



SUMMARY PAGE

Name of Facility: City of Cornelia – Cornelia WPCP

NPDES Permit No.: GA0021504

This is a modification of the NPDES permit for the Cornelia WPCP. The facility is permitted to discharge up to 3.0 MGD to the South Fork Mud Creek tributary to Mud Creek tributary in the Chattahoochee River Basin. The permit is being modified to include the cumulative annual maximum total phosphorus effluent limit to comply with the waste load allocation listed in the December 2017 Final Total Maximum Daily Load Evaluation for Lake Lanier in the Chattahoochee River Basin for Chlorophyll a.

The permit was placed on public notice from July 30, 2019 to August 30, 2019.

Please Note The Following Changes to the Proposed NPDES Permit From The Existing Permit:

Part I.B.1

- Added a cumulative annual maximum total phosphorus load of 3,425 lbs/year in accordance with the interim wasteload allocation listed in the Lake Lanier in the Chattahoochee River Basin for Chlorophyll a TMDL. A compliance schedule is not needed nor required to meet the annual limit.

Part I.C.11

- Removed compliance schedule for achieving the total recoverable zinc effluent limit, since the limit became effective on December 1, 2017.

Part I.C.12

- Removed permit condition Part I.C.12, titled "Reopener Clause- Lake Lanier TMDL" because this permit modification includes the interim wasteload allocation referenced in the permit condition.

Standard Conditions & Boilerplate Modifications:

The permit boilerplate includes modified language or added language consistent with other 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 document.



PERMIT REVISIONS

**City of Cornelia
Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP)
Permit No. GA0021504
Habersham County, Chattahoochee River Basin**

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

If yes, specify:

Part I.B.1 Modified footnote number two (2) requiring the facility to report the cumulative annual load on each discharge monitoring report for total phosphorus.



Richard E. Dunn, Director

Watershed Protection Branch
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1152, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-463-1511

Persons who commented on
Draft NPDES Permit No. GA0021504

NOV 07 2019

RE: EPD Response to Comments
City of Cornelia
Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP)
Permit No. GA0021504
Habersham County, Chattahoochee River Basin

Dear Sir/Madam:

Thank you for your comments regarding the permit issuance for the City of Cornelia Water Pollution Control Plant National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. Attached is a summary of comments from the public and our responses to the issues raised. In addition, we have attached the Permit Revisions documenting the changes made to the attached permit. We appreciate your interest in this matter.

After consideration of your comments, EPD has determined that the permit is protective of water quality standards and we have issued the permit.

If you have any questions, please contact Benoit Causse of my staff at 404-463-1511.

Sincerely,

Audra Dickson, Manager
Wastewater Regulatory Program

AD
Attachment: Response to Comments

**Public Comments and EPD Responses on Draft NPDES Permit
City of Cornelia (Cornelia WPCP) – Permit No. GA0021504**

| COMMENT RECEIVED | EPD RESPONSE |
|--|---|
| <p>While in this modification EPD has included the annual total phosphorus load of 3,425 lbs/year in accordance with the TMDL as a footnote in Table B of the draft permit, the weekly and monthly average concentration-based and load-based effluent limits do not match the annual load in the TMDL. This is an inappropriate interpretation of TMDL.</p> <p>The proposed permit modification fails to address the issues characterized in the TMDL Plan. Simply including a footnote that the permittee cannot exceed a cumulative annual total phosphorous load of 3,425 lbs/year does not adequately ensure that the facility limits its phosphorous loads especially during critical summer months. Since the annual load is only calculated and reported once a year—at the end of the year—the facility could discharge large amounts of phosphorus for months and not know that it had surpassed and was exceeding the annual load. Also, depending on the season and recent rainfall, a large pulse of total phosphorus from the facility into Lake Lanier could cause and algal bloom and contribute to the impairment of Lake Lanier.</p> | <p>The City of Cornelia's permit is being modified to include the annual total phosphorus effluent limit for the interim wasteload allocation, as required in the December 2017 Final Total Maximum Daily Load Evaluation for Lake Lanier in the Chattahoochee River Basin for Chlorophyll a (TMDL). The TMDL does not require a specific monthly or weekly average permit limit, as it only allocates an annual limit.</p> <p>The City is expected to operate and maintain the wastewater treatment plant in compliance with the prescribed permit conditions and meet the established monthly average, weekly average, and cumulative annual effluent limits for total phosphorus.</p> <p>EPD has modified Part I.B of the permit to include the following language in footnote number two (2) requiring the City to report the cumulative load on a monthly basis, "For reporting purposes, annual maximum quantity refers to the total amount of total phosphorus (lb/year) discharged between April 1 and March 31. On a monthly basis, the permittee shall calculate and report the monthly loading of total phosphorus (lb/month), as well as the cumulative quantity in the current annual reporting period."</p> |
| <p>The units for the annual load of total phosphorus in the footnote and the weekly and monthly effluent limit for total phosphorus in Table B of the Draft Permit are inconsistent. The units on the annual load are in lbs/year, while the weekly and monthly load in Table B is calculated in kg/day. The annual load and the weekly and monthly load should both be calculated in the same units (either pounds or kilograms).</p> | <p>Comment noted. The permit has weekly average and monthly average loading effluent limits in units of kg/day. The above referenced TMDL included annual wasteload allocations for total phosphorus in the units of lbs/year. To convert kilograms to pounds, multiply the kilogram value by 2.2. No changes were made to the permit.</p> |



