 200+ homes in an area your own requirements state should have no more than 137. Sounds gross. And while one such development might not end the world, people saying that they'll all demand to be allowed these things in the future aren't wrong.	
The area of the proposed DiVine Village development is predominantly rural farm land, vineyards and single family homes. It is not the place for this level of density.	

<p>The overall development for Divine Village has not been approved by Lumpkin County Government.</p>	
<p>RV Parks are not what visitors and residents want to see when driving through our landscape. To maintain the beauty of this county, is to inspire all who visit. Yes, tourism is a benefit to this area; however, maintaining the integrity of our land and privacy is by far more important to the residents of Lumpkin County. We ask that you consider the health of all who live in this county and the preservation of the North Georgia mountains and wine country when deciding on this matter.</p>	
<p>As a 30-plus year resident of rural Lumpkin County I am begging the EPD to deny this grotesque, environmentally unsound development in the heart of our beautiful mountains and wine country. We are already battling an incompetent and/or willfully understaffed county planning department that looks the other way as developers destroy native habitats, streams, quality of life, etc. PLEASE do not give a permit to this hideous, huge, crowded development plan.</p>	
<p>For a development of the proposed size, there will also be significant tree removal and land clearing which leads to runoff issues. When the runoff meets the overabundance of human waste, it becomes a clean-up site. It should be denied.</p>	
<p>land clearing will be directly visible from our property and the neighboring view of the AT.</p>	
<p>Will there be stay limitations on RV tenancy, or will this turn into a trailer park?</p>	
<p>Are Lumpkin County residents supposed to maintain / enlarge Town Creek Church Road to accommodate the extra traffic that will be using this road? Town Creek Church Road is a two lane, rural county road. If there are suddenly 100+ more vehicles on this road, that is going to be a problem for the residents who already live on Town Creek Church Road. Has the developer considered the interruption that will be caused to the existing residents because of the sudden influx of traffic? Has the developer made</p>	

any plans to help widen the road with turning lanes – a center turning lane and a right turning lane to accommodate increased traffic flow?	
This could only negatively affect the neighboring properties and I personally would like to see Lumpkin County remain Green.	
Furthermore, there is no old or current ordinance in Lumpkin County that would allow this extreme density. It will destroy the beauty of this land and our county.	
No we don't want this in our neighborhood. Stop the development.	
Also there will be traffic concerns on a 2 lane curvy road along with additional noise issues. This development will have a HUGE negative impact on agri-tourism in Lumpkin County and the City of Dahlonega. If this is approved other developers will demand the same density allowance with the same waste disposal considerations anywhere they wish in the county. We have worked hard on developing our agri-tourism in Lumpkin County and this development would be a devastating project to this industry.	
That the developer of DeVine Village can propose to build what he has planned is beyond ludicrous. I ask you to research it and hope you will agree.	
I ask that you deny the permit for this proposed development. The development is too large for the proposed area.	
To have tiny homes and RV lots would be a downgrade to our beautiful area. I personally believe that what could possibly start out okay would eventually become undesirable over time.	
Energy Consumption of sewage treatment plant, huge.	
This RV Park was turned down in 2021 and 2022, and it was a third of the size it is now and did not include the approximately ninety-one (91) Casitas. The developer found a loophole in our Agricultural Preservation	

Code, and since this, the County Commissioners have halted commercial development until this Code can be reviewed and revised to keep this from happening again.	
As for being good neighbors, associated with this permit and this land use and the septic treatment plant in play, are you aware that there is an on-going lawsuit by the people involved in this project against our neighbors to forcefully take their land or use their land against their will.	
Sir, I was in the original hearings when the proposal was made for this project. In my view now, as then, this will be a catastrophe for Lumpkin County. It will forever change the character of our lovely landscape and jeopardize our major tourist industry. Please do NOT consider approving this proposal.	
If they are drawing water for this facility from our River, this will in turn affect our local water table and possibly Lake Lanier.	
We do not need the RV Park in our community. It's too big to put in the little area.	
It is too big for our country area. We are countless and this will not fit in. No water lines, no sewage system, this is too much for our area...the road will not care this kind of traffic and our country property values will decrease. Stop the RV Park.	
How much water will be needed for the project? Where is it coming from? How will it affect the aquifer?	
Why are landowners being sued by this developer? This developer is in the hair products industry, has no proven expertise in running or developing a RV park and monitoring/ maintaining the ecology, preventing pollution, and is affiliated with 28 LLC's in his professional life and excessive litigation.	
This will increase the amount of impervious surface which will dramatically increase the amount of silt runoff, which means an increase	



