GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

General NPDES Permit
for Drinking Water Treatment Plant Dischargers
Permit No. GAG640000

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Cover Page

- Changed the name of the permit to improve clarity of the type of permitted discharges.

Part I – Coverage Under This General Permit

- Added language for eligibility for coverage and Notice of Intent (NOI) requirements.
- Added language for discharges to impaired waters.

Part III – Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements:

- Added Parts III.A.1 to III.A.2 to improve permit clarity.
  - Tables III.A.1 – Limitations applicable to facilities using surface water as a raw water source
  - Tables III.A.2 – Limitations applicable to facilities using ground water as a raw water source
- Added a total phosphorus monitoring to quantify nutrient loading from drinking water treatment plants covered under this general permit.
- Added *Escherichia coli* or fecal coliform bacteria monitoring for facilities that use surface water as raw source water to determine if drinking water treatment plants are significant contributors of bacteria to surface water.
- Added aluminum or monitoring for drinking water treatment plants that use surface water as a raw source based on the treatment of drinking water used.
- Added aluminum, iron, and arsenic monitoring for all facilities utilizing ground water as source water since these are common pollutants in groundwater.
- Added a new total residual chlorine limit of 0.011 mg/L along with a 12-month compliance schedule to meet the new limit

Part V – Approved Sludge Management Plan

- Added language to reflect authorization for permittees to dispose of sludge to another permitted facility/a third party for further processing and/or ultimate disposal.

Part VI – Definitions

- Added language to define various treatment systems and to enhance permit clarity.

Standard Conditions and Boilerplate Modifications:

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

Final Permit Determinations and Public Comments:

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

Public Comments and EPD Responses on the draft
General NPDES Permit for Drinking Water Treatment Plant Dischargers Permit No. GAG640000

Comment	Response to Comment
1. Clarifications on the new Total Residual Chlorine Limit of 0.011 mg/L 2. There is no recorded 7Q10 for the receiving stream. There are ways to estimate the 7Q10. Will these be allowed in order to use the dilution calculation for the interim Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) limit?	The Georgia Water Quality Control Act (GA Rules and Regulations), Chapter 391-3-6-.05 describes the narrative toxicity standards for all waters of the State. The GA Rules and Regulations state that waters shall not have toxic, corrosive, acidic, and caustic substances from municipal discharges that can be harmful to humans, animals or aquatic life. The General Permit for Drinking Water Treatment Plant Dischargers (General Permit) must protect the narrative toxicity standards to be considered protective of all receiving waters across Georgia. A daily maximum total residual chlorine (TRC) limit of 0.011 mg/L has been included in the draft permit based on US EPA's chronic TRC criterion of 11 µg/L in the receiving stream assuming a 7Q10 of zero. The assumed 7Q10 of zero is necessary in the General Permit to ensure all receiving waterbodies that may receive discharges from drinking water treatment plants are protected. The proposed TRC limit may be below the detection limit of the analytical method prescribed in the federal regulations in 40 CFR 136. In accordance with Part II.A.g in the draft permit, if the facility's effluent TRC is lower than the detection limit of the analytical method used, the facility should report TRC as "non detect" in the Discharge Monitoring Reports. The detection limit of the method will also be reported.
A 12-month deadline for compliance is an unreasonable time-table. Any design, permitting and construction could not happen so quickly. Two or three years would be the soonest possible.	The current General Permit issued on January 6, 2016, includes a total residual chlorine limit and the existing facilities covered under this permit already use chlorine for disinfection. Hence facilities are already equipped with a dechlorination system and a 12-month compliance schedule has been maintained in the final permit allowing time to optimize treatment.

Comment	Response to Comment
Clarifications on drinking water sludge disposal.	The current permit, issued on January 6, 2016, and proposed final permit do not authorize land application of drinking water sludge. The ultimate disposal and land application of drinking water sludge is regulated under the federal regulations in 40 CFR Part 257 and the recovered materials provisions under Chapter 391-3-4.04(7) of the Georgia Solid Waste Management Rules. The federal regulations in 40 CFR Part 503 and Chapter 391-3-6.17 of the GA Rules and Regulations do not authorize the disposal of sludge generated during the treatment of drinking water; therefore, land application of drinking water sludge cannot be permitted under those regulations. These regulations authorize the disposal and land application of sewage sludge generated from a publicly owned wastewater treatment plant. However, drinking water sludge may be land applied if requirements of 40 CFR 257 and the recovered materials provisions under Chapter 391-3-4.04(7) of the Georgia Solid Waste Management Rules can be met.

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

PERMIT REVISIONS

General NPDES Permit No. GAG640000
for Drinking Water Treatment Plant Dischargers

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

If yes, specify:

Part.II.B.b & c Revised language from:

b. Sludge must be disposed of in a permitted landfill or sent to a permitted third party for further treatment and ultimate disposal (Refer to Part V for reporting requirements).

c. Although this permit does not authorize for land application, drinking water sludge may be land applied if requirements contained in 40 CFR Part 257 and the recovered materials provisions under Chapter 391-3-4-.04(7) of the Solid Waste Management Rules are met.

To:

b. Sludge may be sent to another permitted facility or third party for further treatment and/or ultimate disposal (Refer to Part V for reporting requirements).

c. Sludge generated by drinking water treatment plants shall be disposed in accordance with the federal regulations under 40 CFR 258 and the Georgia Rules for Solid Waste Management in Chapter 391-3-4. If land applying the generated sludge, the permittee shall comply with the requirements in 40 CFR 257 and the recovered materials requirements in the Georgia Rules for Solid Waste Management Chapter 391-3-4-.04(7).

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

PERMIT REVISIONS

Part II.K.2	Revised the compliance date from December 21, 2020 to December 21, 2025 to align with the amended federal regulation in 40 CFR 127 becoming effective in January 2021.
Part V	Removed the word "sewage" as these types of facilities do not generate sewage sludge.

Permit No. GAG640000
Issuance Date: 12/15/2020

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM GENERAL PERMIT FOR DRINKING WATER TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGERS

In accordance with the provisions of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Georgia Laws 1964, p. 416, as amended), hereinafter called the State Act; the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S. C. 1251 et seq.), hereinafter called the Federal Act; and the Rules and Regulations promulgated pursuant to each of these Acts, new and existing water treatment plant filter backwash and basin washdown point sources within the State of Georgia, upon receipt of a Notice of Coverage, are authorized to discharge filter backwash associated with drinking water treatment plant activity to the waters of the State of Georgia in accordance with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in the permit.

This permit is issued in reliance upon the submitted Notices of Intent, any other applications upon which this permit is based, supporting data entered therein or attached thereto, and any subsequent submittal of supporting data.

This general permit shall become effective on January 1, 2021.

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, December 31, 2025.

STATE OF GEORGIA 1776

Director,
Environmental Protection Division

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PART I. COVERAGE UNDER THIS GENERAL PERMIT

A. Eligibility for Coverage

To obtain authorization under this general permit, the person discharging to waters of the state must meet the eligibility requirements identified below:

1. Facilities that discharge wastewaters associated with drinking water production from conventional, direct filtration, or membrane filtration Water Treatment Plants (WTP). These discharges include filter backwash water and sedimentation basin washdown water.