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Richard E. Dunn, Director

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

NOV 7 2019

Honorable James Irby, Mayor
City of Cornelia
P.O. Box 785
Cornelia, GA 30530

**RE: Permit Modification Issuance
Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP)
Permit No. GA0021504
Habersham County, Chattahoochee River Basin**

Dear Mr. Irby:

Pursuant to the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, as amended; the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended; and the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder, we have today issued the attached National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the referenced wastewater treatment facility. The permit has been modified to include the cumulative annual maximum total phosphorus effluent limit to comply with the wasteload allocation listed in the December 2017 Total Maximum Daily Load Evaluation for Lake Lanier.

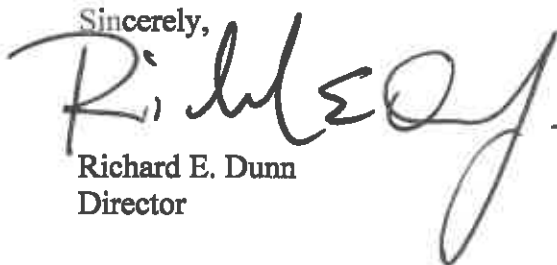
Your facility has been assigned to the following EPD office for reporting and compliance:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
P.O. Box 3250
16 Center Rd.
Cartersville, GA 30120

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

If you have any questions, please contact Audra Dickson at 404-463-4934 or audra.dickson@dnr.ga.gov.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Dunn
Director

RED\ahd

Attachment: NPDES Permit No. GA0021504, Fact Sheet

cc: EPA Region IV Mailbox (R4NPDESPermits@epa.gov)
Mr. Andrew C. Pilgrim, Plant Manager- City of Cornelia WPCP (apilgrim@corneliageorgia.org),
EPD Mountain District Office, Mick Smith, District (mick.smith@dnr.ga.gov)



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

In compliance with the provisions of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Georgia Laws 1964, p. 416, as amended), hereinafter called the State Act; the Federal 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,

City of Cornelia
Post Office Box 785
Cornelia, Georgia 30531

is authorized to discharge from a facility located at

Cornelia Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP)
514 Nicolon Drive
Cornelia, Georgia 30531
(Habersham County)

to receiving waters

South Fork Mud Creek tributary to Mud Creek tributary
in the Chattahoochee River Basin

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

This permit is issued in reliance upon the permit application signed on December 1, 2014, any other applications upon which this permit is based, supporting data entered therein or attached thereto, and any subsequent submittal of supporting data.

This is a modification of the permit originally issued on June 9, 2015 and subsequently modified on November 14, 2016. This permit shall become effective on December 1, 2019. This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, June 8, 2020.



Director
Environmental Protection Division

PART I

EPD is the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

The Federal Act referred to is The Clean Water Act.

The State Act referred to is The Water Quality Control Act (Act No. 870).

The State Rules referred to are The Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control (Chapter 391-3-6).

A. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. MONITORING

The concentration of pollutants in the discharge will be limited as indicated by the table(s) labeled "Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements." The effluent shall meet the requirements in the table(s) or the condition in paragraph I.A.1.a., whichever yields the higher quality effluent.

