GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Summary Page

Name of Facility: Waterside North Water Reclamation Facility (WRF)

LAS Permit No.: GAJ040053

This is a new issuance of a LAS permit for Waterside North WRF. The facility will serve a residential community and will land apply treated domestic wastewater to a dedicated site in Hall County. The draft permit was issued on November 26, 2024, and the public comment period ended on January 10, 2025.

Final Permit Determinations and Public Comments:

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

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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Jeffrey W. Cown, Director

EPD Director's Office
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1456, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-656-4713

04/01/2025

Mr. John Hillman, Co-Manager
FIDES Waterside, LLC.
3017 Bolling Way NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30305

RE: Permit Issuance
Waterside North Water Reclamation Facility (WRF)
LAS Permit No. GAJ040053
Hall County, Chattahoochee River Basin

Dear Mr. Hillman:

Pursuant to the Georgia Water Quality Control Act as amended and the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder, we have today issued the attached Land Application System (LAS) permit for the referenced wastewater treatment facility.

Your facility has been assigned to the following EPD office for reporting and compliance:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Northeast District – Athens Office
745 Gaines School Rd.
Athens, Georgia 30605

Please be advised that on and after the effective date indicated in the attached LAS permit, you must comply with all the terms, conditions and limitations of this permit.

If you have questions, please contact Alex Gramling at (470) 524-0657 or *alex.gramling@dnr.ga.gov.*

Sincerely,

Jeffrey W. Cown

Jeffrey W. Cown
Director

JWC\atg
Attachment: Response to Comments, Permit Revisions, Fact Sheet Revisions, LAS Permit No. GAJ040053, Fact Sheet
cc: Derrick Williams, EPD Northeast District (*derrick.williams@dnr.ga.gov*)
Joshua Magaro, FIDES Waterside, LLC. (*JoshM@FidesDevelopment.com*)
Stephen McCullers, Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP (*smccullers@mmmlaw.com*)
Mark Putnam, Kimley-Horn (*Mark.Putnam@kimley-horn.com*)
Grady Freeman, Kimley-Horn (*Grady.Freeman@kimley-horn.com*)
Josh Welte, EPD Water Quality Modeling Unit (*josh.welte@dnr.ga.gov*)
Tyler Parsons, EPD TMDL Modeling & Development Unit (*tyler.parsons@dnr.ga.gov*)

Public Comments and EPD Responses on Draft Permit
Waterside North Water Reclamation Facility
LAS Permit No. GAJ040053

Comment	Response to Comment
The feasibility of connecting to an existing wastewater treatment system should be formally evaluated prior to establishing a new discharge or LAS. New LAS permits or direct discharge permits to watersheds impaired for nutrients should be considered only if existing alternatives are not feasible. As written, this permit application makes no feasibility assessment regarding alternatives to a new LAS permit.	Connecting to an existing system where capacity exists is sometimes required at the local level. The development served by the Waterside North Water Reclamation Facility is not in proximity of the Hall County sanitary sewer collection system and is outside of the City of Buford's city limits. A description of the different alternatives that were evaluated is provided on page 8 of the Design Development Report (DDR).

Discharge from the mechanical plant and groundwater water monitoring should include total phosphorus (TP) and ammonia (Draft Permit No. GAJ040053 Part I B.1 and Part I B.3). 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.	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 purpose of groundwater monitoring in LAS permit is meant 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. The LAS consists of a pretreatment 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, groundwater monitoring for additional parameters is not warranted at this time.

The 5-year return monthly precipitation that was utilized as the basis of design was calculated incorrectly. In accordance with EPD drip irrigation guidelines (Section 3.7.4), the standard deviation of the 30-year historic record for each month is to be utilized to determine the 5-year return monthly precipitation rather than the standard deviation of the monthly averages for the year. The approach presented in the DDR underestimates the design monthly precipitation (5-year return) and does not allow for identification of the critical water balance month. The water balance calculations and determination of the critical water balance month serve as the basis for the storage and wetted area requirements for the irrigation system. Therefore, it is our concern that the draft permit is based upon calculations developed without proper design loading calculations and there may be inadequate wetted area within irrigation system as presented in the DDR to assimilate the effluent reuse water (including the design daily flow and 30-day storage elimination). This may lead to runoff into the waterways that feed the City of Buford's drinking water supply. We request that the draft permit be denied as submitted and water balance be revised to include the appropriate calculation of the 5-year return monthly precipitation, and subsequently provide revised calculations of the appropriate storage and wetted area requirements (included that necessary to eliminate storage) and added irrigation system design, as necessary.	Upon verification, the original DDR did include incorrect design (5-year return) precipitation values in the water balance calculations. On February 25, 2025, the permittee submitted a DDR amendment which included revised water balance calculations. The 5-year return monthly precipitation values were updated in accordance with Section 3.7.4 of EPD's *Guidelines for Land Treatment of Municipal Wastewater by Drip Irrigation*, 1996. This resulted in a total annual design (5-year return) precipitation of 81.8 inches, which was consistent with the results for other projects in the same geographical area. The revised water balance tables indicated that no water balance storage is required for the facility. Additionally, the total acreage provided for the drip irrigation zones exceeds the minimum required wetted area as determined in the DDR amendment. EPD concurred with the DDR amendment on March 6, 2025.