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

Any person wishing to maintain coverage under this general permit shall submit an NOI in accordance with the Federal Regulations, 40 CFR 122.22

1. NOI for Existing Discharges Already Covered Under Applicable General Permit:

   a. The owner/operator of a WTP currently covered under the existing NPDES general permit that is seeking coverage under this permit must submit a complete application (NOI) to the Georgia EPD within 180 days of the expiration date of this permit. For any facility covered under the existing NPDES general permit that meets this deadline, authorization under this general permit is automatically continued until coverage is granted under this permit. If a complete NOI is not submitted within 180 days of this permit expiration date, permit coverage will be terminated.

   b. The NOI shall be on forms as may be prescribed and furnished by EPD. The NOI requires the following information to be submitted:

      i. Name of facility;
      ii. Any and all information related to the facility contact person;
      iii. Location and mailing address of your facility;
      iv. Topographic map(s);
      v. A brief description of the operation;
      vi. Outfall location of final discharge;
      vii. Any and all information related to Impaired Waters and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs);
      viii. Other information provided on the NOI application as prescribed by EPD.

   c. EPD may delay the permittee's authorization for further review, may notify applicants that additional effluent limitations are necessary, or may deny coverage under this permit and require submission of an application for an individual or alternative general permit. EPD will notify permittees in writing of the delay, of the need for additional effluent limits, or of the request for submission of an individual NPDES permit application or alternative general permit applications.

2. Submittal of NOI and Notice of Termination (NOT)

The NOI and supporting documentation or the NOT must be signed by the owner or other authorized person in accordance with Part II.O of this permit and submitted to Georgia EPD's Online Application System (GEOS).

C. Discharge(s) To Impaired Waters

1. This general permit does not authorize discharges of pollutants of concern into impaired waters, unless the effluent discharge limits are consistent with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Discharges that include pollutants of concern must be consistent with an EPA-approved or EPA/EPD established TMDL and applicable state law. Impaired waters are those that do not meet applicable water quality standards and are identified by an EPA-approved or EPA/EPD established TMDL and/or the State of Georgia's 303(d) list. Pollutants of concern are those pollutants for which the water body is listed as impaired and which contribute to the listed impairment.

2. The facility otherwise eligible for coverage, or currently covered, under this general permit must determine whether its discharge(s) contributes directly or indirectly to a water body that is included on the latest 303(d) list or otherwise designated by EPD as impaired or is included in an EPA/EPD-approved or EPA/EPD established TMDL. If the facility has discharges meeting this criterion, it must obtain an individual permit.

D. Transfer of Ownership or Control

Coverage under this general permit may not be transferred. If the entity operating the facility changes, a new Notice of Intent must be submitted at least 30 days in advance of when the new owner will take over operation. The owner to whom the permit was originally issued should give Notice of Termination prior to the new owner.

E. Termination of Coverage

1. EPD may deny coverage under this permit based on an incomplete or incorrect NOI submittal. The Director may at any time revoke coverage under this permit in accordance with the State Rules, Section 391-3-6-.15(11).

2. In order to terminate permit coverage, the permittee must submit a complete and accurate Notice of Termination (NOT). The permittee is responsible for complying with the terms of this permit until authorization is terminated.

3. A permittee must submit a NOT within 30 days after one or more of the following conditions have been met:

   a. A new permittee has taken over responsibility of the facility covered under an existing NOI;

b. All discharges have ceased for which permit coverage was obtained and the permittee does not expect to discharge during the remainder of the permit term or any of the discharges covered under this permit.

F. Expiration of Permit

This permit will expire five (5) years from the effective date. The permittee must re-apply for permit coverage 180 days prior to the expiration of this permit unless the permit has been terminated consistent with 40 CFR §122.64(b). If this permit is not reissued or replaced prior to the expiration date, the permit will be administratively continued and remain in force and effect. Any permittee who has submitted a completed application as provided by EPD 180 days prior to the expiration date of the permit and has been granted permit coverage will automatically remain covered by the administratively continued permit until the earlier of:

1. Reissuance or replacement of this permit, at which time the permittee must comply with the application conditions of the new permit to maintain authorization to discharge;

2. Issuance of an individual permit for the discharges;

3. A formal decision by the permitting authority not to reissue this general permit, at which time the permittee must seek coverage under an individual permit; and/or

4. The permitting authority grants the permittee's request for termination of permit coverage.

PART II. MONITORING AND REPORTING

A. Monitoring

a. Fecal coliform bacteria and *Escherichia Coli* will be reported as the geometric mean of the values for the samples collected during the time periods.

b. The monthly average is the arithmetic mean of values obtained for samples collected during a calendar month.

c. The weekly average is the arithmetic mean of values obtained for samples collected during a 7-day period. The week begins 12:00 midnight Saturday and ends at 12:00 midnight the following Saturday. To define a different starting time for the sampling period, the permittee must notify the EPD in writing. For reporting required by Part II.L. of this permit, a week that starts in one month and ends in another month shall be considered part of the second month. The permittee may calculate and report the weekly average as a 7-day moving average.

d. Effluent samples required by Part III of this permit shall be collected after the final treatment process and before discharge to receiving waters. Composite samples, if required, may be collected before disinfection with written EPD approval.

e. Flow measurements shall be conducted using the flow measuring device(s) in accordance with the approved design of the facility. If instantaneous measurements are required, then the permittee shall have a primary flow measuring device that is correctly installed and maintained. If continuous recording measurements are required, then flow measurements must be made using continuous recording equipment. Calibration shall be maintained of the continuous recording instrumentation 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. For facilities which utilize alternate technologies for measuring flow, the flow measurement device must be calibrated semi-annually by qualified personnel.

Records of the calibration checks shall be maintained.

f. If secondary flow instruments malfunction or fail to maintain calibration as required in II.A.e., the flow shall be computed from manual measurements taken at the times specified for the collection of composite samples.

g. Some parameters will be reported as "not detected" 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.

B. Sludge Disposal and Monitoring Requirements

a. The permittee shall develop and implement procedures to ensure adequate year-round sludge disposal. The permittee shall monitor and maintain records documenting the quantity of sludge removed from the facility. The total quantity of sludge removed from the facility during the reporting period shall be reported on the Discharge Monitoring Reports as required under Part II.L. of this permit. The quantity shall be reported on a dry weight basis (dry tons).

b. Sludge may be sent to another permitted facility or third party for further treatment and/or ultimate disposal (Refer to Part V for reporting requirements).

c. Sludge generated by drinking water treatment plants shall be disposed in accordance with the federal regulations under 40 CFR 258 and the Georgia Rules for Solid Waste Management in Chapter 391-3-4. If land applying the generated sludge, the permittee shall comply with the requirements in 40 CFR 257 and the recovered materials requirements in the Georgia Rules for Solid Waste Management Chapter 391-3-4-.04(7).

C. Effluent Toxicity and Biomonitoring Requirements

The permittee shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established by Section 307(a) of the Federal Act and with Chapter 391-3-6-.03(5) of the State Rules and may not discharge toxic pollutants in concentrations or combinations that are harmful to humans, animals, or aquatic life.

If toxicity is suspected in the effluent, the EPD may require the permittee to perform any of the following actions:

a. Acute biomonitoring tests;

b. Chronic biomonitoring tests;

c. Stream studies;

d. Priority pollutant analyses;

e. Toxicity reduction evaluations (TRE); or

f. Any other appropriate study.

The EPD will specify the requirements and methodologies for performing any of these tests or studies. Unless other concentrations are specified by the EPD, the critical concentration used to determine toxicity in biomonitoring tests will be the effluent instream wastewater concentration (IWC) based on the permitted monthly average flow of the facility and the critical low flow of the receiving stream (7Q10). The endpoints that will be reported are the effluent concentration that is lethal to 50% of the test organisms (LC50) if the test is for acute toxicity and the no observed effect concentration (NOEC) of effluent if the test is for chronic toxicity.

The permittee must eliminate effluent toxicity and supply the EPD with data and evidence to confirm toxicity elimination.

D. Representative Sampling

Samples and measurements of the monitored waste shall represent the volume and nature of the waste stream. The permittee shall maintain a written sampling plan and monitoring schedule.

E. Reporting

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

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

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

F. Monitoring Procedures

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. The analytical method used shall be sufficiently sensitive. EPA approved methods must be applicable to the concentration ranges of the NPDES permit samples.