- a. For 5 day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) and total suspended solids (TSS), the arithmetic mean of the values of the effluent samples collected during a month shall not exceed 15 percent of the arithmetic mean of values for influent samples collected at approximately the same times (85 percent removal). In accordance with Chapter 391-3-6-.06(4)(d) 2., of the State Rules, under certain conditions the 85 percent removal requirement may not be applicable, as specified in 40 CFR 133.5₅
- b. The monthly average, other than for fecal coliform bacteria, is the arithmetic mean of values obtained for samples collected during a calendar month.
- c. The weekly average, other than for fecal coliform bacteria, 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 I.C.2. 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. Fecal coliform bacteria will be reported as the geometric mean of the values for the samples collected during the time periods in I.A.1.b. and I.A.1.c.
- e. Untreated wastewater influent samples required by I.B. shall be collected before any return or recycle flows. These flows include returned activated sludge, supernatants, centrates, filtrates, and backwash.
- f. Effluent samples required by I.B. of this permit shall be collected after the final treatment process and before discharge to receiving waters. Composite samples may be collected before chlorination with written EPD approval.

- g. A composite sample shall consist of a minimum of 13 subsamples collected at least once every 2 hours for at least 24 hours and shall be composited proportionately to flow. Effluent Composite samples shall be taken by collecting a subsample during the middle of each decant phase of the sequencing batch reactor basins over at least an eight hour period and then compositing these samples proportionately to flow.
- h. 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 $\pm 10\%$ of the actual flow.

Flow shall be measured manually to check the flow meter calibration at a frequency of once a month. If secondary flow instruments are in use and malfunction or fail to maintain calibration as required, the flow shall be computed from manual measurements or by other method(s) approved by EPD until such time as the secondary flow instrument is repaired. For facilities which utilize alternate technologies for measuring flow, the flow measurement device must be calibrated semi-annually by qualified personnel.

Records of the calibration checks shall be maintained.

- i. If secondary flow instruments malfunction or fail to maintain calibration as required in I.A.1.h., the flow shall be computed from manual measurements taken at the times specified for the collection of composite samples.
- j. Unless otherwise specified in the permit, quarterly analyses as required in I.B. shall be performed during each quarter and submitted in March, June, September, and December. Results of analyses required twice per year shall be submitted in June and December. Results of analyses required annually shall be submitted in June.
- k. Some parameters must be analyzed to the detection limits specified by the EPD. These 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.

2. SLUDGE DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Sludge shall be disposed of according to the regulations and guidelines established by the EPD and the Federal Act section 405(d) and (e), and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). In land applying nonhazardous municipal sewage sludge, the permittee shall comply with the general criteria outlined in the most current version of the EPD "Guidelines for Land Application of Sewage Sludge (Biosolids) at Agronomic Rates" and with the State Rules, Chapter 391-3-6-.17. Before disposing of municipal sewage sludge by land application or any method other than co-disposal in a permitted sanitary landfill, the permittee shall submit a sludge management plan to EPD for written approval. This plan will become a part of the NPDES Permit after approval and modification of the permit. The permittee shall notify the EPD of any changes planned in an approved sludge management plan.

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

3. SLUDGE MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

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. Records shall be maintained documenting that the quantity of solids removed from the facility equals the solids generated on an average day. The total quantity of sludge removed from the facility during the reporting period shall be reported each month with the Discharge Monitoring Reports as required under Part I.C.2. of this permit. The quantity shall be reported on a dry weight basis (dry tons).

Pond treatment systems are required to report the total quantity of sludge removed from the facility only during the months that sludge is removed.

4. INTRODUCTION OF POLLUTANTS INTO THE PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS (POTW)

The permittee must notify EPD of:

- a. Any new introduction of pollutants into the POTW from an indirect discharger that would be subject to Sections 301 or 306 of the Federal Act if the pollutants were directly discharged to a receiving stream; and
- b. Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants from a source that existed when the permit was issued.

This notice shall include information on the quality and quantity of the indirect discharge introduced and any anticipated impact on the quantity or quality of effluent to be discharged from the POTW.

5. 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.

B. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Discharge to South Fork Mud Creek (34.522304, -83.552795):