<p>in the amount of silt runoff into the tributaries that end up in the headwater of the Chestatee River, which is one of the main tributaries for Lake Lanier.</p>	
<p>Not only will it be a complete burden to the community with an increase of tourism and traffic, but it will thoroughly hinder all of the current residents of the area</p>	
<p>Lumpkin County Citizens and people who travel from other states to visit with us to fish, kayak, and tube our waterways will be affected by this wastewater treatment plant. They come to enjoy the remoteness, the beautiful mountain and water views, sit outside and enjoy the peace and quiet and nature, have weddings, enjoy our vineyards and other venues. This will be destroyed by such a wastewater treatment plant and the huge RV Park sitting in our county.</p>	
<p>I am asking that this permit be denied until the following has been done: A traffic study by Georgia DOT be done to show our roads can accommodate such a development;</p>	
<p>In the event the property is abandoned, what is the recourse to close the system down and address any environmental concerns?</p>	
<p>Will the Developer have to post a Bond or show a contract for the maintenance of the proposed sewage treatment facility for the next 20 years, or for the expected life expectancy of the sewage treatment facility, to ensure it performs correctly?</p>	
<p>Lake Arthur is a reservoir. The Lake Arthur Dam, 32 ft high and 285 ft long, built in 1960, last inspected June 1, 2017 DNREPD. This dam's Hazard Potential Classification is "Low," but I disagree with this as I can see the dam failings and major deterioration of a dam. Under the EPD's Safe Dams Program, isn't the owner of this dam required to inspect every quarter and send in a report yearly by April 1?</p>	
<p>Attached is a video showing the dam breaching as spillage runs over during a recent rainfall. The rains are strong and fast here in Lumpkin County and result in an overflow regularly on the 3085 Town Creek Rd property. The</p>	

request is to deny the sewage plant permit until such a time as full repair and suitable provisions are made to protect our waterways. The run-off alone from this development into the spray field alone will cause problems	
Why has there been no meaningful or effective action by EPD to abate and eliminate the public and private nuisance that already exists around other treatment facilities such as LHR Farms in White County?	

Comment	Response to Comment
<i>Other Questions and Concerns</i>	
As a resident and property owner in Lumpkin County, Georgia, I ask that the Georgia EPD deny a permit to the developers of the DiVine Village project in Lumpkin County. As proposed, its impact on the environment and our way of life in this community would be negatively and permanently impacted.	<p>Comments have been noted.</p> <p>EPD is responsible for issuing protective, legal, and enforceable permits in accordance with the applicable regulations. Analyses were conducted on the data submitted on the permit application along with the design development report and other supporting documents. Appropriate limits and permit conditions have been included to ensure the permit complies with the Rules and the State Act.</p>
Please leave the land beautiful and allow our wildlife to keep their home.	
The development puts that area and citizens at risk due to the proposed sewage disposal method.	
I am writing to express my concern for the proposed permit issuance within the subject of this email. I believe the plan, as it currently sits, will have extreme negative impacts to the environment as well as to the citizens of Lumpkin County. This permit should be denied.	
This is a plea from Lumpkin County residents of 15 years to deny the above-referenced permit and stop the ability of out of state developers to reap financial rewards at the expense of our beautiful County's environment. Our county is growing in population but we need to ensure that this growth doesn't ruin its beauty. My husband and I are avid campers (we have a very small one-axle trailer) but we would never want to use any campground that was super packed and super detrimental to the environment as this one would be. 250 short-term rental sites on 90 buildable acres is just too dense for consideration.	
The proposed number of sites, the amount of soil displaced, the water treatment planned are too risky for that site. Please look carefully at the proposal and limit the park to a size that will not threaten to destroy that fragile environment, pollute our Lake Arthur and streams that feed into the sensitive creeks and water supplies for this county and areas below us including Atlanta.	