In the Detailed Soils Report conducted by Geosciences Engineering (Appendix J of the original DDR, dated October 2023), p. 14, section 3.0 Adverse Site Conditions: "If necessary, areas that were cut and filled in the past .... will be reevaluated at a later stage of this development when the fill is removed and the site has reached the final grade." The DDR Addendum also states that "drip irrigation systems perform best in locations with undisturbed, medium textured soils and gentle to moderate slopes" and that "the geotechnical engineer shall monitor grading activities to confirm suitability ... " Furthermore, the October 2023 DDR and the DDR Addendum (dated September 6, 2024), pp. 9 of 14, states that "If the results are greater than 10% less than the existing soil investigation, the soil capacity will need to be reassessed." Therefore, it is our objection that the draft permit is based upon calculations developed without proper soils testing conducted post disturbance, which may vary from the actual permeability of the soils, leading to runoff into the waterways and affecting the City of Buford's drinking water supply. We request that the draft permit be denied as submitted and updated soils investigation conducted in the proposed drip fields post disturbance be included as a special condition of the any new application to ensure that the soils can perform adequate infiltration of the effluent reuse water, and we be provided with all data in order to determine its feasibility.	On February 25, 2025, the permittee submitted a DDR amendment which specified that confirmation testing of the vertical permeability of the soil will be conducted after the site has been cleared and root grubbed. EPD concurred with the DDR amendment on March 6, 2025 and requested that the test results be submitted as soon as they become available. Upon review of the results, EPD will re-evaluate the capacity of the drip fields as determined in the DDR amendment if the soil permeability test results are more than 10% less than values from previous soil investigations. A permit modification to reduce the application rate may be needed. The permittee will not be given authorization to operate under the LAS Permit until confirmation testing has been provided and evaluated by EPD, and a permit modification, if necessary, has been completed .
Runoff will be exacerbated with the steep slopes of the fields and the chances of runoff increasing. Per EPD drip irrigation guidelines section 3 .1.2, "Maximum grades for wastewater drip fields should be limited to between 20 and 25% .... Because subsoils may become saturated at times, lateral subsurface flows could potentially emerge on the slopes or produce slides on unprotected slopes". As stated in the DDR Addendum, some of the finished grade slopes will exceed 25% with the crop being Bermuda grass. If a field becomes trenched and rutted and runoff is occurring due to steep slopes and wet soils, we request that the field be removed from the LAS. Therefore, we object that there are not adequate reserve fields available for backup in the likely case of failure.	On February 25, 2025, the permittee submitted a DDR amendment which included a revision to the layout of the proposed dripfields. All existing slopes within Zone A & B of the drip field have been reduced as to not exceed a maximum slope of 25%. EPD concurred with the DDR amendment on March 6, 2025.

The storage basins are located within sixty feet of an unnamed tributary. If the storage basins reach capacity and overflow, there is not much time or distance before it runs into the stream. The City requests that the draft permit be denied as submitted and that any new application that EPD require a greater buffer between storage units and the unnamed stream.	The proposed buffer between the storage tanks and the unnamed tributary is in accordance with applicable State and County undisturbed buffer requirements.
The City of Buford requests that it be provided with physical access to all monitoring stations, as well as access to the monitoring data and advanced notification of any spills.	Requests for property access or advanced notification should be made directly to the property owner. Monitoring data and noncompliance notifications will be reported to EPD in accordance with Parts I.A.3 and II.A.2-4 of the permit. The City of Buford may access all monitoring data and notices of noncompliance submitted to EPD via open records request by contacting: GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov.
EPD should require the most stringent controls and safety measures to ensure that sewage effluent from the proposed system neither degrades the quality of the lake's water nor poses an environmental hazard in the event of heavy rainfall or flooding.	The proposed wastewater treatment system has been designed in accordance with EPD's *Guidelines for Land Treatment of Municipal Wastewater by Drip Irrigation*, 1996 and meet standards for reuse as described in EPD's *Guidelines for Water Reclamation and Urban Water Reuse*, 2022.

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Revisions to Draft Permit

Name of Facility: Waterside North Water Reclamation Facility (WRF)

NPDES Permit No.: GAJ040053

Were there any revisions between the draft proposed NPDES permit placed on public notice and the final proposed NPDES permit? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, specify:

Part I.B.1. Corrected a typographical error for the maximum *E. coli* limitation from 100#/100mL to 75#/100mL per individual sample in accordance with EPD *Guidelines for Water Reclamation and Urban Water Reuse*, 2022.

Part I.B.2. Updated wetted area from 2.68 acres to 2.71 acres in accordance with the DDR amendment concurred with on March 6, 2025.

Part II.C.1 Updated language to indicate the DDR amendment concurrence date of March 6, 2025.

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Revisions to Fact Sheet

Name of Facility: Waterside North Water Reclamation Facility (WRF)

NPDES Permit No.: GAJ040053

Were there any revisions between the draft fact sheet and the final fact sheet? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, specify:

Section 5. Corrected a typographical error for the maximum *E. coli* limitation from 100#/100mL to 75#/100mL per individual sample.

Section 6. Updated wetted area from 2.68 acres to 2.71 acres in accordance with the DDR amendment concurred with on March 6, 2025.

Permit No. GAJ040053
Issuance Date: 04/01/2025

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

LAND APPLICATION SYSTEM PERMIT

In accordance with the provisions of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Georgia Laws 1964, p. 416, as amended), and the Rules and Regulations promulgated pursuant thereto, this permit is issued to the following:

FIDES Waterside, LLC.
3017 Bolling Way NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30305

is authorized to operate the land treatment system located at:

Waterside North
Water Reclamation Facility (WRF)
3450 North Waterworks Road
Buford, Georgia 30518
(Hall County)

Chattahoochee River Basin

in accordance with the discharge limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in the permit.