The discharge from the water pollution control plant shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as follows:

| Parameter | Discharge Limitations mg/L (kg/day) unless otherwise specified | | Monitoring Requirements | | |
|--|--|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Monthly Average | Weekly Average | Measurement Frequency | Sample Type | Sample Location |
| Flow (MGD) | 3.0 | 3.75 | Seven Days/Week | Continuous Recording | Influent or Effluent |
| Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand, 5-Day | 25 (284) | 37.5 (355) | Three Days/Week | Composite | Influent & Effluent |
| Total Suspended Solids | 20 (227) | 30 (284) | Three Days/Week | Composite | Influent & Effluent |
| Ammonia, as N | 1.5 (17) | 2.3 (21) | Three Days/Week | Composite | Effluent |
| Fecal Coliform Bacteria (#/100mL) | 200 | 400 | Two Days/Week | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Phosphorus, as P ⁽²⁾ | 1.1 (12.5) | 1.7 (15.6) | Three Days/Week | Composite | Effluent |
| Total Residual Chlorine ⁽¹⁾ | 0.013 | 0.013 | Seven Days/Week | Grab | Effluent |
| Total Recoverable Zinc (mg/L) | 0.0934 (0.1401) | 1.062 (1.328) | One Day/Month | Composite | Effluent |

⁽¹⁾ This is a maximum daily limitation.

⁽²⁾ In addition to the total phosphorus monthly average and weekly average discharge limits listed above, the permittee must not exceed a cumulative annual maximum total phosphorus load of 3,425 lbs/year. For reporting purposes, annual maximum quantity refers to the total amount of total phosphorus (lb/year) discharged between April 1 and March 31. On a monthly basis, the permittee shall calculate and report the monthly loading of total phosphorus (lb/month), as well as the cumulative quantity in the current annual reporting period.

(Effluent limitations continued on the next page)

B. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (Continued)

Discharge to South Fork Mud Creek (34.522304, -83.552795):

The discharge from the water pollution control plant shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as follows:

| Parameters | Discharge Limitations mg/L unless otherwise specified | Monitoring Requirements | | |
|--|--|-------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| | | Measurement Frequency | Sample Type | Sample Location |
| pH, Minimum – Maximum (Standard Unit) | 6.0 – 8.5 | Seven Days/Week | Grab | Effluent |
| Dissolved Oxygen, Minimum | 6.0 | Seven Days/Week | Grab | Effluent |
| Ortho-Phosphate, as P ⁽¹⁾ | Report | One Day/Month | Composite | Effluent |
| Total Nitrogen, as N ⁽²⁾ | Report | One Day/Month | Composite | Effluent |
| Nitrate-Nitrite, as N ⁽²⁾ | Report | One Day/Month | Composite | Effluent |
| Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, as N ⁽²⁾ | Report | One Day/Month | Composite | Effluent |
| Whole Effluent Toxicity Test (%) ⁽³⁾ | Report NOEC | Annually | Composite | Effluent |
| Long-Term Biochemical Oxygen Demand ⁽⁴⁾ | Report | See Below | Composite | Effluent |

⁽¹⁾ Ortho-Phosphate and Total Phosphorus must be analyzed from the same sample.

⁽²⁾ Total Nitrogen, Nitrate-Nitrite, Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen and Ammonia must be analyzed or calculated from the same sample.

⁽³⁾ Refer to Part I.C.9. CHRONIC WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY

⁽⁴⁾ Refer to Part I.C.10. LONG TERM BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND

C. MONITORING AND REPORTING

1. 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 and monitoring schedule.

2. SAMPLING PERIOD

- 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. ADDITIONAL MONITORING BY PERMITTEE

If the permittee monitors required parameters at the locations designated in I.B. more frequently than required, the permittee shall analyze all samples using approved analytical methods specified in I.C.3. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

For watersheds in which the permittee is the jurisdictional authority for the overall watershed protection plan, the permittee must develop a watershed protection plan that reflects the findings of the watershed assessment.

For watersheds in which the permittee is not the jurisdictional authority for the overall watershed protection plan, the permittee, in cooperation with the applicable jurisdictional authority or authorities, must develop a watershed protection plan that reflects the findings of the watershed assessment. The implementation of the watershed protection plan is the responsibility of the relevant party or parties that hold jurisdictional authority over the named Assessment Area. The permittee will assist the jurisdictional authority or authorities with aspects of the watershed protection plan

under the control of the permittee. Any failure by the jurisdictional authority or authorities to meet the commitments specified in the watershed protection plan will not be considered a violation of this permit by the permittee.

The permittee has conducted a watershed assessment (approved August 12, 2013) and developed a watershed protection plan that is under review by EPD. If further revisions are required by EPD, the permittee shall make such revisions within 30 days of written request from EPD. The watershed protection plan shall be enforceable through this permit.