G. Recording of Results

For each required parameter analyzed, the permittee shall record:

a. The exact place, date, and time of sampling, and the person(s) collecting the sample. For flow proportioned composite samples, this shall include the instantaneous flow and the corresponding volume of each sample aliquot, and other information relevant to document flow proportioning of composite samples;

b. The dates and times the analyses were performed;

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

d. The analytical procedures or methods used; and

e. The results of all required analyses.

H. Additional Monitoring By Permittee

If the permittee monitors required parameters at the locations designated in III.A. more frequently than required, the permittee shall analyze all samples using approved analytical methods specified in II.G. The results of this additional monitoring shall be included in calculating and reporting the values on the Discharge Monitoring Report forms. The permittee shall indicate the monitoring frequency on the report. The EPD may require in writing more frequent monitoring, or monitoring of other pollutants not specified in this permit.

I. Records Retention

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.

These records shall be kept for at least three years. Sludge handling records must be kept for at least five years. Either period may be extended by EPD written notification.

J. Penalties

Both the Federal and State Acts provide that any person who falsifies or tampers with any monitoring device or method required under this permit, or who makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record submitted or required by this permit shall, if convicted, be punished by a fine or by imprisonment or by both. The Acts include procedures for imposing civil penalties for violations or for negligent or intentional failure or refusal to comply with any final or emergency order of the Director of the EPD.

K. Reporting Requirements

1. The permittee must electronically report the DMR, OMR and additional monitoring data using the web based electronic NetDMR reporting system, unless a waiver is granted by EPD.

   a. The permittee must comply with the Federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Electronic Reporting regulations in 40 CFR §127. The permittee must electronically report the DMR, OMR, and additional monitoring data using the web based electronic NetDMR reporting system online at: https://netdmr.epa.gov/netdmr/public/home.htm

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

   c. The permittee shall submit the DMR, OMR and additional monitoring data no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 15th day of the month following the sampling period.

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

2. **No later than December 21, 2025**, the permittee must electronically report the following compliance monitoring data and reports using the online web based electronic system approved by EPD, unless a waiver is granted by EPD:

   a. Sewer Overflow/Bypass Event Reports;

   b. Noncompliance Notification;

   c. Other noncompliance; and

   d. Bypass

L. Other Reports

All other reports required in this permit not listed above in Part II.L.2 or unless otherwise stated, shall be submitted to the EPD Office listed on the permit issuance letter signed by the Director of EPD.

M. Signatory Requirements

All reports, certifications, data or information submitted in compliance with this permit or requested by EPD must be signed and certified as follows:

a. Any State or NPDES Permit Application form submitted to the EPD shall be signed as follows in accordance with the Federal Regulations, 40 C.F.R. 122.22:

1. For a corporation, by a responsible corporate officer. A responsible corporate officer means:

   i. a president, secretary, treasurer, or vice president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy- or decision making functions for the corporation, or
   ii. the manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities employing more than 250 persons or having gross annual sales or expenditures exceeding $25 million (in second-quarter 1980 dollars), if authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.

2. For a partnership or sole proprietorship, by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively; or

3. For a municipality, State, Federal, or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.

b. All other reports or requests for information required by the permit issuing authority shall be signed by a person designated in (a) above or a duly authorized representative of such person, if:

   1. The representative so authorized is responsible for the overall operation of the facility from which the discharge originates, e.g., a plant manager, superintendent or person of equivalent responsibility;

   2. The authorization is made in writing by the person designated under (a) above; and

   3. The written authorization is submitted to the Director.

c. Any changes in written authorization submitted to the permitting authority under (b) above which occur after the issuance of a permit shall be reported to the permitting authority by submitting a copy of a new written authorization which meets the requirements of (b) and (b.1) and (b.2) above.

d. Any person signing any document under (a) or (b) above shall make the following certification:

   "I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

PART III. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

A.1.a EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Facilities Using Surface Water as a Raw Source Water:

The discharge from the water treatment plant shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below starting on the effective date of the permit and continuing for 12 months:

Parameters	Discharge limitations in mg/L unless otherwise specified		Monitoring Requirements		
	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Flow (MGD)	Report	Report	One Day/Week	Instantaneous	Effluent
Total Suspended Solids	30	45	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Recoverable Aluminum [1]	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Recoverable Iron [2]	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Phosphorus, as P	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Escherichia coli (#/100 mL) [3]	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Fecal Coliform Bacteria (#/100 mL) [3]	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent

Parameters	Discharge limitations in mg/L unless otherwise specified	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
pH, Daily Minimum – Daily Maximum (Standard Unit)	6.0 – 8.5	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Residual Chlorine, Daily Maximum [4]	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent

(1) Total recoverable aluminum monitoring requirement is only applicable if aluminum-based chemicals are used in the treatment process. The permittee must use the appropriate No Data Indicator (NODI) code in the Discharge Monitoring Reports if monitoring is not required.

(2) Total recoverable iron monitoring requirement is only applicable if iron-based chemicals are used in the treatment process. The permittee must use the appropriate No Data Indicator (NODI) code in the Discharge Monitoring Reports if monitoring is not required.

(3) Either fecal coliform bacteria or *Escherichia coli* monitoring is required. Refer to your Notice of Coverage Letter to determine the applicable bacteria effluent monitoring requirements.

(4) Total residual chlorine (TRC) monitoring requirements only apply if chlorine is in use at the facility. The TRC limit shall be calculated as follows:

Dilution Factor = (7Q10 + Wastewater Discharge Flow) / Wastewater Discharge Flow

Daily maximum TRC limit = 0.011 mg/L x Dilution Factor

The limit for TRC shall be the lower of either 0.5 mg/L or the calculated TRC limitation. If the TRC limit calculation is greater than 0.5 mg/L, the permittee will be required to meet the technology-based limit of 0.5 mg/L.

A.1.b EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Facilities Using Surface Water as a Raw Source Water:

The discharge from the water treatment plant shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below starting 12 months after the effective date of the permit:

Parameters	Discharge limitations in mg/L unless otherwise specified		Monitoring Requirements		
	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Flow (MGD)	Report	Report	One Day/Week	Instantaneous	Effluent
Total Suspended Solids	30	45	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Recoverable Aluminum (1)	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Recoverable Iron (2)	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Phosphorus, as P	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Escherichia coli (#/100 mL) (3)	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Fecal Coliform Bacteria (#/100 mL) (3)	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent

Parameters	Discharge limitations in mg/L unless otherwise specified	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
pH, Daily Minimum – Daily Maximum (Standard Unit)	6.0 – 8.5	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Residual Chlorine, Daily Maximum (4)	0.011	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent

(1) Total recoverable aluminum monitoring requirement is only applicable if aluminum-based chemicals are used in the treatment process. The permittee must use the appropriate No Data Indicator (NODI) code in the Discharge Monitoring Reports if monitoring is not required.

(2) Total recoverable iron monitoring requirement is only applicable if iron-based chemicals are used in the treatment process. The permittee must use the appropriate No Data Indicator (NODI) code in the Discharge Monitoring Reports if monitoring is not required.

(3) Either fecal coliform bacteria or *Escherichia coli* monitoring is required. Refer to your Notice of Coverage Letter to determine the applicable bacteria effluent monitoring requirements.

(4) Total residual chlorine (TRC) monitoring requirements only apply if chlorine is in use at the facility. The permittee must use the appropriate No Data Indicator (NODI) code in the Discharge Monitoring Reports if monitoring is not required.