<p>Once the beauty of our mountains, forests, and fields is destroyed, there is no way to get it back. It is gone forever. This "DiVine" project will put pressure on our roads and add pollution to our land and streams. For the financial benefit of one out-of-state developer, the citizens of our county will suffer. Many will pay the price to line the pockets of one entity who has no stake in the quality of life in this county.</p> <p>I object to the revised proposal submitted by the developer on this project. The environmental impact will be too severe for the surrounding area. Please reconsider and do not issue this permit.</p>	
<p>I am oppose to the Sewage Plant. It's harmful for the ground and streams and pools.</p>	
<p>All of the streams, ground water, surrounding farmland, wildlife... everything will greatly suffer.</p>	
<p>Do the waters of the State of Georgia flow into and become the waters of the United States in the Chattahoochee River Basin?</p>	<p>Per the Rules at 391-3-6-.03(3)q, “Waters of the State is defined as “any and all rivers, streams, creeks, branches, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, drainage systems, springs, wells, wetlands, and all other bodies of surface or subsurface water, natural or artificial, lying within or forming a part of the boundaries of the State which are not entirely confined and retained completely upon the property of a single individual, partnership, or corporation.”</p>
<p>This Sewage Treatment Plant location encompasses Lake Arthur and tributary creeks which then flow into the Chestatee River, into Lake Lanier, and then into the Chattahoochee River— they are “state waters” and “waters of the United States”. These tributaries, creeks into and proceeding from Lake Arthur are of the Chattahoochee Basin." <a href="https://www.epa.gov/wotus/current-implementation-waters-united-states">https://www.epa.gov/wotus/current-implementation-waters-united-states</a> "Waters of the United States" under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act: The "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'" rule . . . also considers the best available science and extensive public comment to establish a definition of “waters of the United States” that supports public health, environmental protection, agricultural activity, and economic growth.</p>	<p>The Code of Federal Regulations at 40 CFR Part 120 defines Waters of the United States as “(1) Waters which are: (i) Currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide; (ii) The territorial seas; or (iii) Interstate waters; (2) Impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under this definition, other than impoundments of waters identified under paragraph (a)(5) of this section; (3) Tributaries of waters identified in paragraph (a)(1) or (2) of this section that are relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water; (4) Wetlands adjacent to the following waters: (i) Waters identified in paragraph (a)(1) of this section; or (ii) Relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water identified in paragraph</p>

	(a)(2) or (a)(3) of this section and with a continuous surface connection to those waters; (5) Intrastate lakes and ponds not identified in paragraphs (a)(1) through (4) of this section that are relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water with a continuous surface connection to the waters identified in paragraph (a)(1) or (a)(3) of this section.
The amount of sewage that will be discharged daily is certainly a problem for our environment, Not to mention our eco system.	There is no direct discharge of sewage authorized by the proposed permit.
Attached is a video showing the dam breaching as spillage runs over during a recent rainfall. The rains are strong and fast here in Lumpkin County and result in an overflow regularly on the 3085 Town Creek Rd property. The request is to deny the sewage plant permit until such a time as full repair and suitable provisions are made to protect our waterways. The run-off alone from this development into the spray field alone will cause problems.	The proposed permit does not authorize surface water discharges. Subsurface drip irrigation systems are designed not to produce any surface flow of wastewater. Therefore, EPD does not anticipate runoff from the proposed facility into the Chestatee River, Town Creek, neighboring properties, or any other surface waters. Flow monitoring and rainfall monitoring, which are both included in the permit, are the primary mechanisms for ensuring that surfacing of wastewater does not occur.
What preventive measures will be placed to mitigate transitory wildlife from dispersing contaminants.	The proposed application fields are subsurface drip fields. All storage will be in tanks. There will be no surface application of wastewater to be dispersed by wildlife.
Does EPD use solid science or “policy” as a basis for its rules, regulations and administrative actions?	In fulfilling our mission and vision, EPD adheres to principle that effective environmental policy and management requires the use of comprehensive scientific and technical information to support clear, practical, well-documented, and timely decisions.
How does EPD respond to the fact that sludge treatment and land application monitoring was called a “joke” in McElmurray v. USDA, where sludge land application was found to be the proximate cause of extensive and long-term damage to farmland and was the proximate cause of forage food poisoning and numerous cattle deaths?	McElmurray v. USDA was a judgement related to the land application of biosolids on food crops, and is not comparable to a subsurface application of domestic wastewater.
Under the Georgia Constitution, Article IX, Sec. II, Paragraph III, Sec. (2), (6), & (13), does a County have authority over solid waste disposal, sewage collection and disposal systems, and air quality control?	Georgia Constitution Article IX, Sec. II, Paragraph III states “Paragraph III. Supplementary powers. (a) In addition to and supplementary of all powers possessed by or conferred upon any county, municipality, or any combination thereof, any county, municipality, or any combination

