

PERMIT No. GAG550000

STATE OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM TREATED WASTEWATER
DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH PRIVATE AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT WATER
POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT ACTIVITIES

Existing private and institutional development (PID) water pollution control plant (WPCP) point sources within the State of Georgia that are required to have a permit, upon submittal of a Notice of Intent, and acknowledgement by the Environmental Protection Division of coverage under this permit, are authorized to discharge treated wastewater associated with PID WPCP activities to waters of the State of Georgia in accordance with the limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in this permit and with the statements and supporting information submitted with the Notice of Intent. This is in compliance with the provisions of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Georgia Laws 1964, p. 416, as amended), referred to as the "State Act," the Federal Clean Water Act, amended (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), referred to as "the Clean Water Act," and the rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to each of these Acts. A PID system is not authorized to discharge except as specified by this permit.

This permit shall become effective on April 1, 2015.

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, March 31, 2020.



Issued this 20th day of March, 2015.

Director
Environmental Protection Division

PART I

EPD is the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

The Federal Act referred to is The Clean Water Act.

The State Act referred to is The Water Quality Control Act (Act No. 870).

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

A. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. MONITORING

The concentration of pollutants in the discharge will be limited as indicated by the table(s) labeled "Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements."

- a. The monthly average, other than for fecal coliform bacteria, is the arithmetic mean of values obtained for samples collected during a calendar month.
- b. The weekly average, other than for fecal coliform bacteria, is the arithmetic mean of values obtained for samples collected during a 7 day period. The week begins 12:00 midnight Saturday and ends at 12:00 midnight the following Saturday. To define a different starting time for the sampling period, the permittee must notify the EPD in writing. For reporting required by I.C.2. of this permit, a week that starts in one month and ends in another month shall be considered part of the second month. The permittee may calculate and report the weekly average as a 7 day moving average.
- c. Fecal coliform bacteria will be reported as the geometric mean of the values for the samples collected during the time periods in I.A.1.a. and I.A.1.b.
- d. Untreated wastewater influent samples required by I.B. shall be collected before any return or recycle flows. These flows include returned activated sludge, supernatants, centrates, filtrates, and backwash.
- e. Effluent samples required by I.B. of this permit shall be collected after the final treatment process and before discharge to receiving waters. Composite samples may be collected before disinfection with written EPD approval.
- f. A composite sample, where applicable, shall consist of a minimum of 5 subsamples collected at least once every 2 hours for at least 8 hours and shall be composited proportionately to flow.
- g. The permittee shall have a primary flow measuring device that is correctly installed and operable. The following secondary flow measurements only apply to facilities where secondary equipment has been installed. If secondary flow measurement instrumentation has been installed, flow measurements must be made in accordance with facility design. Calibration of secondary instruments shall be in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. Records of the calibration checks shall be maintained.

- h. If secondary flow instruments malfunction or fail to maintain calibration as required in I.A.1.g., the flow shall be computed from manual measurements taken at the times specified for the collection of composite samples.
- i. Quarterly analyses as required in I.B. shall be performed during each quarter and submitted in March, June, September, and December. Results of analyses required twice per year shall be submitted in June and December. Results of analyses required annually shall be submitted in June.
- j. Some parameters must be analyzed to the detection limits specified by the EPD. These parameters will be reported as "not detected" when they are below the detection limit and will then be considered in compliance with the effluent limit. The detection limit will also be reported.

2. SLUDGE DISPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Sludge shall be disposed of according to the regulations and guidelines established by the EPD and the Federal Act section 405(d) and (e), and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). In land applying nonhazardous municipal sewage sludge, the permittee shall comply with the general criteria outlined in the most current version of the EPD "Guidelines for Land Application of Sewage Sludge (Biosolids) at Agronomic Rates" and with the State Rules, Chapter 391-3-6-.17. Before disposing of municipal sewage sludge by land application or any method other than co-disposal in a permitted sanitary landfill, the permittee shall submit a sludge management plan to EPD for written approval. This plan will become a part of the NPDES permit after EPD has provided written approval. The permittee shall notify the EPD of any changes planned in an approved sludge management plan.

If an applicable management practice or numerical limitation for pollutants in sewage sludge is promulgated under Section 405(d) of the Federal Act after approval of the plan, then the plan shall be modified to conform with the new regulations.

