

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division • Watershed Protection Branch
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Judson H. Turner, Director

April 12, 2016

Mr. L. Gary Duck, Public Utilities Director
Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County
124 East Hancock Avenue
Athens, Georgia 30601

RE: Response to Comments
Athens/Clarke County – North Oconee
Water Reclamation Facility (WRF)
NPDES Permit No. GA0021725
Clarke County
Oconee River Basin

Dear Mr. Duck:

Thank you for your letter regarding the permit modification for the Athens/Clarke County North Oconee WRF. After consideration of your comments received during the public comment period, changes have been made to the permit based on your comments. The Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has issued the permit modification.

Attached is a summary of the comments received from Athens-Clarke County and EPD's responses along with a fact sheet addendum that shows the changes made from the draft permit to the final permit. We appreciate your interest in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Jones of my staff at 404-463-4936 or Jennifer.Jones1@dnr.ga.gov.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Larson, Assistant Branch Chief
Watershed Protection Branch

JL\jgj

Attachments: Response to Comments & Fact Sheet Addendum

**Public Comments and EPD Responses on Draft NPDES Permit Modification
Athens/Clarke County – North Oconee WRF – GA0021725**

COMMENTS RECEIVED	EPD RESPONSE
<p>Part I.B.1. Sampling for Total Stream Hardness</p> <p>The draft permit states that hardness samples should be collected in the North Oconee River downstream of the mixing zone. The Athens/Clarke County Public Utilities Department (PUD) requests that samples be collected at the College Station Road Bridge, which is over 1 mile downstream of the discharge and therefore well beyond the mixing zone. This is the location of other instream water quality monitoring included in the permit and is the safest instream sampling location downstream of the mixing zone.</p>	<p>EPD has determined that PUD may sample hardness at the College Station Road Bridge, which is downstream of the mixing zone. This location is consistent with the permit language.</p>
<p>Part I.B.1. Sampling for Total Stream Hardness</p> <p>The draft permit states that hardness samples type should be a composite. PUD requests that the sample type be changed to a grab sample.</p>	<p>The permit has been revised to include grab samples for hardness.</p>