The watershed protection plan must provide for the following:

- a. The watershed protection plan shall apply to the Assessment Area as defined above. The plan will utilize the information generated in the permittee's watershed assessment to establish a baseline of watershed conditions and to provide ongoing long-term monitoring according to the approved plan to either verify that the plan is effective or to modify the plan such that water quality standards will be achieved.
- b. The watershed protection plan must include a schedule for correcting current water quality problems that are causing water quality standards violations. The permittee and or relevant jurisdictional authority shall provide ongoing monitoring to verify that the actions taken to correct the water quality problems are effective.
- c. The permittee shall develop and put in place best management practices (BMPs) to prevent future water quality standards violations.
- d. The plan will provide ongoing monitoring to verify that the BMPs are working or to provide the information necessary to modify the BMPs to achieve water quality standards.

Annual Report

Once the watershed protection plan is approved, each June 30th the permittee is to submit the following to EPD:

- a. An annual certification statement documenting that the plan is being implemented as approved. The certification statement shall read as follows: "I certify, under penalty of law, that the watershed protection plan is being implemented. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."
- b. All watershed plan data collected during the previous year in an electronic format. This data shall be archived using a digital format such as a spreadsheet developed in coordination with EPD. All archived records, data, and information pertaining to the watershed protection plan shall be maintained permanently.
- c. A progress report that provides a summary of the BMPs that have been implemented and documented water quality improvements. The progress report shall also include any necessary changes to the Watershed Protection Plan.

9. CHRONIC WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY (WET)

The permittee must conduct annual chronic Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) tests. The testing must include the most current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chronic aquatic toxicity testing manuals. The referenced document is entitled Short-Term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms, 4th Edition, U.S. EPA, 821-R-02-013, October 2002. Definitive tests must be run on the same samples concurrently using both an invertebrate species (i.e., *Ceriodaphnia dubia*) and a vertebrate species (i.e., *Fathead Minnow*, *Pimephales promelas*). The testing must include a dilution equal to 88%.

If the test results indicate effluent toxicity (i.e., NOEC < IWC), the permittee may be required to perform additional WET tests, and/or to submit a toxicity reduction evaluation upon notification by the EPD and/or the permit may be reopened to incorporate a WET limit.

10. LONG-TERM BIOCHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND TESTING

The permittee shall perform a 120-day Long-Term BOD test once during the permit cycle. The test should be performed on an effluent sample collected during the critical period from June 1 through September 30. The results of this test shall be provided to EPD prior to renewal of the permit.

D. 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, 2020, 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. Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Annual Program Reports provided that the permittee has an approved Sewage Sludge (Biosolids) Plan;

- b. Pretreatment Program Reports provided that the permittee has an approved Industrial Pretreatment Program in this permit;
- c. Sewer Overflow/Bypass Event Reports;
- d. Noncompliance Notification;
- e. Other noncompliance; and
- f. Bypass

3. OTHER REPORTS

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

4. OTHER NONCOMPLIANCE

All instances of noncompliance not reported under Part I.B. and Part II. A. shall be reported to EPD at the time the monitoring report is submitted.

5. 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 II

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 requires 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 permit may then be modified to specify and limit any pollutants not previously limited.

3. NONCOMPLIANCE NOTIFICATION

If, for any reason the permittee does not comply with, or will be unable to comply with any effluent limitations specified in the permittee's NPDES permit, the permittee shall provide EPD with an oral report within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances followed by a written report within five (5) days of becoming aware of such condition. The written submission shall contain the following information:

- a. A description of the noncompliance and its cause; and
- b. The period of noncompliance, including the exact date and times; or, if not corrected, the anticipated time the noncompliance is expected to continue; and
- c. The steps taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncomplying discharge.

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 Class II 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, and as specified by Subparagraph 391-3-6-.12 of the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control. All other operators must have the minimum certification required by this Act.

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.

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 II.A.3. 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. NOTICE CONCERNING ENDANGERING WATERS OF THE STATE

Whenever, because of an accident or otherwise, any toxic or taste and color producing substance, or any other substance which would endanger downstream users of the waters of the State or would damage property, is discharged into such waters, or is so placed that it might flow, be washed, or fall into them, it shall be the duty of the person in charge of such substances at the time to forthwith notify EPD in person or by telephone of the location and nature of the danger, and it shall be such person's further duty to immediately take all reasonable and necessary steps to prevent injury to property and downstream users of said water.

Spills and Major Spills:

A "spill" is any discharge of raw sewage by a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) to the waters of the State.