This permit is issued in reliance upon the permit application signed on January 11, 2024, any other applications upon which this permit is based, supporting data entered therein or attached thereto, and any subsequent submittal of supporting data.

This permit shall become effective on April 1, 2025.

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight on March 31, 2030.

STATE OF GEORGIA
CONSTITUTION
WISDOM
JUSTICE
MODERATION
1776

Jeffrey W. Cown

Director,
Environmental Protection Division

Table of Content:

PART I

A. CONDITIONS

1. DEFINITIONS

a. **"Composite Sample"** means a combination of at least 5 discrete sample aliquots of at least 100 milliliters, collected over periodic intervals from the same location, during the operating hours of a facility for at least 8 hours. The composite must be flow proportional.

b. **"Daily Discharge"** means the discharge of a pollutant measured during a calendar day or any 24-hour period that reasonably represents the calendar day for purposes of sampling. For pollutants with limitations expressed in units of mass, the daily discharge is calculated as the total mass of the pollutant discharged over the day.

c. **"Designated User or User"** means any site or facility, where reclaimed water is beneficially used under a contract with the permittee. User may also be defined as the customer to be supplied with reclaimed water who has a written user agreement with the permittee. In addition, a designated user may also be a purveyor that provides reclaimed water to other customers.

d. **"DMR"** means Discharge Monitoring Report.

e. **"Drip Field"** means the wetted application area or irrigation of the land treatment system or land disposal system where treated wastes, treated effluent from industrial processes, agricultural or domestic wastewater, domestic sewage sludge, industrial sludge or other sources is applied to the land using drip emitters, excluding the buffer zone.

f. **"Effluent"** means wastewater that is discharged (treated or partially treated).

g. **"EPD"** means the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

h. **"Geometric Mean"** means the *n*th root of the product of *n* numbers.

i. **"Grab Sample"** means an individual sample collected over a period of time not exceeding 15 minutes.

j. **"Hydraulic Loading Rate"** means the rate at which wastes or wastewaters are discharged to a land disposal or land treatment system, expressed in volume per unit area per unit time or depth of water per unit of time.

k. **"Indirect Discharger***"* means a nondomestic discharger introducing "pollutants" to a "publicly owned treatment works."

l. "**Industrial Wastes**" means any liquid, solid, or gaseous substance, or combination thereof, resulting from a process of industry, manufacture, or business or from the development of any natural resources.

m. **"Influent"** means wastewater, treated or untreated, that flows into a treatment plant.

n. **"Instantaneous**" means a single reading, observation, or measurement.

o. **"Land Disposal System"** means any method of disposing of pollutants in which the pollutants are applied to the surface or beneath the surface of a parcel of land and which results in the pollutants percolating, infiltrating, or being absorbed into the soil and then into the waters of the State. Land disposal systems exclude landfills and sanitary landfills but include ponds, basins, or lagoons used for disposal of wastes or wastewaters, where evaporation and/or percolation of the wastes or wastewaters are used or intended to be used to prevent point discharge of pollutants into waters of the State. Septic tanks or sewage treatment systems, as defined in Chapter 511-3-1-.02 (formally in Chapter 270-5-25-.01) and as approved by appropriate County Boards of Public Health, are not considered land disposal systems for purposes of Chapter 391-3-6-.11.

p. **"Land Treatment System"** means any land disposal system in which vegetation on the site is used for additional treatment of wastewater to remove some of the pollutants applied.

q. **"MGD"** means **million gallons per day.**

r. **"Monthly Average"** means the arithmetic or geometric mean of values for samples collected during each calendar month.

s. **"Monthly Average Limit"** means the highest allowable average of daily discharges over a calendar month, unless otherwise stated, calculated as an arithmetic mean of the sum of all daily discharges measured during a calendar month divided by the number of daily discharges measured during the same calendar month.

t. **"Non-restricted Access"** means landscaped areas where reclaimed wastewater is used for irrigation purposes and public access cannot be controlled and adequate buffer zones cannot be maintained. Reclaimed wastewater used to irrigate non-restricted access areas must be treated to urban water reuse standards.

u. **"OMR"** means Operating Monitoring Report.

v. **"Point Source"** means any discernible, confined, or discrete conveyance, including, but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture or agricultural storm water runoff.

w. ***"Pollutant"*** means dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt, industrial wastes, municipal waste, and agricultural waste discharged into the waters of the state.

x. **"Preapplication Treatment System"** means the wastewater treatment facility which reduces high strength organic waste to low levels prior to application to the sprayfield area. The preapplication treatment system can consist of a mechanical plant or a pond system.

y. **"Quarter"** means the first three calendar months beginning with January and each group of three calendar months thereafter (also known as calendar quarters).

z. **"Quarterly Average"** means the arithmetic mean of values obtained for samples collected during a calendar quarter.

aa. **"Reclaimed Water"** means wastewater that has received treatment to urban water reuse standards, meets the treatment criteria specific in the Guidelines for Water Reclamation and Urban Water Reuse, and is utilized at a reuse area or is sent to a designated user for reuse.

bb. **"Reject Water"** means wastewater that does not meet the 3 NTU criteria or water treated after the disinfection system has failed.

cc. **"Restricted Access"** means landscaped areas where reclaimed wastewater is used for irrigation purposes and public access is restricted to specific and controlled periods of time. Wastewater used to irrigate restricted access areas must be pretreated to secondary levels and receive disinfection.

dd. **"Rule(s)"** means the Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control.