3. SLUDGE MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

The permittee shall develop and implement procedures to ensure adequate year-round sludge disposal. The permittee shall monitor and maintain records documenting the quantity of sludge removed from the facility. Records shall be maintained documenting that the quantity of solids removed from the facility equals the solids generated on an average day. The total quantity of sludge removed from the facility during the reporting period shall be reported each month with the Discharge Monitoring Reports as required under Part I.C.2. of this permit. The quantity shall be reported on a dry weight basis (dry tons).

Pond treatment systems are required to report the total quantity of sludge removed from the facility only during the months that sludge is removed.

4. INTRODUCTION OF POLLUTANTS INTO THE FACILITY

The permittee must notify EPD of:

- a. Any new introduction of pollutants into the POTW from an indirect discharger that would be subject to Sections 301 or 306 of the Federal Act if the pollutants were directly discharged to a receiving stream; and

- b. Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants from a source that existed when the permit was issued.

This notice shall include information on the quality and quantity of the indirect discharge introduced and any anticipated impact on the quantity or quality of effluent to be discharged from the facility.

5. EFFLUENT TOXICITY AND BIOMONITORING REQUIREMENTS

The permittee shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established by Section 307(a) of the Federal Act and with Chapter 391-3-6-.03(5) of the State Rules and may not discharge toxic pollutants in concentrations or combinations that are harmful to humans, animals, or aquatic life.

If toxicity is suspected in the effluent, the EPD may require the permittee to perform any of the following actions:

- a. Acute biomonitoring tests;
- b. Chronic biomonitoring tests;
- c. Stream studies;
- d. Priority pollutant analyses;
- e. Toxicity reduction evaluations (TRE); or
- f. Any other appropriate study.

The EPD will specify the requirements and methodologies for performing any of these tests or studies. Unless other concentrations are specified by the EPD, the critical concentration used to determine toxicity in biomonitoring tests will be the effluent instream wastewater concentration (IWC) based on the permitted monthly average flow of the facility and the critical low flow of the receiving stream (7Q10). The endpoints that will be reported are the effluent concentration that is lethal to 50% of the test organisms (LC50) if the test is for acute toxicity, and the no observed effect concentration (NOEC) of effluent if the test is for chronic toxicity.

The permittee must eliminate effluent toxicity and supply the EPD with data and evidence to confirm toxicity elimination.

6. ELIMINATION OF DISCHARGE

Operation of this facility will cease and the discharge will be eliminated by connection to an appropriate municipal or privately owned water pollution control plant sewer system within three months of reasonable availability of the connection.

7. EXPANSION OF SYSTEM

The permittee shall not allow any new connections to the facility sewer system without written approval from the EPD.

B.1(a) EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS – MECHANICAL TREATMENT

Mechanical systems consist of either activated sludge treatment, trickling filters, sequencing batch reactors, combination pond and mechanical systems, septic tank-sand filter systems, or any mechanical system approved as such by EPD. Small facilities have design flows less than 0.010 MGD and large facilities have design flows between 0.010 MGD and 0.075 MGD*. The permittee shall adhere to the specific effluent limitations and monitoring requirements based on the treatment type and design flow specified in the permittee's NOI. The discharge from the water pollution control plant shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as follows:

(Large Mechanical – Reference footnotes 1 and 3)
(Small Mechanical – Reference footnotes 2 and 4)

Table 1 - Mechanical Treatment Plants BOD, TSS, and Fecal Coliform Limitations

Parameters	Discharge limitations in mg/L (kg/day) unless otherwise specified		Monitoring Requirements		
	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Measurement Frequency ^{1,2}	Sample Type ^{3,4}	Sample Location
Flow (MGD)	--	--	See Below	See Below	Effluent
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (5-day)	30	45	See Below	See Below	Effluent
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	30	45	See Below	See Below	Effluent
Fecal Coliform Bacteria (#/100 mL)	200	400	See Below	Grab	Effluent

Table 2 - Mechanical Treatment Plants pH and TRC Limitations

Parameters	Discharge limitations as specified	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency ^{1,2}	Sample Type	Sample Location
pH, Minimum – Maximum (Standard Unit)	6.0 – 8.5	See Notes	Grab	Effluent
Total Residual Chlorine ⁵ (mg/L)	0.011	See Notes	Grab	Effluent

