


**Georgia Department of Natural Resources**  
**Environmental Protection Division**

Watershed Protection Branch  
4220 International Pkwy, Suite 101; Atlanta, Georgia 30354  
Linda MacGregor, P. E., Branch Chief  
(404) 675-6232

January 11, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Linda MacGregor, Chief   
Watershed Protection Branch

RE: EPD Guidelines on Public Access to NPDES Industrial Activity Storm Water  
Pollution Prevention Plans and Summaries of Monitoring Data

This is an update to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD)'s October 27, 2006 procedures for providing public access to Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs) and summaries of monitoring data submitted by facilities covered under Georgia's NPDES General Permit No. GAR050000 for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity (Permit), under the terms set forth below.

Any person may obtain access to a facility's SWPPP and monitoring data summaries that are already in EPD's files. For SWPPPs and monitoring data summaries that are not in EPD's files at the time of a request for public access, EPD will contact the facility and require that a copy of the SWPPP(s), with any Georgia Open Records Act (GORA)-exempt (or other exempt) information removed (the "publicly-available SWPPP"), and/or a copy of monitoring data summaries, be submitted to EPD.

It shall be EPD's practice that such requests for public access to SWPPPs and/or monitoring data summaries will be processed by EPD as soon as feasible, usually within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of a letter requesting such document(s). As stated in Part 5.3.1 of the Permit, the permittee will be required to submit a copy of the facility's SWPPP and/or monitoring data summaries within fifteen (15) days of a request by EPD. We have interpreted this to mean 15 calendar days. Failure to do so would be a violation of the Permit. Permit violations could subject the violator to a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 per day of violation, under the Georgia Water Quality Control Act. All such publicly-available SWPPPs and/or monitoring data summaries submitted to EPD will be considered public documents subject to GORA. These guidelines are also subject to applicability of other pertinent laws or rules in addition to the Georgia Open Records Act.

These guidelines will be in effect for the term of the current permit. If there are questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Lawrence Hedges, Program Manager, NonPoint Source Program, at (404) 675-6240.

LMG:mw