A "major spill" means:

1. The discharge of pollutants into waters of the State by a POTW that exceeds the weekly average permitted effluent limit for biochemical oxygen demand (5-day) or total suspended solids by 50 percent or greater in one day, provided that the effluent discharge concentration is equal to or greater than 25 mg/L for biochemical oxygen demand or total suspended solids.
2. Any discharge of raw sewage that 1) exceeds 10,000 gallons or 2) results in water quality violations in the waters of the State.

"Consistently exceeding effluent limitation" means a POTW exceeding the 30 day average limit for biochemical oxygen demand or total suspended solids for at least five days out of each seven day period during a total period of 180 consecutive days.

The following specific requirements shall apply to POTW's. If a spill or major spill occurs, the owner of a POTW shall immediately:

- a. Notify EPD, in person or by telephone, when a spill or major spill occurs in the system.
- b. Report the incident to the local health department(s) for the area affected by the incident. The report at a minimum shall include the following:
 1. Date of the spill or major spill;
 2. Location and cause of the spill or major spill;
 3. Estimated volume discharged and name of receiving waters; and
 4. Corrective action taken to mitigate or reduce the adverse effects of the spill or major spill.

- c. Post a notice as close as possible to where the spill or major spill occurred and where the spill entered State waters and also post additional notices along portions of the waterway affected by the incident (i.e. bridge crossings, boat ramps, recreational areas, and other points of public access to the affected waterway). The notice at a minimum shall include the same information required in 11(b)(1-4) above. These notices shall remain in place for a minimum of seven days after the spill or major spill has ceased.
- d. Within 24 hours of becoming aware of a spill or major spill, the owner of a POTW shall report the incident to the local media (television, radio, and print media). The report shall include the same information required in 11(b)(1-4) above.
- e. Within five (5) days (of the date of the spill or major spill), the owner of a POTW shall submit to EPD a written report which includes the same information required in 11(b)(1-4) above.
- f. Within 7 days (after the date of a major spill), the owner of a POTW responsible for the major spill, shall publish a notice in the largest legal organ of the County where the incident occurred. The notice shall include the same information required in 11(b)(1-4) above.
- g. The owner of a POTW shall immediately establish a monitoring program of the receiving waters affected by a major spill or by consistently exceeding an effluent limit, with such monitoring being at the expense of the POTW for at least one year. The monitoring program shall include an upstream sampling point as well as sufficient downstream locations to accurately characterize the impact of the major spill or the consistent exceedence of effluent limitations described in the definition of "Consistently exceeding effluent limitation" above. As a minimum, the following parameters shall be monitored in the receiving stream:
 - 1. Dissolved Oxygen;
 - 2. Fecal Coliform Bacteria;
 - 3. pH;
 - 4. Temperature; and
 - 5. Other parameters required by the EPD.

The monitoring and reporting frequency as well as the need to monitor additional parameters will be determined by EPD. The results of the monitoring will be provided by the POTW owner to EPD and all downstream public agencies using the affected waters as a source of a public water supply.

- h. Within 24 hours of becoming aware of a major spill, the owner of a POTW shall provide notice of a major spill to every county, municipality, or other public agency whose public water supply is within a distance of 20 miles downstream and to any others which could be potentially affected by the major spill.

12. 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. 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 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. 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 at least 30 days in advance of the proposed transfer;

- b. An agreement is written containing a specific date for transfer of permit responsibility 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. This agreement must be submitted to the Director at least 30 days in advance of the proposed transfer; and
- c. The Director does not notify the current permittee and the new permittee within 30 days of EPD intent to modify, revoke and reissue, or terminate the permit. The Director may require that a new application be filed instead of agreeing to the transfer of the permit.

5. 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, permittees' names and addresses, and permits shall not be considered confidential.

6. PERMIT MODIFICATION

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

- a. Permit violations;
- b. Obtaining this permit by misrepresentation or by failure to disclose all relevant facts;
- c. Changing any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the permitted discharge;
- d. Changes in effluent characteristics; and
- e. Violations of water quality standards.

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

7. CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LIABILITY

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.

8. 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.