Notes:

- (1) Large Mechanical Treatment Plants shall be required to monitor for the specific parameters once per month
*Facilities with design flows between 0.075 MGD and 0.5 MGD may receive coverage under the Large category on a case-by-case basis.
- (2) Small Mechanical Treatment Plants shall be required to monitor for the specific parameters once per quarter.
- (3) Large Mechanical Treatment Plants require continuous flow recording and shall collect composite samples for BOD-5 and TSS.
- (4) Small Mechanical Treatment Plants require instantaneous flow recording and shall collect grab samples for BOD-5 and TSS.
- (5) TRC shall be a daily maximum limit. The TRC shall only apply if chlorine is used at the facility. Refer to Part I.C.8 for compliance schedule.

B.1(b) EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS - POND SYSTEMS

Pond systems consist of waste stabilization ponds or multi-stage pond systems. Small facilities have design flows less than 0.010 MGD and large facilities have design flows between 0.010 MGD and 0.075 MGD*. The permittee shall adhere to the specific effluent limitations and monitoring requirements based on the treatment type and design flow specified in the permittee's NOI. The discharge from the water pollution control plant shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as follows:

(Large Pond System – Reference footnote 1)
(Small Pond System – Reference footnote 2)

Table 3 - Pond Systems BOD, TSS, and Fecal Coliform Limitations

Parameters	Discharge limitations in mg/L (kg/day) unless otherwise specified		Monitoring Requirements		
	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Measurement Frequency ^{1,2}	Sample Type	Sample Location
Flow (MGD)	--	--	See Notes	Instantaneous	Effluent
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (5-day)	30	45	See Notes	Grab	Effluent
Total Suspended Solids	90	120	See Notes	Grab	Effluent
Fecal Coliform Bacteria (#/100 mL)	200	400	See Notes	Grab	Effluent

Table 4 - Pond Systems pH and TRC Limitations

Parameters	Discharge limitations as specified	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency ^{1,2}	Sample Type	Sample Location
pH, Minimum – Maximum (Standard Unit)	6.0 – 8.5	See Notes	Grab	Effluent
Total Residual Chlorine ³ (mg/L)	0.011	See Notes	Grab	Effluent

Notes:

- (1) Large Pond Systems require monitoring once per month.
*Facilities with design flows between 0.075 MGD and 0.5 MGD may receive coverage under the Large category on a case-by-case basis.
- (2) Small Pond Systems require monitoring once per quarter.
- (3) TRC shall be a daily maximum limit. The TRC limit shall only apply if chlorine is used at the facility. Refer to Part I.C.8 for compliance schedule.

C. MONITORING AND REPORTING

1. REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLING

Samples and measurements of the monitored waste shall represent the volume and nature of the waste stream. The permittee shall maintain a written sampling and monitoring schedule.

2. REPORTING

All reports or information submitted in compliance with this permit or requested by EPD must be signed and certified by a principal executive officer, elected official, or other authorized representative. Required analytical results obtained by the permittee shall be summarized on a Discharge Monitoring Report form and any additional EPD specified forms. Monitoring results shall be submitted to the EPD postmarked no later than the 15th day of the month following the end of the reporting period. The EPD may require in writing that additional monitoring results be reported.

3. MONITORING PROCEDURES

All analytical methods, sample containers, sample preservation techniques, and sample holding times must be consistent with the techniques and methods listed in 40 CFR Part 136. The analytical method used shall be sufficiently sensitive. EPA approved methods must be applicable to the concentration ranges of the NPDES permit samples.

4. RECORDING OF RESULTS

For each required parameter analyzed, the permittee shall record:

- a. The exact place, date, and time of sampling, and the person(s) collecting the sample. For flow proportioned composite samples, this shall include the instantaneous flow and the corresponding volume of each sample aliquot, and other information relevant to document flow proportioning of composite samples;
- b. The dates and times the analyses were performed;
- c. The person(s) who performed the analyses;
- d. The analytical procedures or methods used; and
- e. The results of all required analyses.