ee. **"Sewage"** means the water carried waste products or discharges from human beings or from the rendering of animal products, or chemicals or other wastes from residences, public or private buildings, or industrial establishments, together with such ground, surface, or storm water as may be present.

ff. **"Sewage Sludge"** means solid, semi-solid, or liquid residue generated during the treatment of domestic sewage or a combination of domestic sewage and industrial wastewater in a treatment works. Sewage sludge includes, but is not limited to scum or solids removed in primary, secondary, or advanced wastewater treatment processes. Sewage sludge does not include ash generated during the firing of sewage sludge incinerator, grit and screenings generated during preliminary treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works, treated effluent, or materials excluded from definition of "sewage sludge" by O.C.G.A. § 12-5-30-.3(a)(1).

gg. **"Sewage System"** means sewage treatment works, pipelines or conduits, pumping stations, and force mains, and all other constructions, devices, and appliances appurtenant thereto, used for conducting sewage or industrial wastes or other wastes to the point of ultimate disposal.

hh. **"Sludge"** means any solid, semi-solid, or liquid waste generated from a municipal, commercial, or industrial wastewater treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility exclusive of the effluent from a wastewater treatment plant.

ii. **"Spray Field"** means the wetted area of the land treatment system or land disposal system where treated wastes, treated effluent from industrial processes, agricultural or domestic wastewater, domestic sewage sludge, industrial sludge or other sources is applied to the land via spray, excluding the buffer zone.

jj. **"State Act"** means the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, as amended (Official Code of Georgia Annotated; Title 12, Chapter 5, Article 2).

kk. **"Treatment Requirement"** means any restriction or prohibition established under the (State) Act on quantities, rates, or concentrations, or a combination thereof, of chemical, physical, biological, or other constituents which are discharged into a land disposal or land treatment system and then into the waters of the State, including but not limited to schedules of compliance.

ll. **"Treatment System"** means the wastewater treatment facility which reduces high strength organic waste to low levels prior to the application to the spray field.

mm. **"Urban Water Reuse**" means the use of reclaimed water as a substitute for other water sources for the beneficial irrigation of areas that may be accessible to the public, such as golf courses, residential and commercial landscaping, parks, athletic fields, roadway medians, and landscape impoundments.

nn. **"Water**" or **"Waters of the State"** means any and all rivers, streams, creeks, branches, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, drainage systems, springs, wells, 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.

oo. **"Weekly Average Limit"** means the highest allowable average of daily discharges over a consecutive calendar week, calculated as the sum of all daily discharges measured during a calendar week divided by the number of daily discharges measured during that week. The calendar week begins on Sunday at 12:00 a.m. and ends on Saturday at 11:59 p.m. A week that starts in a month and ends in another month shall be considered part of the second month.

2. MONITORING

a. REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLING

Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored waste stream. The permittee shall maintain an updated written sampling plan and monitoring schedule.

b. SAMPLING PERIOD

1. Unless otherwise specified in this permit, quarterly samples shall be taken during the periods January-March, April-June, July-September, and October-December.

2. Unless otherwise specified in this permit, semiannual samples shall be taken during the periods January-June and July-December.

3. Unless otherwise specified in this permit, annual samples shall be taken during the period of January-December.

c. MONITORING AND ANALYZING PROCEDURES

1. All analytical methods, sample containers, sample preservation techniques, and sample holding times must be consistent with the techniques and methods listed in 40 CFR Part 136, as amended. The analytical method used shall be sufficiently sensitive. Parameters must be analyzed to the detection limits. The parameters will be reported as "not detected" or "ND" when they are below the detection limit and will then be considered in compliance with the effluent limit. The detection limit will also be reported on the DMR or OMR in accordance with Part I.A.3 of this permit.

2. In accordance with 40 CFR Part 136, as amended and as applicable, all analyses shall be made in accordance with the latest edition of Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, Methods for Chemical Analysis of Water and Wastes, or other approved methods.

d. ADDITIONAL MONITORING BY PERMITTEE

If the permittee monitors required parameters at the locations designated in Part I.B of this permit more frequently than required, the permittee shall analyze all samples using approved analytical methods. The results of this additional monitoring shall be included in calculating and reporting the values on the DMR and OMR. The permittee shall indicate the monitoring frequency on the report. EPD may require in writing more frequent monitoring, or monitoring of other pollutants not specified in this permit.

e. FLOW MONITORING

1. Measurements shall be conducted using the flow measuring device(s) in accordance with the approved design of the facility. If secondary flow measurement device(s) are installed, calibration shall be maintained to ± 10% of the actual flow. Flow shall be measured manually to check the flow meter calibration at a frequency of once a month. If secondary flow instruments are in use and malfunction or fail to maintain calibration as required, the flow shall be computed from manual measurements or by other method(s) approved by EPD until such time as the secondary flow instrument is repaired.

2. For facilities which utilize approved alternate technologies for measuring flow, the flow measurement device must be calibrated semi-annually by qualified personnel.

3. Records of the calibration checks shall be maintained on site in accordance with the requirements of Part. I.A.2.f. of the permit.

f. RECORDING OF RESULTS

For each measurement of sample taken pursuant to the requirements of this permit, the permittee shall record the following information:

1. The exact place, date, and time of sampling, and the person(s) collecting the samples;

2. The dates and times the analyses were performed;

3. The person(s) who performed the analyses;

4. The analytical procedures or methods used; and

5. The results of all required analyses.

g. RECORDS RETENTION

1. The permittee shall retain records of:

   a. All laboratory analyses performed including sample data, quality control data, and standard curves;

   b. Calibration and maintenance records of laboratory instruments;

   c. Calibration and maintenance records and recordings from continuous recording instruments;

d. Process control monitoring records;

e. Facility operation and maintenance records;

f. Copies of all reports required by this permit;

g. All data and information used to complete the permit application; and

h. All monitoring data related to sludge use and disposal.