A.2.a EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Facilities Using Groundwater as a Raw Source Water:

The discharge from the water treatment plant shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below starting on the effective date of the permit and continuing for 12 months:

Parameters	Discharge limitations in mg/L unless otherwise specified		Monitoring Requirements		
	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Flow (MGD)	Report	Report	One Day/Week	Instantaneous	Effluent
Total Suspended Solids	30	45	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Recoverable Aluminum	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Recoverable Iron	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Recoverable Arsenic	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Phosphorus, as P [1]	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent

Parameters	Discharge limitations in mg/L unless otherwise specified	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
pH, Daily Minimum – Daily Maximum (Standard Unit)	6.0 – 8.5	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Residual Chlorine, Daily Maximum [2]	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent

(1) Total phosphorus, as P monitoring requirement is only applicable if phosphorus-based chemicals are used in the treatment process.

(2) Total residual chlorine (TRC) monitoring requirements only apply if chlorine is in use at the facility. The permittee must use the appropriate No Data Indicator (NODI) code in the Discharge Monitoring Reports if monitoring is not required.
The TRC limit shall be calculated as follows:

Dilution Factor = (7Q10 + Wastewater Discharge Flow) / Wastewater Discharge Flow

Daily maximum TRC limit = 0.011 mg/L x Dilution Factor

The limit for TRC shall be the lower of either 0.5 mg/L or the calculated TRC limitation. If the TRC limit calculation is greater than 0.5 mg/L, the permittee will be required to meet the technology-based limit of 0.5 mg/L.

A.2.b EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Facilities Using Groundwater as a Raw Source Water:

The discharge from the water treatment plant shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below starting 12 months after the effective date of the permit:

Parameters	Discharge limitations in mg/L unless otherwise specified		Monitoring Requirements		
	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Flow (MGD)	Report	Report	One Day/Week	Instantaneous	Effluent
Total Suspended Solids	30	45	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Recoverable Aluminum	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Recoverable Iron	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Recoverable Arsenic	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Phosphorus, as P (1)	Report	Report	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent

Parameters	Discharge limitations in mg/L unless otherwise specified	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
pH, Daily Minimum – Daily Maximum (Standard Unit)	6.0 – 8.5	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent
Total Residual Chlorine, Daily Maximum (2)	0.011	One Day/Month	Grab	Effluent

(1) Total phosphorus, as P monitoring requirement is only applicable if phosphorus-based chemicals are used in the treatment process.

(2) Total residual chlorine (TRC) monitoring requirements only apply if chlorine is in use at the facility. The permittee must use the appropriate No Data Indicator (NODI) code in the Discharge Monitoring Reports if monitoring is not required.

PART IV. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Management Requirements

1. Facility Operation

The permittee shall maintain and operate efficiently all treatment or control facilities and related equipment installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with this permit. Efficient operation and maintenance include effective performance, adequate funding, adequate operator staffing and training, and adequate laboratory and process controls, including appropriate quality assurance procedures. Back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems shall be operated only when necessary to achieve permit compliance.

2. Change In Discharge

Any anticipated facility expansions, or process modifications which will result in new, different, or increased discharges of pollutants require the submission of a new NPDES permit application. If the changes will not violate the permit effluent limitations, the permittee may notify EPD without submitting an application. The permittee should notify EPD if their water intake changes or their water treatment process changes significantly. The Notice of Coverage may then be modified to specify and limit any pollutants not previously limited.

3. Noncompliance Notification

A permittee who does not comply with any permit effluent limit 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 5 days. The written report shall contain:

a. A description of the noncompliance and its cause; and

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

c. The steps taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncomplying discharge.

4. 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.

5. Other Noncompliance

The permittee must report all instances of noncompliance not reported under other specific reporting requirements, at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information required under conditions of twenty-four hour reporting.

6. Operator Certification Requirements

The person responsible for the daily operation of the facility must be a Certified Operator in compliance with the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act, as amended. The class level for the certified Operator must comply with the minimum plant or system classification level specified in Section 391-3-6-.39 of Rules for Safe Drinking Water. In lieu of a wastewater operator certification, the appropriate certification requirements for a water plant operator for this facility will be sufficient.

7. Laboratory Analyst Certification Requirements

Laboratory Analysts must be certified in compliance with the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act, as amended. In lieu of wastewater laboratory analyst certification, the appropriate certification requirements for a water laboratory analyst for this facility will be sufficient.

8. Bypassing

Any diversion of wastewater from or bypassing of wastewater around the permitted treatment works is prohibited, except if:

a. Bypassing is unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;

b. There are no feasible alternatives to bypassing; and

c. The permittee notifies the EPD at least 10 days before the date of the bypass.

Feasible alternatives to bypassing include use of auxiliary treatment facilities and retention of untreated waste. The permittee must take all possible measures to prevent bypassing during routine preventative maintenance by installing adequate back-up equipment.

The permittee shall operate the facility and the sewer system to minimize discharge of pollutants from combined sewer overflows or bypasses and may be required by the EPD to submit a plan and schedule to reduce bypasses, overflows, and infiltration.

Any unplanned bypass must be reported following the requirements for noncompliance notification specified in Part IV.A.4. The permittee may be liable for any water quality violations that occur as a result of bypassing the facility.

9. Power Failures

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

10. 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.

11. Upset Provision

Provision under 40 CFR 122.41(n)(1)-(4), regarding "Upset" shall be applicable to any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding brought to enforce this permit.

B. Responsibilities

1. Compliance

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

a. Enforcement action;

b. Denial of coverage under this permit.

It shall not be a defense of the 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 the EPD, the Regional Administrator of EPA, and their authorized representatives, agents, or employees after they present credentials to:

a. Enter the permittee's premises where a regulated activity or facility is located, or where any records required by this permit are kept;

b. Review and copy any records required by this permit;

c. Inspect any facilities, equipment, practices, or operations regulated or required by this permit; and

d. Sample any substance or parameter at any location.

3. Submittal of Information

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

4. Availability of Reports

Except for data determined to be confidential by the Director of EPD under O.C.G.A. 12-5-26 or by the Regional Administrator of EPA under the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 2, all reports prepared to comply with this permit shall be available for public inspection at an EPD office. Effluent data, permit applications, permittee names and addresses, and permits shall not be considered confidential.

5. Civil and Criminal Liabilities

The permittee is liable for civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance with this permit and must comply with applicable State and Federal laws including promulgated water quality standards. The permit cannot be interpreted to relieve the permittee of this liability even if it has not been modified to incorporate new requirements.

6. Property Rights

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights of either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, or any infringement of Federal, State or local laws or regulations.

7. 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.

8. Severability

The provisions of this permit are severable. If any permit provision or the application of any permit provision to any circumstance is held invalid, the provision does not affect other circumstances or the remainder of this permit.

9. Previous Permits

All previous State wastewater permits issued to this facility, whether for construction or operation, are hereby revoked on the effective date of this permit. This action is taken to assure compliance with the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, as amended, and the Federal Clean Water Act, as amended. Receipt of the permit constitutes notice of such action. The conditions, requirements, terms and provisions of this permit authorizing discharge under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System govern discharges from this facility.

PART V. APPROVED SLUDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

1. This general permit allows for sludge generated at the facility to be sent to another permitted facility and/or third party for further treatment and/or ultimate disposal.

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

3. The permittee will maintain sludge handling records in accordance with Part II.B. of the Permit.

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

PART VI. DEFINITIONS

a. **"Applicant"** means the owner of the site or the operator of the site.

b. **"Coagulation"** means a process using coagulant chemicals and mixing by which colloidal and suspended materials are destabilized and agglomerated into flocs.

c. **"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.

d. **"Conventional filtration treatment"** means a series of processes including coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration resulting in substantial particulate removal.

e. **"CWA"** means the Clean Water Act (formerly referred to as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972) found at 33 USC 1251 et seq.

f. **"Department"** means the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

g. **"Direct Filtration"** means a series of processes including coagulation and filtration but excluding sedimentation resulting in substantial particulate removal.

h. **"Director"** means the Director of the EPD.

i. **"Discharge of a Pollutant"** means any addition of any "pollutant" or combination of pollutants to "waters of the State" from any "point source." This definitions includes additions of pollutants into waters of the State from: surface runoff which is collected or channeled by man; discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances owned by a State, municipality, or other persons which do not lead to treatment works; and discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances, leading into privately owned treatment works. This term does not include an addition of pollutants by any "indirect discharger."

j. **"DMR"** means discharge monitoring report.