5. ADDITIONAL MONITORING BY PERMITTEE

If the permittee monitors required parameters at the locations designated in I.B. more frequently than required, the permittee shall analyze all samples using approved analytical methods specified in I.C.3. The results of this additional monitoring shall be included in calculating and reporting the values on the Discharge Monitoring Report forms. The permittee shall indicate the monitoring frequency on the report. The EPD may require in writing more frequent monitoring, or monitoring of other pollutants not specified in this permit.

6. RECORDS RETENTION

The permittee shall retain records of:

- a. All laboratory analyses performed including sample data, quality control data, and standard curves;
- b. Calibration and maintenance records of laboratory instruments;
- c. Calibration and maintenance records and recordings from continuous recording instruments;
- d. Process control monitoring records;
- e. Facility operation and maintenance records;
- f. Copies of all reports required by this permit;
- g. All data and information used to complete the permit application; and
- h. All monitoring data related to sludge use and disposal.

These records shall be kept for at least three years. Sludge handling records must be kept for at least five years. Either period may be extended by EPD written notification.

7. 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 statement, 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 EPD.

8. TOTAL RESIDUAL CHLORINE (TRC) COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE

The permittee shall achieve compliance with the TRC limitations specified in Part I.B. of this permit in accordance with the following schedule:

- a. Beginning on the effective date of the permit, the permittee shall monitor for TRC in the effluent as a grab sample once per month. The results shall be reported on the Discharge Monitoring Reports submitted by the permittee.
- b. Within 6 months of the effective date of the permit, the permittee shall submit a design development report (DDR) to EPD for any modifications needed at the facility that will allow it to meet the TRC limits.
- c. Within 12 months of the effective date of the permit, the permittee shall submit plans and specifications for any modifications needed at the facility that will allow it to meet the TRC limits.
- d. Within 18 months of the effective date of the permit, the permittee shall begin

construction of any modifications needed at the facility to allow it to attain compliance with the TRC limits.

- e. Within 24 months of the effective date of the permit, the permittee shall attain compliance with the TRC limits in Part I.B. of the permit.

If at any time during the 24 month compliance schedule the permittee believes that the facility will be able to consistently meet the TRC limits without having to make any plant modifications, then the permittee may choose to write a letter to EPD stating this. The letter needs to include TRC data supporting the permittee's position. Upon written notification by EPD, the permittee may be excused from completing any remaining items in the above compliance schedule. However, the permittee will also become subject to the TRC limits from the date of EPD's letter and any future exceedence of the TRC limits will be considered to be a permit violation. If the permittee does not receive written notification from EPD releasing it from the compliance schedule, then the permittee is required to complete all items in the schedule by the dates indicated and will be required to attain compliance with the TRC limits within 24 months of the issuance date of the permit.

PART II

A. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. FACILITY OPERATION

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

2. CHANGE IN DISCHARGE

Any anticipated facility expansions, or process modifications which will result in new, different, or increased discharges of pollutants require the submission of a new NPDES permit application. If the changes will not violate the permit effluent limitations, the permittee may notify EPD without submitting an application. The permit may then be modified to specify and limit any pollutants not previously limited.

3. NONCOMPLIANCE NOTIFICATION

A permittee who does not comply with any permit effluent limit shall provide EPD with an oral report within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances, followed by a written report within 5 days. The written report shall contain:

- a. A description of the noncompliance and its cause; and
- b. The period of noncompliance, including the exact date and times; or, if not corrected, the anticipated time the noncompliance is expected to continue; and
- c. The steps taken to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncomplying discharge.

4. ANTICIPATED NONCOMPLIANCE NOTIFICATION

The permittee shall give written notice to the EPD at least 10 days before:

- a. Any planned changes in the permitted facility; or
- b. Any activity which may result in noncompliance with the permit.

5. OTHER NONCOMPLIANCE

The permittee must report all instances of noncompliance not reported under other specific reporting requirements, at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information required under conditions of twenty-four hour reporting.

6. OPERATOR CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Operators must be certified in compliance with the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act, as amended.

7. LABORATORY ANALYST CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Laboratory Analysts must be certified in compliance with the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act, as amended.

8. BYPASSING

Any diversion of wastewater from or bypassing of wastewater around the permitted treatment works is prohibited, except if:

- a. Bypassing is unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;
- b. There are no feasible alternatives to bypassing; and
- c. The permittee notifies the EPD at least 10 days before the date of the bypass.