2. All records and information resulting from the monitoring activities and record keeping requirements required by this permit and the Rules shall be retained by the permittee for a minimum of three (3) years, whereas records pertaining to sludge shall be retained for five (5) years, or longer if requested by EPD.

3. REPORTING

a. Monitoring results obtained during the calendar month shall be summarized for each month and reported on the DMR. The results of each sampling event shall be reported on an OMR and submitted as an attachment to the DMR.

1. The permittee shall submit the DMR, OMR and additional monitoring data to EPD. The required submittals shall be postmarked no later than the 15th day of the month following the reporting period.

2. All other reports required herein, unless otherwise stated, shall be submitted to the EPD Office listed on the permit issuance letter signed by the Director of EPD.

b. However, upon final approval from EPD to use the online web based NetDMR application for the submittals of DMRs and OMRs required by this permit, the permittee shall submit the DMRs and OMRs to EPD utilizing the online NetDMR submittal process. The permittee shall submit the required reports no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 15th day of the month following the reporting period.

c. The DMR and OMR and any other required forms, reports and/or information shall be completed, signed and certified by a principal executive officer or ranking elected official, or by a duly authorized representative of that person who has the authority to act for or on behalf of that person.

4. SEWAGE SLUDGE AND SLUDGE DISPOSAL AND MONITORING

a. Sewage sludge, sludge and industrial wastes (herein referred to as "sludge" in Part I.A.4 of this permit) shall be disposed of according to the regulations and guidelines established by the EPD and the Federal Clean Water Act section 405(d) and (e), and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). In land applying nonhazardous sludge, the permittee shall comply with the general criteria outlined in the most current version of EPD's "Guidelines for Land Application of Sewage Sludge (Biosolids) At Agronomic Rates" and with the State Rules, Chapter 391-3-6-.17.

Before disposing of sludge by land application or any method other than co-disposal in a permitted sanitary landfill, the permittee shall submit a Sludge Management Plan (SMP) to EPD for written approval. This plan will become a part of the Land Treatment System Permit upon issuance and/ or modification of the permit. The permittee shall notify EPD, and if applicable obtain written approval, of any changes to an approved Sludge Management Plan.

If an applicable management practice or numerical limitation for pollutants in sludge is promulgated under Section 405(d) of the Clean Water Act after approval of the SMP, then the SMP shall be modified to conform with the new regulations.

b. The permittee shall develop and implement procedures to ensure adequate year-round sludge disposal. The permittee shall monitor and maintain records documenting the quantity of sludge generated and removed from the facility.

c. The total quantity of sludge removed from the facility shall be reported on the DMR in accordance with Part I.A.3 of this permit. The total quantity shall be reported on a dry weight basis as total tons per month when applicable.

B.1. TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS, LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING

Discharge from mechanical plant:

Influent shall refer to the influent to the treatment facility and effluent shall refer to the discharge from the treatment facility to the storage tank. The discharge shall be limited and monitored as follows:

Parameter (units)	Discharge Limitations Monthly (Weekly) average, unless otherwise stated	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Flow (MGD)	0.0214 (0.0268)	Seven Days/Week	Continuous	Effluent
Five-Day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L) (1)	5.0	One Day/Week	Composite	Influent & Effluent
Total Suspended Solids (mg/L) (1)	5	One Day/Week	Composite	Influent & Effluent
E. coli (count/100 mL) (2)	20	One Day/Week	Grab	Effluent
Total Nitrogen, as N	10	One Day/Week	Composite	Effluent

(1) Numerical limits only apply to effluent.

(2) Escherichia coli (*E. coli*) counts per individual sample shall not exceed 75/100mL.

Parameter (units)	Discharge Limitations Monthly (Weekly) average, unless otherwise stated	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Turbidity (NTU) (3)	3	Seven Days/Week	Continuous	Effluent
pH (standard units), Daily Minimum & Daily Maximum	6.0 – 9.0	One Day/Week	Grab	Effluent

(3) Turbidity monitoring prior to disinfection is required. Treated effluent exceeding 3 NTU shall be rejected.

B.2. STORAGE TANK LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Discharge from the storage tank:

a. Effluent shall refer to the discharge from the storage tank to the drip fields. The discharge from the storage tank to the drip fields shall be limited and monitored as follows:

Parameter (units)	Discharge Limitation Monthly Average (unless otherwise stated)	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Flow (MGD)	Report	Seven Days/Week	Continuous	Effluent

b. The land treatment system shall consist of 2.71 acres. The hydraulic wastewater loading to each drip field must not exceed 2.8 in/week. The instantaneous application rate to each drip field must not exceed 0.24 inches/hour. The hydraulic wastewater loading and instantaneous application rate for each drip field shall be monitored/calculated daily and submitted to EPD in accordance with Part I.A.3 of this permit.

c. A daily log will be kept by the land treatment system operator of the volume (gal) of wastewater dripped on each drip field for each day and shall be submitted to EPD in accordance with Part I.A.3 of this permit.

d. A daily log will be kept by the land treatment system operator of the amount of rainfall received each day within 0.5 miles of the permitted land treatment system and shall be submitted to EPD in accordance with Part I.A.3 of this permit.

e. A written summary of pertinent maintenance for the land treatment system such as planting, cutting vegetation, harvesting, resurfacing areas, etc. shall also be included in the report and submitted in accordance with Part I.A.3 of this permit.

