



# GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

### NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

#### **Authorization To Discharge Treated Water Associated With The Use Of Reclaimed Water Discharges From The Reclaimed Water Treatment System In The City of Pooler**

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 Clean Water Act, amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), hereinafter called the "Clean Water Act", and the Rules and Regulations promulgated to each of these Acts, the Reclaimed Water Treatment System located within the City of Pooler in the State of Georgia currently permitted as a Water Pollution Control Plant to Discharge to Waters of the State under the individual NPDES Permit No. GA0047066, and to beneficially reclaim wastewater for the purpose of reuse, may, on submittal of a notice of intent to produce and supply reclaimed water and acknowledgement by the Environmental Protection Division of coverage under this permit, discharge reclaimed water to Designated Users in accordance with the limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth in Parts I and II hereof.

Designated Users in the Ogeechee River Basin, upon submittal of a notice of intent, and acknowledgement by the Environmental Protection Division, are authorized to discharge from the reclaimed water holding ponds during rain events and storm events, in accordance with the limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth in this permit.

**This permit shall become effective on July 1, 2018.**

**This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, June 30, 2023.**



Director  
Environmental Protection Division

## PART I

The Federal Act referred to is The Clean Water Act

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

### A. CONDITIONS

#### 1. DEFINITIONS

- a. Designated User: means any site or facility in the Ogeechee River Basin, which receives reclaimed water from the City of Pooler–Bloomingdale Water Pollution Control Plant, under a contract or written agreement with the Provider and has received a notice of coverage from the Division.
- b. Division: means the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.
- c. DMR: means Discharge Monitoring Report.
- d. Holding Pond: means storage tank, artificial impoundment, or pond constructed above, on, below or partly below the ground surface that is designed and maintained to store a specific volume of reclaimed water and/or stormwater.
- e. Monthly Average: the arithmetic mean of values for samples collected during a calendar month.
- f. OMR: means Operating Monitoring Report.
- g. Provider: means the City of Pooler–Bloomingdale Water Pollution Control Plant who has filed a Notice of Intent under this permit.
- h. Rain Event: means any event where precipitation could cause the water level in the holding pond to rise by less than six (6) inches within a 48-hour period.
- i. Reclaimed Water: means water that has received treatment to urban water reuse standards, meets the effluent limitations specified in section B.1 of this permit, and is reused at a reuse area or is sent to a Designated User for reuse.
- j. Reclaimed Water Treatment System: means the treatment system for urban water reuse shall include biological oxidation/clarification, coagulation/filtration, and disinfection.
- k. Reuse: means the use of reclaimed water for the beneficial irrigation of areas that are accessible to the public. This includes areas such as golf courses, residential and commercial landscaping, parks, athletic fields, roadway medians, industrial processes, landscape impoundments, and other uses. Reuse reduces the demand on potable water or other surface or ground waters.

- l. Reuse Area: means the irrigated area of any Designated User. For the purposes of this permit, it is defined as the irrigated area of any Designated User in the Ogeechee River Basin which receives reclaimed water from the City of Pooler–Bloomington Water Pollution Control Plant.
- m. State Act: means the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Official Code of Georgia Annotated; Title 12, Chapter 5, Article 2).
- n. Storm Event: means any event in which precipitation exceeds the design 24-hour one-year storm event.
- o. Urban Water Reuse: means the same as Reuse.

## 2. COVERAGE

This general permit allows the discharge from holding ponds in the Ogeechee River Basin, which receive reclaimed water from the Provider, during rain and storm events, and for a period of time immediately after the event.

## 3. PURPOSE

- a. The permit is to allow the use of reclaimed water by a Designated User.
- b. The permit allows occasional discharges from the Designated User's holding ponds in the Ogeechee River Basin, which are used to store reclaimed water. The Division recognizes that many of these holding ponds are part of the stormwater management system and will discharge intermittently to waters of the State. Therefore, this permit will allow discharges from these impoundments to waters of the State in response to rain events and storm events.
- c. The discharge allowed under this permit is the release of water from holding ponds via the overflow or peak discharge control structure and the bleed-down device. After the water level lowers from the peak discharge level, it is recognized that a bleed-down to the maximum reclaimed water level will occur for a period of time (up to 7 days depending on design). Once the water level lowers to the bleed-down level, there shall be no discharge allowed from the holding pond until the next rain events or storm event.