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

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

m. **"Effluent limitation"** means any restriction imposed by the Director on quantities, discharge rates, and concentrations of "pollutant" which are "discharge" from "point sources" into waters of the United States, the waters of the "contiguous zone," or the ocean.

n. **"EPA"** or **"US EPA"** means the United States Environmental Protection Agency and any of its authorized personnel.

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

p. **"Federal Act"** mean The Clean Water Act.

q. **"Filtration"** means a process for removing particulate matter from water by passage through porous media.

r. **"Flocculation"** means a process to enhance agglomeration or collection of smaller floc particles into larger, more easily settleable particles through gentle stirring by hydraulic or mechanical means.

s. **"Grab Sample"** means an individual sample of at least 100 milliliters collected at a randomly-selected time over a period not exceeding 15 minutes.

t. **"General Permit"** means an NPDES permit issued under Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR), Part 122.28 authorizing a category of discharges under the Federal Clean Water Act (Federal Act) within a geographical area.

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

v. **"Membrane filtration"** is a pressure or vacuum driven separation process in which particulate matter larger than 1 micrometer is rejected by an engineered barrier, primarily through a size-exclusion mechanism, and which has measurable removal efficiency of a target organism that can be verified through the application of a direct integrity test. This definition includes the common membrane technologies of microfiltration, ultrafiltration, nanofiltration, and reverse osmosis.

w. **"MGD"** means millions gallons per day.

x. **"Monthly Average"** means the arithmetic mean of values obtained for samples collected during a calendar month, other than for fecal coliform bacteria and *Escherichia Coli.*

y. **"Notice of Intent (NOI)"** means the form used by a potential permittee to notify the EPD that they intend to seek coverage under a general permit.

z. **"Notice of Termination (NOT)"** means the form used by a permittee to notify the EPD that they wish to cease coverage under a general permit"

aa. **"Operator" or "certified operator"** means the person who has direct general charge of the day-to-day field operation of the septage storage, pretreatment, and disposal systems and who is responsible for the quality of the treated septage; and who holds a valid certification acceptable to the Division.

bb. **"Owner"** means any person owning a facility that discharges to waters of the State.

cc. **"Permittee"** means the owner or operator of the water treatment plant that has submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under this general permit and who is authorized for coverage under this permit.

dd. **"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.

ee. **"Pollutant"** means dredges 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.

ff. **"Rules"** means the Georgia Rules and regulations for Water Quality Control.

gg. **"Sedimentation"** means a process of removal of solids before filtration by gravity or separation.

hh. **"Slow Sand Filtration"** means a process involving passage of raw water through a bed of sand at low velocity (generally less than 0.4 m/h) resulting in substantial particulate removal by physical and biologicals mechanisms.

ii. **"State Act"** means the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Official Code of Georgia Annotated; Title 12, Chapter 5, Article 20).

jj. **"State Rules"** means the Georgia Rules and regulations for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, as amended.

kk. **"Waters of Georgia or Waters of the State"** means 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 confined and retained completely upon the property of a single individual, partnership, or corporation.

ll. **"Weekly Average"** means the arithmetic mean of values obtained for samples collected during a 7-day period, other than for fecal coliform bacteria and *Escherichia Coli*. The week begins 12:00 midnight Saturday and ends at 12:00 midnight the following Saturday. For reporting required of this permit, a week that starts in one month and ends in another month shall be considered part of the second month. The permittee may calculate and report the weekly average as a 7-day moving average.

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division proposes to reissue the General NPDES Permit GAG640000, which authorizes discharges from drinking water treatment plants. The draft permit places conditions on the discharge of pollutants to waters of the State.

Technical Contact:

Benoit Causse
benoit.causse@dnr.ga.gov
404-463-4958

Draft permit:

- ☐ First issuance
- ☐ Reissuance with no or minor modifications from previous permit
- ☒ Reissuance with substantial modifications from previous permit
- ☐ Modification of existing permit
- ☒ Requires EPA review

1. GENERAL PERMIT & ELIGIBILITY FOR COVERAGE INFORMATION

1.1 NPDES Permit No.: GAG640000

1.2 Eligibility for Coverage

This permit may cover all new and existing point source discharges of filter backwash water and sedimentation basin washdown water from drinking water treatment plants into waters of the state of Georgia.

1.3 Terminating Coverage

The Division may deny coverage under this permit based on incomplete or incorrect Notice of Intent submittal. The Director may at any time revoke coverage under this permit in accordance with the State Rules.

1.4 Notice of Termination (NOT)

A permittee that has ceased operation of a facility for which permit coverage was obtained must submit a NOT to the Division within thirty (30) days after the activity has ceased.

1.5 SIC Code and Description

SIC Code 4941 – Water Supply: Establishments primarily engaged in distributing water for sale for domestic, commercial, and industrial use.

1.6 Description of the Water Treatment Plant

Conventional Filtration Treatment

A conventional treatment system passes raw water through a sedimentation tank to remove larger settleable solids, such as sand and large organic matter. After sedimentation, a coagulant or flocculant may be injected to improve solids removal. The water may then pass through another sedimentation basin and granular filter or slow sand filter to remove additional pollutants. The filter removes solids that did not settle in the sedimentation basin.

Direct Filtration Treatment

A direct filtration treatment system performs coagulation, flocculation, and filtration without sedimentation. The coagulant or flocculant may be injected to improve solids removal. The water then passes through a filter to remove the floc and additional pollutants.

Membrane Filtration

Membrane filtration uses semi-permeable membranes to separate pollutants from water. Water is forced across the membrane by a driving force (i.e., water pressure). Pollutants are filtered out and either become stuck to the membrane or concentrated in a reject solution. The type of substances removed will be dependent on the membrane type, pore size, water pressure, and characteristics of the raw water.

1.7 Type of Wastewater Discharge

☒	Process wastewater	☐	Stormwater
☐	Domestic wastewater	☐	Combined (Describe)
☐	Other (Describe)		

1.8 Wastewaters and Solids Generated

The primary wastewaters produced in filtration Water Treatment Plants (WTP) include filter backwash and filter-to-waste. Filter backwash and filter-to-waste are expected to comprise most of the wastewater discharge.

Filter Backwash

Filter media is usually cleaned by flushing with water in the reverse direction to normal flow, with sufficient force to separate particles from the media. A typical backwashing operation lasts from 10 to 25 minutes with maximum flow rates of 15 to 20 gallons per minute (gpm) per square foot. High-water flow is used, generating a large volume of filter backwash water. Small plants may produce filter backwash sporadically; but larger plants with numerous filters may produce backwash continuously as filters are rotates for backwashing. Filter backwashing can comprise 2 to 10 percent of the total plant production of finished water. Relative to raw water, spent backwash shows higher concentrations of *Giardia lamblia* and *Cryptosporidium*. However, the quality of spent filter backwash varies from plant to plant.

Filter-to-Waste

Filter-to-waste is the initial flow generated after backwashing. The filter-to-waste does not meet the drinking water quality criteria to be sent directly into the water distribution system. Filter-to-waste is expected to contain pollutants similar to filter backwash wastewater with lower concentrations. Filter to waste amounts to approximately 0.5 percent of the total amount of water filtered at a treatment plant.