9. EXPIRATION OF PERMIT

The permittee shall submit an application for permit reissuance at least 180 days before the expiration date of this permit. The permittee shall not discharge after the permit expiration date without written authorization from the EPD. To receive this authorization, the permittee shall submit the information, forms, and fees required by the EPD no later than 180 days before the expiration date.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. PREVIOUS PERMITS

All previous state wastewater permits issued to this facility for construction or operation are revoked by the issuance of this permit. The permit governs discharges from this facility under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

PART III

A. APPROVED INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT PROGRAM FOR PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS (POTWs)

1. The permittee's approved pretreatment program shall be enforceable through this permit. The permittee shall also comply with the provisions of 40 CFR 403.
2. The permittee shall administer the approved pretreatment program by:
 - a. Maintaining records identifying the character and volume of pollutants contributed by industrial users to the POTW.
 - b. Enforcing and obtaining appropriate remedies for noncompliance by any industrial user with any applicable pretreatment standard or requirement defined by Section 307(b) and (c) of the Federal Act, 40 CFR Part 403.5 and 403.6 or any State or local requirement, whichever is more stringent.
 - c. Revising the adopted local limits based on technical analyses to ensure that the local limits continue to prevent:
 1. Interference with the operation of the POTW;
 2. Pass-through of pollutants in violation of this permit;
 3. Municipal sludge contamination; and
 4. Toxicity to life in the receiving stream.

Within 180 days of the effective date of this permit issuance or reissuance (excluding permit modifications), the permittee shall review the local limits of the program and submit to EPD a written technical evaluation of the need to revise the local limits.

- d. Ensuring that industrial wastewater discharges from industrial users are regulated through discharge permits or equivalent individual control mechanisms. Compliance schedules will be required of each industrial user for the installation of control technologies to meet applicable pretreatment standards and the requirements of the approved program.
- e. Inspecting, surveying, and monitoring to determine if the industrial user is in compliance with the applicable pretreatment standards.
- f. Equitably maintaining and adjusting revenue levels to ensure adequate and continued pretreatment program implementation.
- g. Preparing a list of industrial users which, during the previous twelve months, have been in significant noncompliance with the pretreatment requirements enumerated in 40 CFR Part 403.8 (f)(2)(viii). This list will be published annually each April in the newspaper with the largest circulation in the service area.

B. APPROVED PRETREATMENT PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

1. Within 30 days of the close of the reporting period March through April, the permittee shall submit a report to the EPD that includes:
 - a. An updated list of POTW industrial users;
 - b. The results of POTW sampling and analyses required by the EPD;
 - c. A summary of POTW industrial user inspections;
 - d. A summary of POTW operations including information on upsets, interferences, pass through events, or violations of the permit related to industrial user discharges;
 - e. A summary of all activities to involve and inform the public of pretreatment requirements;
 - f. A summary of the annual pretreatment program budget;
 - g. A descriptive summary of any compliance activities initiated, ongoing, or completed against industrial users which shall include the number of administrative orders, show cause hearings, penalties, civil actions, and fines;
 - h. A list of contributing industries using the treatment works, divided into Standard Industrial Classification Code (SIC) categories, which have been issued permits or similar enforceable individual control mechanisms, and a status of compliance for each industrial user. The list should also identify the industries that are categorical or significant industrial users
 - i. The name and address of each industrial user that has received a conditionally revised discharge limit;
 - j. A list of all industrial users who were in significant noncompliance with applicable pretreatment standards and requirements;
 - k. A list of all industrial users showing the date that each was notified that a categorical pretreatment standard had been promulgated by EPA for their industrial category and the status of each industrial user in achieving compliance within the 3 year period allowed by the Federal Act; and
1. A description of all substantial changes proposed for the program. All substantial changes must first be approved by the EPD before formal adoption by the POTW. Substantial changes shall include but not be limited to:
 1. Changes in legal authority;
 2. Changes in local limits;
 3. Changes in the control mechanisms;
 4. Changes in the method for implementing categorical pretreatment standards.
 5. A decrease in the frequency of self-monitoring or reporting required of industrial users;

6. A decrease in the frequency of industrial user inspections or sampling by the POTW;
 7. Significant reductions in the program resources including personnel commitments, equipment, and funding levels;
 8. Changes in confidentiality procedures; and
 9. Changes in the POTW sludge disposal and management practices.
2. Reports submitted by an industrial user will be retained by the permittee for at least 3 years and shall be available to the EPD for inspection and copying. This period shall be extended during the course of any unresolved litigation concerning the discharge of pollutants by an industrial user or concerning the operations of the program or when requested by the Director.

C. INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT STANDARDS

Effluent limitations for the permittee's discharge are listed in Part I. Other pollutants attributable to industrial users may also be present in the discharge. When sufficient information becomes available, this permit may be revised to specify effluent limitations for these pollutants based on best practicable technology or water quality standards. Once the specific nature of industrial contributions has been identified, data collection and reporting may be required for parameters not specified in Part I.