4. NOTICE OF INTENT

- a. The Notice of Intent from the Provider shall be on forms provided by the Division and shall include all information requested on the form.
- b. The Notice of Intent from the Designated User shall be on forms provided by the Division and shall include all information requested on the form.

5. MONITORING AND REPORTING

- a. Flow measurements shall be conducted using the flow measuring device(s) in accordance with the approved design of the facility. If secondary flow measurements are installed, calibration shall be maintained 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.

- b. The Provider shall ensure that the Designated User has a primary flow-indicating device installed for the discharge from both the bleed down device and the peak discharge control device.
- c. The Designated User shall ensure that OMRs for any discharge from the holding pond allowed by this permit are submitted in accordance with Part I.C. of this permit. All records and information resulting from the monitoring activities and record keeping requirements required by this permit and the Rules shall be retained by the Designated User for a minimum of three (3) years. A release from a reuse water transmission and distribution system is not required to be reported to EPD.
- d. A composite sample shall consist of a minimum of 5 subsamples collected at least every 2 hours for at least 8 hours, and shall be composited proportionally to flow.
- e. The monthly average, other than for fecal coliform bacteria, is the arithmetic mean of values obtained for samples collected during a calendar month.
- f. Fecal coliform bacteria will be reported as the geometric mean of values obtained for samples collected during a calendar month.

- g. Analytical procedures, sample containers, sample preservation techniques and sample holding times must be consistent with the techniques and procedures approved pursuant to 40 CFR Part 136, unless other techniques and test procedures have been specified in this permit.
- h. Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored waste stream. The Provider shall maintain a written sampling and monitoring schedule.
- i. For each measurement of sample taken pursuant to the requirements of this permit, the Provider shall record the following information:

  - 1. The exact place, date, and time of sampling, and the person(s) collecting the samples,
  - 2. The dates and times the analyses were performed,
  - 3. The person(s) who performed the analyses,
  - 4. The analytical procedures or methods used,
  - 5. The results of all required analyses
- j. If the Provider monitors required parameters at the locations designated in Section B.1. more frequently than required, the Provider shall analyze all samples collected using approved analytical methods, and the results of this additional monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the values on the Monitoring Report Forms. The increased monitoring frequency shall also be reported. The Division may require by written notification, more frequent monitoring or the monitoring of other pollutants not specified in this permit.
- k. The Provider shall retain records of:

  - 1. All laboratory analyses performed including sample data, quality control data, and standard curves;
  - 2. Calibration and maintenance records of laboratory instruments;
  - 3. Calibration and maintenance records and recordings from continuous recording instruments;
  - 4. Process control monitoring records;
  - 5. Facility operation and maintenance records;
  - 6. Copies of all reports required by this permit; and

7. All data and information used to complete the NOI.

These records shall be kept for at least three years but may be extended by Division written notification.

1. Monitoring by the Designated User shall be done in accordance with Part I.B.2 of this permit. Monitoring results from the Designated User shall be retained on file for review by the Provider and submitted in accordance with Part I.C. of this permit.

6. DESIGNATED USERS

a. DESIGNATION AND LISTING

1. For new Designated User(s), the Provider and Designated User shall enter into a User Agreement. The Designated User will submit an NOI form, a User Agreement, and other required information to the Division to apply for coverage under this permit. After coverage is granted by the Division, The Provider may provide reclaimed water to the Designated User.

2. The Designated User must submit a list of all holding ponds which will receive reclaimed water from the Provider. For each holding pond listed, the Designated User must provide the elevation of the water level in the impoundment that is the control elevation for the peak discharge control structure, the bleed-down device level, the reclaimed water level, and the drainage area to the holding pond and the latitude/longitude or GIS coordinates.

b. USER AGREEMENT

Any Designated User receiving reuse water from the Provider must enter into an agreement with the Provider. The Provider shall ensure that agreements executed with reuse customers shall meet the requirements of the Guidelines for Urban Reuse, including the areas regarding Access Control and Warning Signs and Potable Water Cross Connections.

c. RAIN EVENT

When a rain event occurs, discharge from the bleed down device is allowed under this permit.

d. STORM EVENT

When a storm event occurs, discharge is allowed from the bleed down device and the peak discharge control structure.