Basin Washdown

Storage basins or lagoons are often used for dewatering residuals and sludge. Periodically these units need to be cleaned by draining the remaining water from the unit and removing and disposing of the built-up residuals and sludge. Before the units are refilled and put back into service, the pipes, lining and other components need to be washed down. Frequency of basin washdown can vary depending on the size of the WTP. While this wastewater stream is intermittent, depending on the size of the basins or lagoons, it could be of notable volume.

Solids:

As explained above, solids will be generated as part of the wastewater treatment process from filter backwashing and basin washdown. This general permit does not regulate solids generated as a part of day to day drinking water treatment operations. This general permit authorizes permittees to dispose of sludge in a permitted landfill or send sludge to an off-site preparer for further treatment and ultimate disposal.

2. APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

2.1 State Regulations

Chapter 391-3-5 of the Georgia Rules and Regulations for Safe Drinking Water

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

Chapter 391-3-4 of the Georgia Rules and Regulations for Solid Waste Management

2.2 Federal Regulations

Source	Activity	Applicable Regulation
Non-POTW	Process Water Discharge	40 CFR 122 40 CFR 125 40 CFR 127 40 CFR 133 40 CFR 136
	Non-Process Water Discharges	40 CFR 122 40 CFR 125
	Sludge Use and Disposal	40 CFR 122 40 CFR 127 40 CFR 136 40 CFR 257 40 CFR 258

3. WATER QUALITY STANDARDS & RECEIVING WATERBODY INFORMATION

Section 301(b)(1)(C) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires the development of limitations in permits necessary to meet water quality standards. Federal Regulations 40 CFR 122.4(d) require that conditions in NPDES permits ensure compliance with the water quality standards which are composed of use classifications, numeric and or narrative water quality criteria and an anti-degradation policy. The use classification system designates the beneficial uses that each waterbody is expected to achieve, such as drinking water, fishing, or recreation. The numeric and narrative water quality criteria are deemed necessary to support the beneficial use classification for each water body. The antidegradation policy represents an approach to maintain and to protect various levels of water quality and uses.

3.1 Receiving Waterbody Classification and Information for Various Waterbodies:

Specific Water Quality Criteria for Classified Water Usage [391-3-6-.03(6)]:

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

(i) Bacteria: The provisions of paragraph 391-3-6-.03(6)(a)(i)1. shall apply until the effective date of EPA's final approval of the criteria specified in paragraph 391-3-6-.03(6)(a)(i)2.

1. For the months of May through October, when water contact recreation activities are expected to occur, fecal coliform not to exceed a geometric mean of 200 counts per 100 mL based on at least four samples collected from a given sampling site over a 30-day period at intervals not less than 24 hours. Should water quality and sanitary studies show fecal coliform levels from non-human sources exceed 200 counts per 100 mL (geometric mean) occasionally, then the allowable geometric mean fecal coliform shall not exceed 300 counts per 100 mL in lakes and reservoirs and 500 counts per 100 mL in free flowing freshwater streams. For the months of November through April, fecal coliform not to exceed a geometric mean of 1,000 counts per 100 mL based on at least four samples collected from a given sampling site over a 30-day period at intervals not less than 24 hours and not to exceed a maximum of 4,000 counts per 100 mL for any sample.

2. The State does not encourage swimming in these surface waters since a number of factors which are beyond the control of any State regulatory agency contribute to elevated levels of bacteria.

(ii) Dissolved oxygen: A daily average of 6.0 mg/L and no less than 5.0 mg/L at all times for waters designated as trout streams by the Wildlife Resources Division. A daily average of 5.0 mg/L and no less than 4.0 mg/L at all times for water supporting warm water species of fish.

(iii) pH: Within the range of 6.0 - 8.5.

(iv) No material or substance in such concentration that, after treatment by the public water treatment system, exceeds the maximum contaminant level established for that substance by the Environmental Protection Division pursuant to the Georgia Rules for Safe Drinking Water.

(v) Temperature: Not to exceed 90°F. At no time is the temperature of the receiving waters to be increased more than 5°F above intake temperature except that in estuarine waters the increase will not be more than 1.5°F. In streams designated as primary trout or smallmouth bass waters by the Wildlife Resources Division, there shall be no elevation of natural stream temperatures. In streams designated as secondary trout waters, there shall be no elevation exceeding 2°F of natural stream temperatures.

Recreation: General recreational activities such as water skiing, boating, and swimming, or for any other use requiring water of a lower quality, such as recreational fishing. These criteria are not to be interpreted as encouraging water contact sports in proximity to sewage or industrial waste discharges regardless of treatment requirements:

(i) Bacteria:

1. Coastal and estuarine waters: Culturable enterococci not to exceed a geometric mean of 35 counts per 100 mL. The geometric mean duration shall not be greater than 30 days. There shall be no greater than a ten percent excursion frequency of an enterococci statistical threshold value (STV) of 130 counts per 100 mL in the same 30-day interval.
2. All other recreational waters: Culturable E. coli not to exceed a geometric mean of 126 counts per 100 mL. The geometric mean duration shall not be greater than 30 days. There shall be no greater than a ten percent excursion frequency of an E. coli statistical threshold value (STV) of 410 counts per 100 mL in the same 30-day interval.

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

(iii) pH: Within the range of 6.0 - 8.5.

(iv) Temperature: Not to exceed 90°F. At no time is the temperature of the receiving waters to be increased more than 5°F above intake temperature except that in estuarine waters the increase will not be more than 1.5°F. In streams designated as primary trout or smallmouth bass waters by the Wildlife Resources Division, there shall be no elevation of natural stream temperatures. In streams designated as secondary trout waters, there shall be no elevation exceeding 2°F natural stream temperatures.

Fishing: Propagation of Fish, Shellfish, Game and Other Aquatic Life; secondary contact recreation in and on the water; or for any other use requiring water of a lower quality.

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

(ii) pH: Within the range of 6.0 - 8.5.

(iii) Bacteria: The provisions of paragraph 391-3-6-.03(6)(c)(iii)1. shall apply until the effective date of EPA's final approval of the criteria specified in paragraphs 391-3-6-.03(6)(c)(iii)2 and 391-3-6-.03(6)(c)(iii)3.

1. For the months of May through October, when water contact recreation activities are expected to occur, fecal coliform not to exceed a geometric mean of 200 counts per 100 mL based on at least four samples collected from a given sampling site over a 30-day period at intervals not less than 24 hours. Should water quality and sanitary studies show fecal coliform levels from non-human sources exceed 200 counts per 100 mL (geometric mean) occasionally, then the allowable geometric mean fecal coliform shall not exceed 300 counts per 100 mL in lakes and reservoirs and 500 counts per 100 mL in free flowing freshwater streams. For the months of November through April, fecal coliform not to exceed a geometric mean of 1,000

counts per 100 mL based on at least four samples collected from a given sampling site over a 30-day period at intervals not less than 24 hours and not to exceed a maximum of 4,000 counts per 100 mL for any sample.

2. Estuarine waters: For the months of May through October, when water contact recreation activities are expected to occur, culturable enterococci not to exceed a geometric mean of 35 counts per 100 mL. The geometric mean duration shall not be greater than 30 days. There shall be no greater than a ten percent excursion frequency of an enterococci statistical threshold value (STV) of 130 counts per 100 mL the same 30-day interval. Should water quality and sanitary studies show enterococci levels from non-human sources exceed 35 counts per 100 mL (geometric mean) occasionally, then the allowable geometric mean enterococci shall not exceed 53 counts per 100 mL in lakes and reservoirs and 88 counts per 100 mL in free flowing freshwater streams. For the months of November through April, culturable enterococci not to exceed a geometric mean of 175 counts per 100 mL. The geometric mean duration shall not be greater than 30 days. There shall be no greater than a ten percent excursion frequency of an enterococci statistical threshold value (STV) of 650 counts per 100 mL the same 30-day interval.

