

STATE OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

FACT SHEET

NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
GENERAL PERMIT NO. GAG200000
ONCE-THROUGH NONCONTACT
COOLING WATER WITH NO CHEMICAL ADDITIVES

The 1972 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA, also referred to as the Clean Water Act or CWA) prohibit the discharge of any pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source unless the discharge is authorized by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

General Permit No. GAG200000 will authorize discharges of once-through noncontact cooling water with no chemical additives to the water of the State of Georgia. The General Permit is not applicable to discharges of process generated wastewater or blowdown from recirculating systems. In addition, no discharge shall be allowed to Wild and Scenic Rivers.

AUTHORIZATION – NOTICE OF INTENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Existing permittees wishing to continue operation after the permit expiration date, must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) 180 days prior to expiration of the existing permit. Such NOI shall be on forms as provided by EPD and at www.epd.georgia.gov. Coverage under this general permit shall be effective upon the date of the Notice of Coverage (NOC) letter as provided by EPD.
2. New dischargers or new sources seeking coverage under this general permit must submit a completed NOI and an Antidegradation Analysis at least 30 days prior to the date of desired coverage. Coverage under this general permit shall be effective upon the date of the NOC letter as provided by EPD.

ELIGIBILITY AND PERMIT COVERAGE

To obtain authorization under this permit, the person proposing to discharge once-through noncontact cooling water with no chemical additives must meet the eligibility requirements identified below:

1. This permit regulates any site that discharges once through noncontact cooling water with no chemical additives.
2. Limitations of coverage: This permit does not authorize coverage to the following National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems:
 - a. Systems that discharge process generated wastewater;
 - b. Systems that discharge blowdown from recirculating systems;
 - c. Systems regulated under the steam electric power generating point source category 40 CFR Part 423. Such discharges require individual NPDES permits;
 - d. No system will be allowed to discharge to Wild and Scenic Rivers;
 - e. Facilities subject to the Clean Water Act 316(b) Cooling Water Intake Structure Rules are not eligible to be covered under this General Permit.

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PERMIT EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The discharge(s) of cooling water shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below.

1. Flow shall be monitored at a frequency of once per month on an instantaneous basis.
2. pH shall not be less than 6.0 standard units nor greater than 8.5 standard units and shall be monitored on the final effluent by a grab sample once per month.
3. The daily maximum temperature shall not exceed 90° F and shall be monitored on the final effluent by a grab sample once per month.

The pH and temperature limitations were derived from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6-.03(6) Specific Criteria for Classified Water Usage.

PROCEDURE FOR THE FORMULATION OF FINAL DETERMINATIONS

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

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the determinations are invited to submit same in writing to the EPD address above, or via e-mail at EPDcomments@dnr.state.ga.us, within 30 days of the fact sheet date. If you choose to e-mail your comments, please be sure to include the words "NPDES permit reissuance- General Permit No. GAG200000 Once-Through Noncontact Cooling Water with No Chemical Additives" in the subject line to ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the correct staff. All comments received prior to that date will be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the application. The permit application number should be placed on the envelope next to the above address and also at the top of the first page of comments.

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.

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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.

The NOI, draft permit, comments received and other information are available for review at 2 MLK Jr. Dr., Suite 1152 East, Atlanta, Georgia 30334 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

2. 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. The EPD 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.

The permit application, draft permit, comments received and other information are available for review at the Wastewater Regulatory Program, 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 more information contact: Audra Dickson, Wastewater Regulatory Program, Phone (404) 463-1511.

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 EPD Director or his designee reserves the right to fix reasonable limits on the time allowed for oral statements and such other procedural requirements, as he deems appropriate.

Following a public hearing, the Director, unless a determination to deny the permit is made, may make such modifications in the terms and conditions of the proposed permit as may be appropriate and shall issue the permit. Notice of issuance or denial will be circulated to those persons or groups who participated in the hearing; to those persons or groups who submitted written comments to the Director on the proposed permit within thirty (30) days from the date of the public notice of the application for permit; and to all persons or groups included on the EPD mailing list.

3. 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;

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- 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.

4. Issuance of the Permit When No Public Hearing is Held

If no public hearing is held, and after review of the written comments received, the EPD Director determines that a permit should be issued and that his 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 circulated to those persons who submitted written comments to the Director on the proposed permit within thirty (30) days from the date of the public notice of such proposed permit; and to all persons or groups included on the EPD mailing list.

If no public hearing is held, but the EPD Director determines, after a review of the written comments received, that a permit should be issued by that substantial changed 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 EPD 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.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 1456, Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Judson H. Turner, Director
(404) 656-4713

September 1, 2015

Ms. Molly Davis, Branch Chief
NPDES Permitting and Enforcement Branch
Water Protection Division
The Sam Nunn Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Draft NPDES Permit No. GAG200000

RE: EPD Response to Comments
General NPDES Once-Through
Noncontact Cooling Water With No
Chemical Additives
GAG200000

Dear Ms. Davis:

Thank you for your comment concerning the reissuance of the General NPDES permit for Once-Through Noncontact Cooling Water With No Chemical Additives. Changes have been made to the permit based on the comment received during the public comment period for the draft NPDES permit.

The modified permit meets all necessary requirements and is protective of the environment. Therefore, the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has issued the permit. This determination was made after careful consideration of the comment received by EPD.

Attached is a table containing the comment and our response to the issue raised. We appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Larson, Manager
Wastewater Regulatory Program
Watershed Protection Branch

JH/ahd
Attachment

**Public Comments and EPD Responses on Draft NPDES Permit
General Once-Through Noncontact Cooling Water With No Chemical Additives – GAG200000**

COMMENTS RECEIVED	EPD RESPONSE
<p><u>Cooling Water Intake Structure (CWIS) Rule for Existing Sources</u></p> <p>How will the permit ensure that any facilities covered by the CWIS rule are excluded from coverage?</p>	<p>The NOI form, permit, and fact sheet have been updated to include language stating that anyone subject to the Clean Water Act 316(b) are not eligible to be covered under this general permit.</p>