**B.1. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS - PROVIDER**

The reclaimed water from the Provider shall be limited and monitored as follows prior to delivery to the Designated User:

Parameters	Discharge Limitation Monthly Average, mg/l unless otherwise specified	Monitoring Requirements <sup>(1)</sup>		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Flow (MGD) <sup>(1)</sup>	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) <sup>(2)</sup>	23	Seven Days/Week	Grab	Effluent
Turbidity (NTU), Daily Maximum <sup>(3)</sup>	3	Seven Days/Week	Continuous	Effluent

- <sup>(1)</sup> 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.
- <sup>(2)</sup> Fecal Coliform Bacteria counts per individual sample shall not exceed 100/100 mL.
- <sup>(3)</sup> 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.

B.2. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS - DESIGNATED USER

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) <sup>(1)</sup>	Report	Seven Days/Week	Instantaneous	Effluent
Rainfall (in/day) <sup>(2)</sup>	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.

C. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. The Provider and Designated User(s) 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 Provider and Designated User(s) must comply with the Federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Electronic Reporting regulations in 40 CFR §127. The Provider and Designated User(s) 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 Provider and Designated User(s) 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 Provider 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 Provider has an approved Sewage Sludge (Biosolids) Plan;
  - b. Pretreatment Program Reports provided that the Provider 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. All other reports required in this permit not listed above in Part I.C.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. 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**

### **1. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

#### **1. COMPLIANCE**

The Provider and Designated User 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 Provider or Designated User 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. FACILITY OPERATION**

The Provider and Designated User shall maintain and operate efficiently all treatment or control facilities and related equipment installed or used by the Provider and Designated User 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.

#### **3. OPERATOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

The Provider shall ensure that the Reclaimed Water Treatment System is operated in compliance with the Georgia Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act, as amended. The operator in responsible charge for the Provider shall be a certified Class I operator. On-site operation at the City of Pooler –Bloomingdale Regional Water Pollution Control Plant shall be by an operator who is certified Class II or higher at any time Reuse Water is being provided to Designated Users.

#### **4. LABORATORY ANALYST REQUIREMENTS**

The Provider shall ensure that all persons performing laboratory analyses for the Reclaimed Water Treatment System is a Certified Wastewater Laboratory Analyst in accordance with the Georgia Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act, as amended, and the rules promulgated thereunder.

5. ADVERSE IMPACT

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

6. GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELLS

The Provider may be required by written notification from the Division to install groundwater-monitoring wells at the site of an existing or future Designated User.

7. RIGHT OF ENTRY

The Provider and Designated Users shall allow the Director of the Division, and any authorized representatives, agents, or employees of the Division after they present credentials to:

- a. Enter the Provider's and the Designated Users 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.

8. 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 statements, 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 Division.

9. CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LIABILITY

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

10. SUBMITTAL OF INFORMATION

The Provider shall furnish any information required by the Division to determine whether cause exists to modify, revoke and reissue, or terminate this permit or to determine compliance with this permit. Upon request by the Division the Provider and the Designated User shall also furnish the Division with requested copies of any records

required by this permit. If the Provider or the Designated User determines that any relevant facts were not included in a NOI or that incorrect information was submitted in a NOI or in any report to the Division, the Provider or the Designated User shall promptly submit the additional or corrected information.

11. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

If the Provider or the Designated User changes, a new notice of intent must be submitted at least 30 days in advance of when they will take over operation. The Provider or Designated User covered by this permit must provide a notice of termination to the Division and a copy to the new proposed Provider and Designated User(s).

12. CONTESTED HEARINGS

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

13. 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.

14. EXPIRATION OF PERMIT

- a. The Provider shall not operate the reclaimed water treatment system after the expiration date without authorization from the Division. The Provider shall submit any necessary information, NOI forms, and fees as required by the Division no later than 180 days before the expiration date for permit reissuance.
- b. For existing Designated User(s), any necessary information, NOI forms, and fees as required by the Division must be submitted within 60 days after the effective date of the reissued permit to retain coverage.

15. TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

- a. In order to terminate coverage under this permit, the Provider or Designated User must submit a Notice of Termination (NOT).
- c. A Designated User must submit a NOT within 30 days after all discharges for which permit coverage was obtained have ceased.