3. All other fishing waters: For the months of May through October, when water contact recreation activities are expected to occur, culturable E. coli not to exceed a geometric mean of 126 counts per 100 mL. The geometric mean duration shall not be greater than 30 days. There shall be no greater than a ten percent excursion frequency of an E. coli statistical threshold value (STV) of 410 counts per 100 mL in the same 30-day interval. Should water quality and sanitary studies show Ecoli levels from non-human sources exceed 126 counts per 100 mL (geometric mean) occasionally, then the allowable geometric mean E. coli shall not exceed 189 counts per 100 mL in lakes and reservoirs and 315 counts per 100 mL in free flowing freshwater streams. For the months of November through April, culturable E. coli not to exceed a geometric mean of 630 counts per 100 mL. The geometric mean duration shall not be greater than 30 days. There shall be no greater than a ten percent excursion frequency of an E. coli statistical threshold value (STV) of 2050 counts per 100 mL in the same 30-day interval.

4. The State does not encourage swimming in these surface waters since a number of factors which are beyond the control of any State regulatory agency contribute to elevated levels of bacteria.

5. For waters designated as shellfish growing areas by the Georgia DNR Coastal Resources Division, the requirements will be consistent with those established by the State and Federal agencies responsible for the National Shellfish Sanitation Program. The requirements are found in National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, 2007 Revision (or most recent version), Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

(iv) Temperature: Not to exceed 90°F. At no time is the temperature of the receiving waters to be increased more than 5°F above intake temperature except that in estuarine waters the increase will not be more than 1.5°F. In streams designated as primary trout or smallmouth bass waters by the Wildlife Resources Division, there shall be no elevation of natural stream temperatures. In streams designated as secondary trout waters, there shall be no elevation exceeding 2°F natural stream temperatures.

4. EFFLUENT LIMITS AND PERMIT CONDITIONS

4.1 Reasonable Potential Analysis (RP)

Title 40 of the Federal Code of Regulations, 40 CFR 122.44(d) requires delegated States to develop procedures for determining whether a discharge causes, has the reasonable potential to cause, or contributes to an instream excursion above a narrative or numeric criteria within a State water. If such reasonable potential is determined to exist, the NPDES permit must contain pollutant effluent limits and/or effluent limits for whole effluent toxicity. Georgia's Reasonable Potential Procedures are based on Georgia's Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control (Rules), Chapter 391-3-6. The chemical specific and biomonitoring data and other pertinent information in EPD's files will be considered in accordance with the review procedures specified in the Rules in the evaluation of a permit application and in the evaluation of the reasonable potential for an effluent to cause an exceedance in the numeric or narrative criteria.

Refer to Section 4.2 for reasonable potential analysis on effluent toxicity.

4.2 Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET)

Chronic WET test measures the effect of wastewater on indicator organisms' growth, reproduction and survival. Effluent toxicity is predicted when the No Observable Effect Concentrations (NOEC) for a test organism is less than the facility's Instream Wastewater Concentration (IWC). WET testing also requires a measure of test sensitivity known as the Percent Minimum Significant Difference (PMSD). See Table below from Section 10.2.8.3 (page 52) of EPA 821-R-02-013 *Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms*, 4th Edition, 2002 for PMSD variability criteria.

PMSD is calculated for each species tested as follows:

$$\text{MSD} = \frac{\text{Minimum Significant Data (MSD)}}{\text{Control Mean}} \times 100 \quad \%$$

TABLE 6. VARIABILITY CRITERIA (UPPER AND LOWER PMSD BOUNDS) FOR SUBLETHAL HYPOTHESIS TESTING ENDPOINTS SUBMITTED UNDER NPDES PERMITS.[1]

Test Method	Endpoint	Lower PMSD Bound	Upper PMSD Bound
Method 1000.0, Fathead Minnow Larval Survival and Growth Test	growth	12	30
Method 1002.0, *Ceriodaphnia dubia* Survival and Reproduction Test	reproduction	13	47
Method 1003.0, *Selenastrum capricornutum* Growth Test	growth	9.1	29

[1] Lower and upper PMSD bounds were determined from the 10th and 90th percentile, respectively, of PMSD data from EPA's WET Interlaboratory Variability Study (USEPA, 2001a; USEPA, 2001b).

The effluent from the water treatment plant will not be considered toxic if the No Observed Effect Concentration (NOEC) is greater than or equal to the Instream Wastewater Concentration (IWC). EPD does not anticipate effluent from dischargers covered under this general permit to be toxic; therefore, WET testing has not been included in the draft permit.

4.3 Applicable Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations (WQBELs)

When drafting a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, a permit writer must consider the impact of the proposed discharge on the quality of the receiving water. Water quality goals for a waterbody are defined by state water quality standards. By analyzing the effect of a discharge on the receiving water, a permit writer could find that technology-based effluent limitations (TBELs) alone will not achieve the applicable water quality standards. In such cases, the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its implementing regulations require development of water quality-based effluent limitations (WQBELs). WQBELs help meet the CWA objective of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters and the goal of water quality that provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation in and on the water (*fishable/swimmable*).

WQBELs are designed to protect water quality by ensuring that water quality standards are met in the receiving water and downstream uses are protected. On the basis of the requirements of Title 40 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) 125.3(a), additional or more stringent effluent limitations and conditions, such as WQBELs, are imposed when TBELs are not sufficient to protect water quality.

The term *pollutant* is defined in CWA section 502(6) and § 122.2. Pollutants are grouped into three categories under the NPDES program: conventional, toxic, and nonconventional. Conventional pollutants are those defined in CWA section 304(a)(4) and § 401.16 (BOD_5, TSS, fecal coliform, pH, and oil and grease). Toxic (priority) pollutants are those defined in CWA section 307(a)(1) and include 126 metals and manmade organic compounds. Nonconventional pollutants are those that do not fall under either of the above categories (conventional or toxic pollutants) and include parameters such as chlorine, ammonia, nitrogen, phosphorus, chemical oxygen demand (COD), and whole effluent toxicity (WET).

4.4 Conventional Pollutants

4.4.1 Source Water: Surface Water

Pollutants of Concern	Basis
pH	The pH limit of 6.0-8.5 SU (daily minimum – daily maximum) is in accordance with the instream Water Quality Standards in Section 3.1 above.
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	The EPA's secondary treatment standards establish the minimum treatment requirements for publicly-owned treatment works (POTW) treating domestic sewage. Water treatment plants eligible for coverage under this general permit have similar pollutants in their discharge and employ similar wastewater treatment processes to small POTWs. EPD used the secondary treatment standards for establishing TSS limits for the general permit; therefore, the monthly average TSS limit of 30 mg/L has been included in the draft permit.
Fecal Coliform Bacteria (FCB)	The source water (surface water) may contain FCB at levels of concern; therefore, effluent monitoring for these bacteria has been included in the draft permit to be protective of all receiving waters across Georgia. Monitoring for fecal coliform bacteria in the effluent is only required for discharges to waters of the state designated as fishing waters or drinking water supplies.
Escherichia coli (*E.coli*)	The source water (surface water) may contain *E. Coli* at levels of concern; therefore, effluent monitoring for these bacteria has been included in the draft permit to be protective of all receiving waters across Georgia. Monitoring for *E. Coli* in the effluent is only required for discharges to waters of the state designated as recreational waters.