D. REQUIREMENTS FOR EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS ON POLLUTANTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO INDUSTRIAL USERS

1. The permittee shall require all industrial dischargers to the POTW to meet State pretreatment regulations promulgated in response to Section 307(b) of the Federal Act. Other information about new industrial discharges may be required and will be requested from the permittee after the EPD has received notice of the discharge.
2. The permittee may be required to supplement the requirements of the State and Federal pretreatment regulations to ensure compliance with all applicable effluent limitations listed in Part I. Supplemental actions by the permittee concerning some or all of the industries discharging to the POTW may be necessary.

E. RETAINER

EPD may require the permittee to amend an approved pretreatment program to incorporate revisions in State Pretreatment Regulations or other EPD requirements. Any approved POTW pretreatment program identified by EPD that needs to modify its program to incorporate requirements that have resulted from revision to the Rules shall develop and submit those revisions to EPD no later than one (1) year of notification by EPD to modify the Program. Any modifications made to the approved pretreatment program must be incorporated into the permit and the program pursuant to Chapter 391-3-6-.09(7) of the State Rules. Implementation of any revision or amendments to the program shall be described in the subsequent annual report to the EPD.



**STATE OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION (EPD)**

FACT SHEET

**APPLICATION FOR A NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION
SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT TO DISCHARGE TREATED WASTEWATER INTO
WATERS OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA**

Technical Contact: Audra Dickson (audra.dickson@dnr.ga.gov)

Phone Number: 404-463-4934

Permit is: (Check one)

- 1 ☐ New Issuance
- 2 ☐ Revocation/Reissuance with no significant modifications
- 3 ☐ Revocation/Reissuance with modifications
- 4 ☒ Modification only

Permit No. GA0021504

1. SYNOPSIS OF APPLICATION

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division proposes to modify an NPDES permit to the facility identified below. The draft permit places conditions on the discharge of pollutants from the wastewater treatment plant to waters of the State.

1.1 Name and Address of Applicant

City of Cornelia
P.O. Box 785
Cornelia, Georgia 30531

1.2 Facility Name & Location

City of Cornelia Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP)
514 Nicolon Drive
Cornelia, Georgia 30531
(Habersham County)

1.3 Design Capacity

3.0 MGD

1.4 Receiving Water and River Basin

South Fork Mud Creek tributary to Mud Creek tributary in the Chattahoochee River Basin

1.5 Description of the Wastewater Treatment Facility

Course screening, grit removal, primary sedimentation using clarifiers with scum removal, 2 aeration activated sludge basins, chlorine disinfection, 3 separate sand filters, de-chlorination, post aeration, tricking anaerobic digestion and dewatered on sand drying beds and/or with a portable belt filter press. Dewatered sludge is disposed of at the County landfill.

2. RATIONALE FOR MODIFICATIONS TO THE PERMIT:

The permit is being modified to include an annual phosphorus effluent limit to comply with the waste load allocation listed in the December 2017 Final Total Maximum Daily Load Evaluation for Lake Lanier in the Chattahoochee River Basin for Chlorophyll a.

The modifications to the permit are as follows:

- Part I.B.1.

Added an annual total phosphorus load of 3,425 lbs/year in accordance with the interim wasteload allocation listed in the Lake Lanier in the Chattahoochee River Basin for Chlorophyll a TMDL for this facility. A compliance schedule is not needed nor required to meet the annual limit.

- Part I.C.11

Removed compliance schedule for achieving the total recoverable zinc effluent limit, since the limit became effective on December 1, 2017.

- Part I.C.12

Removed permit condition Part I.C.12, titled "Reopener Clause- Lake Lanier TMDL" because this permit modification includes the interim wasteload allocation referenced in the permit condition.

3. OTHER PERMIT REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Service Delivery Strategy

City of Cornelia is in compliance with the Department of Community Affairs approved Service Delivery Strategy.

3.2 Anti-Backsliding

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

4. REPORTING

The facility has been assigned to the following EPD office for reporting, compliance and enforcement. Signed copies of all required reports in Part I.C.2 of the permit shall be submitted to the following address:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Mountain District – Cartersville Office
P.O. Box 3250
Cartersville, Georgia 30120

5. PROCEDURES FOR THE FORMULATION OF FINAL DETERMINATIONS

5.1 Comment Period

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

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Wastewater Regulatory Program
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Suite 1152 East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

The permit application, draft permit, and other 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 the person listed as the technical contact above at 404-463-1511.

5.2 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 EPD.comments@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 NPDES 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 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>

5.5 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:

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