Feasible alternatives to bypassing include use of auxiliary treatment facilities and retention of untreated waste. The permittee must take all possible measures to prevent bypassing during routine preventative maintenance by installing adequate back-up equipment.

The permittee shall operate the facility and the sewer system to minimize discharge of pollutants from combined sewer overflows or bypasses and may be required by the EPD to submit a plan and schedule to reduce bypasses, overflows, and infiltration.

Any unplanned bypass must be reported following the requirements for noncompliance notification specified in II.A.3. The permittee may be liable for any water quality violations that occur as a result of bypassing the facility.

9. POWER FAILURES

If the primary source of power to this water pollution control facility is reduced or lost, the permittee shall use an alternative source of power to reduce or control all discharges to maintain permit compliance.

10. ADVERSE IMPACT

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

11. UPSET PROVISION

Provision under 40 CFR 122.41(n)(1)-(4), regarding "Upset" shall be applicable to any civil, criminal, or administrative proceeding brought to enforce this permit.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. COMPLIANCE

The permittee 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 permittee 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. RIGHT OF ENTRY

The permittee shall allow the Director of the EPD, the Regional Administrator of EPA, and their authorized representatives, agents, or employees after they present credentials to:

- a. Enter the permittee's 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.

3. SUBMITTAL OF INFORMATION

The permittee shall furnish any information required by the EPD to determine whether cause exists to modify, revoke and reissue, or terminate this permit or to determine compliance with this permit. The permittee shall also furnish the EPD with requested copies of records required by this permit. If the permittee determines that any relevant facts were not included in a permit application or that incorrect information was submitted in a permit application or in any report to the EPD, the permittee shall promptly submit the additional or corrected information.

4. AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS

Except for data determined to be confidential by the Director of EPD under O.C.G.A. 12-5-26 or by the Regional Administrator of EPA under the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 2, all reports prepared to comply with this permit shall be available for public inspection at an EPD office. Effluent data, permit applications, permittee's names and addresses, and permits shall not be considered confidential.

5. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL

This permit may not be transferred. If the entity operating the facility changes, a new notice of intent must be submitted at least 30 days in advance of when the new entity will take over

operation. The owner to whom the permit was originally issued should give notice of termination.

6. CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LIABILITIES

The permittee is liable for civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance with this permit and must comply with applicable State and Federal laws including promulgated water quality standards. The permit cannot be interpreted to relieve the permittee of this liability even if it has not been modified to incorporate new requirements.

7. PROPERTY RIGHTS

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights of either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, or any infringement of Federal, State or local laws or regulations.

8. TERMINATION OF PERMIT

In order to terminate permit coverage, the permittee must submit a complete and accurate Notice of Termination (NOT). The permittee is responsible for complying with the terms of this permit until authorization is terminated.

A permittee must submit a NOT within 30 days after one or more of the following conditions have been met:

- a. A new permittee has taken over responsibility of the facility covered under an existing NOI;
- b. All discharges have ceased for which permit coverage was obtained and the permittee does not expect to discharge during the remainder of the permit term for any of the discharges covered under this permit.

9. EXPIRATION OF PERMIT

The permittee shall not operate the system after the expiration date of this permit. In order to receive permit renewal consideration to operate beyond the expiration date, the permittee shall submit such information, NOI forms, and fees as are required by the Division no later than 180 days prior to the expiration date of this permit.

10. CONTESTED HEARINGS

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

11. 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.

12. PREVIOUS PERMITS

All previous State water quality permits issued to this facility for construction or operation are revoked by the issuance of this permit. The permit governs discharges from this facility under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

13. TRUST INDENTURE

Non-governmentally owned wastewater treatment systems should execute a trust indenture with a local government body or other trustee approved by the Division. This trust indenture must assure continuity of operation of the facility in the event of operational or financial default by the owner. Upon submittal of the NOI for coverage under this general permit, the permittee will be required to submit one of the following:

1. Owners of systems who already have an executed trust indenture are required to submit a copy of the trust indenture along with the NOI.
2. Owners of systems who do not have a trust indenture must submit a trust indenture within 180 days of the effective date of the permit.

EPD encourages the owner of the system to make every effort to enter into a trust indenture with a local governmental authority. However, it is understood that an owner of a PID system may not be able to obtain a trust indenture from local governmental authorities and may have to enter an indenture with a private entity.