B.3. GROUNDWATER MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

a. Groundwater leaving the land treatment system boundaries (as defined in this permit as the drip field) must not exceed the primary maximum contaminant levels for drinking water. Samples of the groundwater shall be monitored from each groundwater monitoring well(s) by the permittee for the parameters and at the frequency listed below:

Parameter (units)	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Depth to Groundwater (feet)	One Day/Month	Grab
Nitrate, as N (mg/L) [(1)]	One Day/Quarter	Grab
pH (standard unit)	One Day/Quarter	Grab
Specific Conductivity (µmho/cm)	One Day/Quarter	Grab
Escherichia coli (#/100mL) [(2)]	One Day/Six Months	Grab

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

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

b. Monitoring wells shall be identified in all reports submitted to EPD as up-gradient, midfield, and down-gradient, as referenced below. The down-gradient groundwater monitoring wells shall be considered the compliance wells. The monitoring wells are identified as follows:

Well	Location	Well	Location	Well	Location
A1	Down-gradient	B2	Up-gradient	B5	Down-gradient
A2	Midgradient	B3	Down-gradient	B6	Midgradient
A3	Up-gradient	B4	Up-gradient	B7	Down-gradient
B1	Up-gradient				

c. As per Part I.B.2 and Part II.A.9-10 of this permit, upon written notification to EPD, additional up-gradient, mid-field and down-gradient monitoring wells may be added in accordance with EPD's Manual for Groundwater Monitoring, September 1991, as amended, the Environmental Protection Agency Guidance Design and Installation of Monitoring Wells, or other approved guidance without EPD approval and without modification to this permit. The additional wells are subject to the sampling parameters and sampling frequency(s) in Part I.B.3 of this permit, Groundwater Monitoring Requirements. The sampling analysis of additional wells shall be reported in accordance with Part I.A.3 of this permit.

B.4. SOIL MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

a. A Soil Fertility Test(s) shall be performed annually in the fourth (4^{th}) calendar quarter in accordance with the latest edition of Methods of Soil Analysis (published by the American Society of Agronomy, Madison, Wisconsin) or other methods approved by EPD. Representative soil samples shall be collected from the land treatment system using the Mehlich-1 extraction procedure. Results of the Soil Fertility Test(s) shall be utilized by the permittee in the continuing operation and maintenance of the land treatment system. The sampling analysis shall be reported in accordance with Part I.A.3 of this permit.

b. If the Soil Fertility Test(s) indicates a change in the pH value of one standard unit from the previous year's pH value, the permittee shall immediately perform a Cation Exchange Capacity and Percent Base Saturation analysis for the land treatment system. The monitoring results of the Cation Exchange Capacity and Percent Base Saturation analysis shall be submitted to EPD in accordance with Part I.A.3 of this permit.

c. Where there are categorical and/or significant industrial discharges to the sewer system, the permittee may be required, upon written notification by the Division, to sample for additional parameters. These parameters may include heavy metals and organic compounds.

B.5. SURFACE WATER MONITORING

Surface water(s)[1] adjacent to or traversing the land treatment system shall be monitored. Unless otherwise stated and or approved by EPD, surface water samples will be collected at a maximum of 100 feet upstream and a maximum 100 feet downstream of the land treatment system. The surface water shall be monitored for the parameters and at the frequency listed below:

Parameter (units)	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Nitrate, as N (mg/L)	One Day/Quarter	Grab
Five-Day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	One Day/Quarter	Grab
Specific Conductivity (µmho/cm)	One Day/Quarter	Grab
pH (standard units)	One Day/Quarter	Grab
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (mg/L)	One Day/Quarter	Grab
Temperature (°C)	One Day/Quarter	Grab
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)	One Day/Quarter	Grab

(1) Surface waters as identified in the Design Development Report and permit application are: **Unnamed tributary**

C. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

1. LAS OPERATIONS

The land treatment system will be operated and maintained in accordance with the design criteria as presented in the approved engineering reports, operation and maintenance manuals, the permit application and/or other written agreements between EPD and the permittee. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

a. A vegetative cover must be maintained at all times on the land treatment site and must be managed according to design criteria;

b. All treatment units are to be maintained and operated for maximum efficiency;

c. Hydraulic and nitrogen loading is to be maintained within design criteria;

d. Unless otherwise approved, no wastewater shall be applied via spray or aboveground drip irrigation during rain or when the conditions are such that applied wastewater will not be absorbed into the soil; and

e. If the hydraulic application rate(s) cannot satisfactorily be handled by the approved land treatment system, corrective actions shall immediately be taken by the permittee.

f. The land treatment system may not result in a point source discharge to surface waters, as mandated in the Rules.

2. CHANGE IN WASTEWATER INFLUENT

The influent to the system is authorized as long as it is consistent with the design criteria specified in the approved Design Development Report and application. Any anticipated facility expansions, production increases, or process modifications which will result in new, different, or increased pollutants or flow to the system must be approved by EPD prior to implementation. Submittal of a new permit application and reissuance of the Land Application System permit, as well as upgrading of the system, may be required in the process of obtaining EPD approval.

PART II.

A. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. FACILITY OPERATION

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

2. NONCOMPLIANCE NOTIFICATION

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 (5) days of becoming aware of such condition. The written submission shall contain the following information:

a. A description of the noncompliance and its cause;

b. The period of noncompliance, including the exact date and times; or, if not corrected, the anticipated time the noncompliance is expected to continue; and

c. The steps taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the non-complying discharge.