	<p>thereof may exercise the following powers and provide the following services:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Police and fire protection.</li> <li>(2) Garbage and solid waste collection and disposal.</li> <li>(3) Public health facilities and services, including hospitals, ambulance and emergency rescue services, and animal control.</li> <li>(4) Street and road construction and maintenance, including curbs, sidewalks, street lights, and devices to control the flow of traffic on streets and roads constructed by counties and municipalities or any combination thereof.</li> <li>(5) Parks, recreational areas, programs, and facilities.</li> <li>(6) Storm water and sewage collection and disposal systems.</li> <li>(7) Development, storage, treatment, purification, and distribution of water.</li> <li>(8) Public housing.</li> <li>(9) Public transportation.</li> <li>(10) Libraries, archives, and arts and sciences programs and facilities.</li> <li>(11) Terminal and dock facilities and parking facilities.</li> <li>(12) Codes, including building, housing, plumbing, and electrical codes.</li> <li>(13) Air quality control.</li> <li>(14) The power to maintain and modify heretofore existing retirement or pension systems, including such systems heretofore created by general laws of local application by population classification, and to continue in effect or modify other benefits heretofore provided as a part of or in addition to such retirement or pension systems and the power to create and maintain retirement or pension systems for any elected or appointed public officers and employees whose compensation is paid in whole or in part from county or municipal funds and for the beneficiaries of such officers and employees.”</li> </ol> <p>Per O.C.G.A. 12-5-23, the DNR Board is authorized to “adopt, promulgate, modify, amend, and repeal rules and regulations to implement and enforce the provisions of this article as the board may deem necessary to provide for the control and management of water pollution and surface water use to protect the environment and the health of humans.” Including “Providing minimum standards of pollutant treatment required and</p>
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	uniform procedures and practices to be followed relating to the application for and the issuance, modification, amendment, or revocation of permits for the discharge of pollutants into land disposal or land treatment systems and then into the waters of the state” and “Providing for rules and regulations for land disposal;”
Lumpkin County is fortunate to have a plentiful wildlife. How will this affect the wildlife such as bears, deer, bobcat, turkeys, rabbits, and other wildlife that people travel from many states to observe?	The proposed application fields are subsurface drip fields. All storage will be in tanks. There will be no surface application of wastewater to be dispersed by wildlife. It is not anticipated that the proposed land application system will have any impact on wildlife.
I am asking that this permit be denied until the following has been done: An environmental impact report be done to show this will not have a negative impact on our county and our citizens;	Federal agencies prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) if a proposed major federal action is determined to significantly affect the quality of the human environment. As this permit issuance is not a federal action an EIS is not required.
I reviewed enough of the situation concerning the water treatment plant and added it with what I already know about the process and thought you could use a voice of support. I have to deal with misinformation daily concerning agriculture and it looks like this project is being assailed also. It looks like no matter how well you answer questions and concerns there are going to be a lot of people moving the goalpost on you.	Comment has been noted.
How is EPD going to deal with and regulate pathogens, toxic metals and carcinogens that are known to exist in sewage?	Nitrogen and fecal coliform are identified as pollutants for which there are maximum contaminant levels established for drinking water, and which are expected to be present in domestic wastewater effluent. The system does not receive any industrial waste, and therefore there is no expectation that the effluent will contain metals or priority pollutants.
What are residents RIGHTS and your PARAMONT DUTY? Under the Constitution of the State of Georgia, Article I, Section 1, Paragraph 2 states: Paragraph II. Protection to person and property; equal protection. Protection to person and property is the paramount duty of government and shall be impartial and complete. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws.	Per the Georgia Constitution Article I, Section 1, Paragraph II, “Protection to person and property is the paramount duty of government and shall be impartial and complete. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws.”  The proposed permit is protective, legal and enforceable in accordance with the applicable regulations. Appropriate limits and permit conditions

What is the “paramount duty” of EPD?	have been included to ensure the permit complies with the Rules and the State Act. The permit application and design development report were reviewed using the <i>Guidelines for Land Treatment of Municipal Wastewater by Drip Irrigation (1996)</i> to ensure the proposed permit and approved design are consistent with the requirements for all drip irrigation systems.
The majority of the hearing participants but not limited to, are concerned about the "health, safety, morals and general welfare which were not properly addressed in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Georgia Article I, Sec. 1, paragraph 2. EPD has a PARAMOUNT DUTY to perform. If another hearing and further disclosure of relevant information, and discussion is not to be had, then the EPD should DENY THE PERMIT.	
Will EPD insure and guarantee that there will be no public or private nuisance or health endangerment as a result of the Divine Village Sewage?	EPD is responsible for issuing protective, legal, and enforceable permits in accordance with the applicable regulations. Appropriate limits and permit conditions have been included to ensure the permit complies with the Rules and the State Act. Elements of the development outside of the scope of the LAS permits have not been addressed.
Under the EPD statutory and regulatory scheme, is the County precluded from passing ordinances that would incorporate and apply EPA’s 40 CFR 503 minimum standards to sludge and septage treatment and to land application facilities?	The 40 CFR Part 503 Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge are nationally applicable to persons or treatment works that prepare sewage sludge, apply sewage sludge to the land, fire sewage sludge in an incinerator, and the owners and operators of surface disposal sites. The proposed permit does not authorize the land application of sewage sludge, or surface application of any kind. Questions regarding county ordinances should be directed to the appropriate county authorities.
“Has Divine Village Development, LLC, a Florida company, met their burden of proof on how they with “promote and protect the health, safety, morals and general welfare” of the people and the community?	The applicant has met the requirements of the LAS permit application. EPD has prepared a proposed permit which complies with the Rules and the State Act, to ensure protection of State waters and underground sources of drinking water.