



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division proposes to issue a General NPDES permit for will authorize rainfall event and stormwater event discharges to Waters of the State of Georgia from reuse holding ponds in the Ogeechee River Basin that are associated with reclaimed water supplied by the City of Pooler. The draft permit places conditions on the discharge of pollutants from the wastewater treatment plant to waters of the State.

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Draft permit:

- (Check one)
- 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

GENERAL NPDES Permit No.: GAG600000

The State of Georgia has faced rapid development in the past and may see this development again in the coming years. The potential shortage of potable water is one of the impacts of this development. One way to minimize these shortages is to use reclaimed water for irrigation of landscaped areas. Reclaimed water is highly treated wastewater, which replaces potable (drinking water) and other water used for irrigation purposes. This permit facilitates the use of reclaimed water in the City of Pooler thereby reducing the demand on potable water and diminishing the impact of water shortages in the future.

Reclaimed water used for irrigation purposes is not discharged to the waters of the State thereby reducing the discharge of pollutants. In accordance with EPD Guidelines for Water Reclamation and Urban Reuse, reclaimed water can be discharged to reuse holding ponds, many of which are also part of stormwater management systems and are built with overflows. Reuse holding ponds designed and maintained to store a specific volume of reclaimed water and stormwater may discharge intermittently into waters of the State in response to storm events. The bulk of the discharge will be stormwater. The holding ponds will be designed to meet a target rain event or storm event. This rain event or storm event is based on available data for a 24-hour rainfall with a recurrence of 1 year. It is anticipated that this rain event or storm event should occur only a few times per year and the holding pond should not have an overflow except during storm events of this intensity or greater.

Intermittent discharges from reuse holding ponds into waters of the State are subject to comprehensive NPDES requirements. General Permit No. GAG600000 will authorize rainfall event and stormwater event discharges to Waters of the State of Georgia from reuse holding ponds in the Ogeechee River Basin that are associated with reclaimed water supplied by the City of Pooler. The General Reuse permit will not result in any increased loadings or less stringent conditions or limitations than which are currently in the NPDES permit GA0047066. The

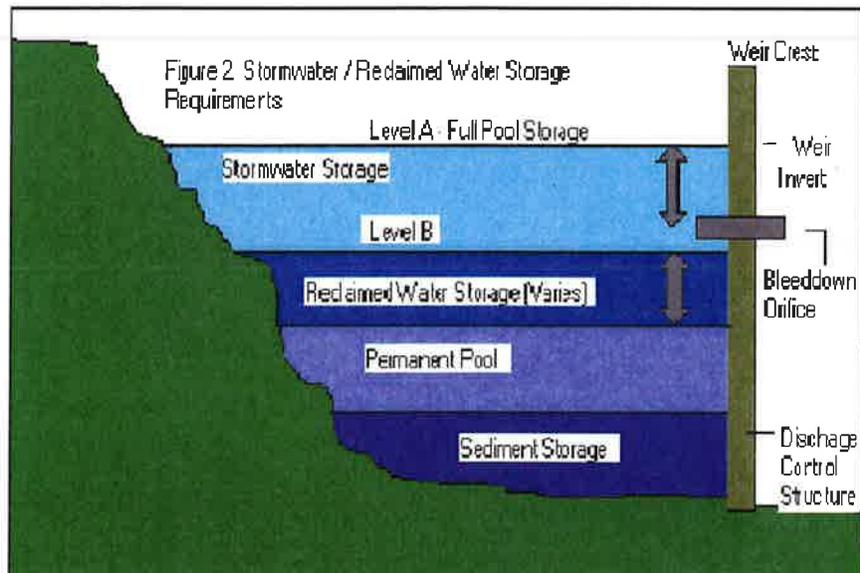
attached draft permit is for the reissuance of the permit that went into effect on May 1, 2013 and expires on April 30, 2018. Language has been included to comply with 40 CFR 127 (electronic reporting requirements) to the permit.

Coverage under this permit will be initiated by submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI), for the specific wastewater treatment facility (City of Pooler) providing reuse and its designated users with intermittently discharging reuse ponds. The NOI will include basic information about the facility and the specific waters of Georgia where the discharges will occur during or immediately after rainfall events. Specific forms will be available from EPD and must be used for the NOI.