3. ANTICIPATED NONCOMPLIANCE NOTIFICATION

The permittee shall give written notice to the EPD at least 10 days before:

a. Any planned changes in the permitted facility; or

b. Any activity which may result in noncompliance with the permit.

4. OTHER NONCOMPLIANCE

The permittee must report all instances of noncompliance not reported under other specific reporting requirements, at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information required in Part II.A.2, Noncompliance Notification, of this permit.

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.

5. OPERATOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

The permittee shall ensure that the person in responsible charge of the daily operation of this land application system shall be a Class I Certified Operator in accordance with the Georgia Certification of Water and Wastewater Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act, as amended, and specified by Subparagraph 391-3-6-.12 of the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control. Operators, other than the person in responsible charge, must obtain certification in Class III operator classification in accordance with the above Act.

6. LABORATORY ANALYST CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

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.

7. POWER FAILURES

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

8. ADVERSE IMPACT

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

9. MONITORING WELL REQUIREMENTS

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

10. GROUNDWATER REQUIREMENTS

a. If any groundwater samples taken from the groundwater monitoring wells at the land treatment system are above the primary maximum contaminant levels for drinking water, the permittee shall immediately develop a plan which will ensure that the primary maximum contaminant levels for drinking water are not exceeded.

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

11. NO POINT SOURCE DISCHARGE(S) OF A POLLUTANT TO SURFACE WATERS OF THE STATE

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

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. COMPLIANCE

The permittee must comply with this permit. Any permit noncompliance is a violation of the State Act, and the Rules, and is grounds for:

a. Enforcement action;

b. Permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or

c. Denial of a permit renewal application.

It shall not be a defense of the permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

2. RIGHT OF ENTRY

The permittee shall allow the Director of EPD and/or their authorized representatives, agents, or employees, upon presentation of credentials:

a. To enter upon the permittee's premises where a regulated activity or facility is located or conducted, in which any records are required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit; and

b. At reasonable times, to have access to and copy any records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit; to inspect any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this permit; and to sample any substance or parameters at any location.

3. SUBMITTAL OF INFORMATION

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

4. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL

A permit may be transferred to another person by a permittee if:

a. The permittee notifies the Director in writing of the proposed transfer at least thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed transfer;

b. 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; and

c. The Director, within thirty (30) days, does not notify the current permittee and the new permittee of EPD's intent to modify, revoke and reissue, or terminate the permit and to require that a new application be filed rather than agreeing to the transfer of the permit.

5. PERMIT MODIFICATION

This permit may be modified, terminated, or revoked and reissued in whole or part during its term for cause including, but not limited to, the following:

a. Violation of any condition of this permit;

b. Obtaining this permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts; or

c. A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the permitted activity.

The filing of a request by the permittee for a permit modification, termination, revocation and reissuance, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any permit conditions.

6. PENALTIES

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.

7. CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LIABILITIES

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

8. EXPIRATION OF PERMIT

The permittee shall not operate the system after the expiration date of the permit. In order to receive authorization to operate beyond the expiration date, the permittee shall submit such information, forms, and fees as are required by the EPD no later than 180 days prior to the expiration date.

9. CONTESTED HEARINGS

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

10. SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this permit are severable; and, if any provision of this permit, or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstances is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances and the remainder of this permit shall not be affected thereby.

C. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. DESIGN DEVELOPMENT REPORT

The permittee shall operate and maintain the system as described in the Design Development Report (DDR) concurred with on November 2, 2023 and DDR amendment concurred with on March 6, 2025.

PART III.

APPROVED SLUDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. The permittee's approved Sludge Management Plan allows for sewage sludge generated at the facility to be sent to a third party for further treatment and/or ultimate disposal.

2. The permittee will report on an annual basis the amount of sewage sludge sent to the off-site preparer during the most recent calendar year. The annual report shall be submitted to EPD no later than February 19 of the following year.

3. The permittee will maintain sludge handling records in accordance with Part I.D.6.h of the Permit.

4. The permittee will notify EPD in writing of any planned changes to the permittee's sewage sludge use or disposal practices.

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

FACT SHEET

Waterside North Water Reclamation Facility (WRF)
LAS Permit No. GAJ040053

Technical Contact:

Alex Gramling, Environmental Engineer
alex.gramling@dnr.ga.gov
(470) 524-0657

Permit is:

☒ First Issuance

☐ Reissuance with no significant modifications

☐ Reissuance with modifications

☐ Modifications only

1. Applicant Name & Address:

FIDES Waterside, LLC.
3017 Bolling Way NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30305

2. Facility Name & Location:

Waterside North Water Reclamation Facility (WRF)
3450 North Waterworks Road
Buford, Georgia 30518
(Hall County)

3. River Basin:

Chattahoochee River Basin

4. Description of Wastewater Treatment Facility:

The facility will consist of two membrane bioreactor units, each containing influent screening, anoxic and aerobic zones, membrane filtration, and UV disinfection. Treated effluent will be stored in a storage tank before being land applied on dripfields. Reject water will be returned to the headworks for treatment.

Sludge will be disposed at another permitted facility or by a third-party.

5. Pre-treatment Plant Discharge Limitations:

5.1. Permitted design flow:

0.0214 MGD

5.2. Effluent Limitations:

Parameter	Limit
Five-Day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	5.0
Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)	5
pH, Daily Minimum – Daily Maximum (S.U.)	6.0 – 9.0
Escherichia coli (#/100mL)	20 (1)
Turbidity (NTU), maximum	3

(1) The permit also includes an instantaneous maximum limitation of 75 #/100 mL.