4.4.2 Source Water: Groundwater

Pollutants of Concern	Basis
pH	The pH limit of 6.0-8.5 SU (daily minimum – daily maximum) is in accordance with the instream Water Quality Standards in Section 3.1 above.
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	The EPA's secondary treatment standards establish the minimum treatment requirements for publicly-owned treatment works (POTW) treating domestic sewage. Water treatment plants eligible for coverage under this general permit have similar pollutants in their discharge and employ similar wastewater treatment processes to small POTWs. EPD used the secondary treatment standards for establishing TSS limits for the general permit; therefore, the monthly average TSS limit of 30 mg/L has been included in the draft permit.
Fecal Coliform Bacteria (FCB)	The source water (Groundwater) is very unlikely to contain FCB at levels of concern; therefore, effluent monitoring for these bacteria has not been included in the draft permit.
Escherichia coli (*E.coli*)	The source water (Groundwater) is very unlikely to contain *E. Coli* at levels of concern; therefore, effluent monitoring for these bacteria has not been included in the draft permit.

4.5 Nonconventional Pollutants

4.5.1 Source Water: Surface Water

Pollutants of Concern	Basis
Total Residual Chlorine (TRC)	A daily maximum TRC limit of 0.011 mg/L has been included in the draft permit to be protective of all receiving waters across Georgia. The limit has been determined using US EPA's chronic TRC criterion of 11 µg/L in the receiving stream. Since the proposed TRC limit is more stringent than the limit in the current permit, a 12-month compliance schedule has been included in the draft permit to allow time for facilities to install dechlorination equipment, and/or make some operational changes, and/or develop testing procedures. The proposed TRC limit may be below the detection limit of the analytical method. In accordance with Part II.A.g in the draft permit, if the facility's effluent TRC is lower than the analytical detection limit the facility should report TRC as "non detect" in the Discharge Monitoring Reports. The detection limit of the method will also be reported.
Total Phosphorus (TP)	Phosphorous is an essential nutrient for plant growth but excessive amounts of phosphorus in a waterbody have the potential to create problems. In addition, phosphorus is the nutrient typically limiting primary productivity in freshwater ecosystems. Phosphorus is likely to be present in the source water (surface water) and may accumulate in the filter. Phosphorus-based chemicals, such as polyphosphates, may be used in the treatment process at some facilities. In accordance with *Georgia's Plan for the adoption of Nutrient Criteria, 2013*, EPD is monitoring and limiting nutrients, protecting the instream water quality standard for chlorophyll-a, specifically in the freshwater lakes. Total phosphorus monitoring has been included in the draft permit to quantify phosphorus loading to the receiving streams and associated watersheds from drinking water treatment plant dischargers

Total Recoverable Aluminum	Aluminum-based coagulants, such as alum and poly-aluminum chloride, are commonly used in coagulation and clarification to remove solid particles from raw water sources at WTPs. Filter backwashing occurs after coagulation and clarification processes, therefore, there is a likely potential for elevated levels of aluminum in the discharges; therefore, total recoverable aluminum monitoring has been included in the draft permit. The monitoring requirement is only applicable to WTPs that use aluminum-based coagulants and is intended to assess whether the metal is present at levels of concern in the discharge.
Total Recoverable Iron	Iron salts may be used as coagulants to remove solid particles from raw water sources at WTPs. Filter backwashing occurs after coagulation and clarification processes, therefore, there is a likely potential for elevated levels of iron in the discharges; therefore, total recoverable iron monitoring has been included in the draft permit. The monitoring requirement is only applicable to WTPs that use iron-based coagulants and is intended to assess whether the metal is present at levels of concern in the discharge.

4.5.2 Source Water: Groundwater

Pollutants of Concern	Basis
Total Residual Chlorine (TRC)	A daily maximum TRC limit of 0.011 mg/L has been included in the draft permit to be protective of all receiving waters across Georgia. The limit has been determined using US EPA's chronic TRC criterion of 11 µg/L in the receiving stream. Since the proposed TRC limit is more stringent than the limit in the current permit, a 12-month compliance schedule has been included in the draft permit to allow time for facilities to install dechlorination equipment, and/or make some operational changes, and/or develop testing procedures. The proposed TRC limit may be below the detection limit of the analytical method. In accordance with Part II.A.g in the draft permit, if the facility's effluent TRC is lower than the analytical detection limit the facility should report TRC as "non detect" in the Discharge Monitoring Reports. The detection limit of the method will also be reported.
Total Phosphorus (TP)	Phosphorus-based chemicals, such as polyphosphates, may be used in the treatment process at some facilities; therefore, total phosphorus monitoring has been included in the draft permit. The monitoring requirement is only applicable to WTPs that use phosphorus-based coagulants and is intended to quantify phosphorus loading to the receiving streams.
Total Recoverable Aluminum	Aluminum may be present in the source water (groundwater); therefore, monitoring for this parameter has been included in the draft permit to assess whether it is present at levels of concern in the discharge.
Total Recoverable Iron	Iron may be present in the source water (groundwater); therefore, monitoring for this parameter has been included in the draft permit to assess whether it is present at levels of concern in the discharge.
Total Recoverable Arsenic	Arsenic may be present in the source water (groundwater); therefore, monitoring for this parameter has been included in the draft permit to assess whether it is present at levels of concern in the discharge.

4.6 Calculations for Effluent Limits

4.6.1 Total Suspended Solids:

Q = Flow
C = Concentration
M = Mass

- *Weekly Average Concentration:*

$[C]_{Weekly/Max} = [C]_{Monthly}$ (mg/L) x 1.5

= 30 x 1.5

= 45 mg/L

5. OTHER PERMIT REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Sludge Management Plan (SMP)

This general permit authorizes permittees to dispose of sludge in a permitted landfill or send sludge to a permitted third party for further treatment and ultimate disposal.

Disposing of sludge via land application is not permitted under this general permit. Refer to section below for more information about land application of sludge.

5.2 Land Application of Drinking Water Sludge

40 CFR Part 503 of the federal regulations and Chapter 391-3-6.17 of the Georgia Water Quality Control Rules do not regulate sludge generated during the treatment of drinking water; therefore, land application of drinking water sludge cannot be permitted under those regulations.

However, drinking water sludge may be land applied if requirements of 40 CFR 257 and the recovered materials provisions under Chapter 391-3-4.04(7) of the Georgia Solid Waste Management Rules can be met. The Georgia Department of Agriculture may also have requirements regarding land application of drinking water sludge.

5.2 Compliance Schedules

The proposed permit includes a more stringent total residual chlorine (TRC) limit. A 12-month compliance schedule to meet the new TRC limitation has been included in the draft permit. Based on best professional judgment, the proposed compliance schedule represents the shortest reasonable period of time to allow the permittee to upgrade the treatment process and test new equipment before the limit becomes effective.

5.3 Anti-Backsliding

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

6. REPORTING

6.1 Compliance office

The compliance office will be identified in the Notice of Coverage letter.

6.2 E-Reporting

The permittee is required to electronically submit documents in accordance with 40 CFR Part 127.

7. REQUESTED VARIANCES OR ALTERNATIVES TO REQUIRED STANDARDS

Not applicable.

8. PERMIT EXPIRATION

The permit will expire five years from the effective date. Facilities covered under the general permit requesting reissuance are required to submit a new Notice of Intent (NOI) no later than 180 days prior to the expiration date of the permit.

9. PROCEDURES FOR THE FORMULATION OF FINAL DETERMINATIONS

9.1 Comment Period

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) proposes to issue General NPDES permit GAG640000 subject to the effluent limitations and special conditions outlined above. These determinations are tentative.

The NOI, draft permit, fact sheet, and other supporting information are available for review at 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 1152 East, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. 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 NPDES permit application if such request is filed within thirty (30) days following the date of the public notice for such application. Such request must indicate the interest of the party filing the request, the reasons why a hearing is requested, and those specific portions of the application or other NPDES form or information to be considered at the public hearing.

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

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

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

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

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

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.