1.0 PERMIT COVERAGE, LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

The General Reuse permit will provide coverage for the discharges of reclaimed water from the Pooler Urban Water Reuse Facility, whose reclaimed water meet the effluent limits outlined in section B.1. to holding ponds in the Ogeechee River Basin at designated sites for the reuse of the reclaimed water. This general permit also allows the discharge from reuse holding ponds in the Ogeechee River Basin, which receive reclaimed water from the Pooler Urban Water Reuse Facility, during rain and storm events, and for a period of time immediately after the event.

As shown on Figure 2, reuse holding ponds will be designed to store reclaimed water and stormwater. When the water level in the reuse holding pond exceeds the designed stormwater storage level (Level A), stormwater will overflow over the weir. The flow will continue to bleed down until the pond reaches the reclaimed water storage level (Level B). The reclaimed water storage level (Level B) is the maximum fill level of the holding pond that allows for storage of the reclaimed water.



FINAL FACT SHEET

The following monitoring requirements and effluent limitations will apply to the Provider covered under this permit. Effluent is defined as the final effluent from the reclaimed water treatment system and which meets the turbidity standard.

Parameters	Discharge Limitation Monthly Average, mg/l unless otherwise specified	Monitoring Requirements ⁽¹⁾		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Flow (MGD) ⁽¹⁾	Report	Seven Days/Week	Continuous	Effluent
Total Phosphorus, as P	Report	One Day/Week	Composite	Effluent
Five-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand	5.0	One Day/Week	Composite	Effluent
Ammonia, as N	Report	One Day/Week	Composite	Effluent
Total Suspended Solids	5	One Day/Week	Composite	Effluent
pH (standard units), (Daily Minimum - Daily Maximum)	6.0 - 9.0	One Day/Week	Grab	Effluent
Fecal Coliform Bacteria (#/100ml or MPN) ⁽²⁾	23	Seven Days/Week	Grab	Effluent
Turbidity (NTU), (Daily Maximum) ⁽³⁾	3	Seven Days/Week	Continuous	Effluent

⁽¹⁾ If there is no additional treatment for the reclaimed water, the Provider may use the same monitoring data performed under NPDES Permit No. GA0047066 supplying reclaimed water. If the NPDES permitted facility is followed by a reclaimed water facility, then the effluent from the reclaimed water facility shall be monitored according to the above requirements. The Provider must keep record of the volume of reuse water provided to each Designated User and submit the data on the OMR.

⁽²⁾ Fecal Coliform Bacteria counts per individual sample shall not exceed 100/100 mL.

⁽³⁾ Reclaimed water exceeding 3 NTU is to be considered reject water and shall not be provided to Designated Users without further treatment. It may be discharged under NPDES Permit No. GA0047066 if it complies with those permit requirements.

The discharge from the Designated User's holding pond(s) shall be monitored as follows:

Parameters	Discharge Limitation Monthly Average, unless otherwise specified	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Flow (MGD) ⁽¹⁾	Report	Seven Days/Week	Instantaneous	Effluent
Rainfall (in/day) ⁽²⁾	Report, Monthly Total	Seven Days/Week	Recorded	Reuse Area

(1) A daily log shall be kept by the Designated User of the approximate duration (hours) and volume (gallons) of the discharge and shall be submitted to EPD in accordance with Part I.C of this permit.

(2) A daily log shall be kept by the Designated User of the amount of rainfall received each day within 0.5 miles of the reuse area and shall be submitted to EPD in accordance with Part I.C. of this permit.

2.0 OTHER PERMIT REQUIREMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

2.1 Compliance Schedules

Effluent limitations are applicable immediately upon the effective date of the permit.

2.2 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.

3.0 REPORTING

3.1 Compliance Office

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

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Coastal District – Brunswick Office
400 Commerce Center Dr.
Brunswick, GA 31523

3.2 E-Reporting

The Provider and Designate User are required to electronically submit documents in accordance with 40 CFR Part 127.

4.0 REQUESTED VARIANCES OR ALTERNATIVES TO REQUIRED STANDARDS

Not applicable.

5.0 PERMIT EXPIRATION

The permit will expire five years from the effective date.

6.0 PROCEDURES FOR THE FORMULATION OF FINAL DETERMINATIONS

6.1 **Comment Period**

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

The permit application, draft permit, and other information are available for review at 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 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.

6.2 **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.

6.3 **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.

6.4 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>

6.5 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.