The proposed BOD, TSS, pH, turbidity, and *E. coli* bacteria limits in the draft permit are in accordance with EPD's *Guidelines for Water Reclamation and Urban Water Reuse*, 2022.

5.3. Nitrogen loading:

A Total Nitrogen effluent limitation of 10 mg/L has been included in the draft permit to control nitrogen loading and be protective of drinking water MCL for nitrate.

6. Land Treatment System:

6.1. Application Rate and Wetted Area:

Treated effluent is disposed of via drip irrigation:

Crop:

Coastal Bermuda

Wetted area:

2.71 acres divided into 2 zones

Application rate:

2.8 in/week

The wetted area and the application rate in the draft permit are in accordance with the Design Development Report (DDR) concurred with on November 2, 2023 and DDR amendment concurred with on March 6, 2025.

Site capacity:

The maximum allowable flow to the drip field is as follows:

$$\text{Site capacity} = \frac{A_{\text{Site}}\ (\text{acres}) \times \text{WLR}\ (\text{in/week}) \times 43{,}560\ \text{ft}^2/\text{acre} \times 7.48\ \text{gal/ft}^3}{12\ \text{in/ft}}\ \text{gal/week}$$

$$= \frac{2.71 \times 2.8 \times 43{,}560 \times 7.48}{12}$$

= 206,032 gal/week maximum or 0.029 MGD (7-day average)

6.2. Groundwater Monitoring Requirements:

The intent of monitoring is to determine the influence of the land treatment system on the quality of the groundwater. Groundwater leaving the spray field boundaries must meet drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCLs).

In accordance with EPD requirements for all municipal LAS facilities, groundwater will be monitored for the following parameters:

Parameter (units)
Depth to Groundwater (feet)
Nitrate, as N (mg/L)
pH (standard units)
Specific Conductivity (µmhos/cm)
Escherichia Coli (#/100mL)

Based on the application submitted, it has been determined that monitoring for additional parameters is not required at this time.

Groundwater monitoring at the site is conducted in four upgradient (A3, B1, B2, and B4), two midgradient (A2 and B6), and four downgradient (A1, B3, B5, and B7) wells.

Furthermore, a Total Nitrogen effluent limitation of 10 mg/L has been included in the draft permit to be protective of the drinking water MCL for nitrate.

6.3. Soil Monitoring Requirements:

The intent of monitoring is to determine the influence of the treated wastewater on the soil chemistry/composition. It will also aid the permittee with operation and maintenance of the land treatment system.

In accordance with EPD requirements for all municipal LAS facilities, requirements to conduct soil fertility tests, as well as Cation Exchange Capacity and Percent Base Saturation analysis (depending on pH results), have been included in the draft permit.

Based on the application submitted, it has been determined that monitoring for additional parameters is not required at this time.

6.4. Surface Water Monitoring Requirements:

The intent of monitoring is to determine if the facility has an impact on perennial surface water adjacent to or traversing the dripfields by comparing results from upstream and downstream samples.

Surface water, if present, will be monitored for the following parameters:

Parameter (units)
Nitrate, as N (mg/L)
Five-Day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)
Specific Conductivity (µmho/cm)
pH (standard unit)
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (mg/L)
Temperature (^{o}C)
Dissolved Oxygen (mg/L)

Monitoring of an unnamed tributary in the middle of the development has been included in the draft permit.

7. Other Permitting Considerations:

7.1. Service Delivery Strategy:

Not applicable. This is a privately-owned facility.

7.2. Watershed Protection Plan (WPP):

Privately-owned facilities are not required to develop and implement a Watershed Protection Plan.

7.3. Sludge Management Plan (SMP):

The permittee is requesting authorization to deliver sludge to a third party. The proposed SMP is acceptable and language for an approved SMP has been added to the draft permit.

7.4. Industrial Pretreatment Program (IPP):

Not applicable. This is a privately-owned facility.

7.5. Operator Certification:

Class I

7.6. Compliance Schedules:

Discharge limitations will be applicable upon authorization to operate the facility.

8. Reporting

The facility has been assigned to the following EPD office for reporting, compliance and enforcement:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Northeast District – Athens Office
745 Gaines School Rd.
Athens, Georgia 30605

9. Procedures for the Formulation of Final Determinations

9.1 Comment Period

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

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

For additional information, you can contact 404-463-1511.

9.2 Public Comments

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

9.3 Public Hearing

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

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

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

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

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

If no public hearing is held, but the Director determines, after a review of the written comments received, that a permit should be issued but that substantial changes in the proposed permit are warranted, public notice of the revised determinations will be given and written comments accepted in the same manner as the initial notice of application was given and written comments accepted pursuant to EPD Rules, Water Quality Control, subparagraph 391-3-6-.11(6). The Director shall provide an opportunity for public hearing on the revised determinations. Such opportunity for public hearing and the issuance or denial of a permit thereafter shall be in accordance with the procedures as are set forth above.

9.4 Final Determination

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

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

9.5 Contested Hearings

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

Petitions for a contested hearing must include the following:

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

FACT SHEET

Appendix A

Waterside North Water Reclamation Facility
LAS Permit No. GAJ040053

Location Map

Waterside North Water Reclamation Facility
LAS Permit No. GAJ040053

Prepared By: Alex Gramling
Date: November 2024

Source: Google, 2024