**STATE OF GEORGIA**

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION (EPD)**

**FACT SHEET**

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMITATION SYSTEM

GENERAL PERMIT NO. GAG640000

FILTER BACKWASH DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH WATER TREATMENT PLANT

ACTIVITY WITH SLUDGE HANDLING CAPABILITY

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. Efforts to improve water quality under the NPDES program include reducing pollutants in discharges of filter backwash from water treatment plant activity that employs sludge handling capabilities.

The Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control Chapter 391-3-6-.15 provides for the degree of waste treatment required and the uniform procedures and practices to be followed related to the application for issuance, modification, revocation and reissuance, and termination of general permits for the discharge of any pollutant into waters of the State.

General Permit No. GAG640000 authorizes coverage of filter backwash discharges to the waters of the State of Georgia from water treatment plant activities with sludge handling capabilities.

A 30-day comment period will be provided for the general permit, once every five years at the reissuance stage. However, for new and existing water treatment plants submitting NOIs for coverage under the general permit as first time discharges, public notice will be provided on an individual basis. This permit will be valid for a period of five years from the date of issuance.

**PERMIT COVERAGE**

Coverage under this permit is initiated by submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI). The NOI includes basic information about the facility and the specific waters of Georgia where the discharges occur. Coverage under this permit can be terminated by submitting a Notice of Termination (NOT). An NOT shall be submitted if discharges from the permitted facility cease or a new permittee takes over facility operations. Once a completed NOI or NOT is received, EPD will notify the applicant in writing whether they have received coverage under the general permit or whether coverage has been terminated. NOI and NOT forms are available on EPD’s website at <http://epd.georgia.gov/wastewater-npdes-las-forms>.

**PERMIT EFLFUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Parameters | Discharge limitations in  mg/L  unless otherwise specified | | Monitoring Requirements | | |
| Monthly Average | Weekly Average | Measurement Frequency | Sample  Type | Sample Location |
| Flow (MGD) | Report | Report | One Day/Week | Instantaneous | Effluent |
| Total Suspended Solids | 30 | 45 | One Day/Month | Grab(1) | Effluent |
| Total Aluminum | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab(1) | Effluent |
| Total Iron | Report | Report | One Day/Month | Grab(1) | Effluent |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Parameters | Discharge limitations | Monitoring Requirements | | |
| Measurement Frequency | Sample Type | Sample Location |
| pH, Minimum – Maximum (Standard Unit) | 6.0 – 8.5 | One Day/Month | Grab(1) | Effluent |
| Total Residual Chlorine (mg/L) (2) | Report Daily Maximum (2) | One Day/Month | Grab(1) | Effluent |

(2) This is a daily maximum limit. Total residual chlorine (TRC) monitoring requirements only apply if chlorine is in use at the facility.

The TRC limit shall be calculated as follows:

Dilution Factor = (7Q10 + Facility Design Flow) / Facility Design Flow

Water Quality Standard for TRC in freshwater aquatic organism = 11 ug/L x Calculated Dilution Factor = Monthly Average TRC limit.

The limit for TRC shall be the lower of either 0.5 mg/L or the calculated TRC limitation. If the TRC limit calculation is greater than 0.5 mg/L, the permittee will be required to meet the technology-based limit of 0.5 mg/L.

**PERMIT REVISIONS**

In addition, the draft permit contains revisions from the current permit. The revisions are as follows:

Part I.A.1.f. Added language for parameters not detected.

Part I.A.4. Revised Effluent Toxicity and Biomonitoring Rule reference.

Part I.B. The footnotes have been revised to include the Total Residual Chlorine limit calculation.

Part I.C.3. Revised to include the requirement of “sufficiently sensitive” test methods.

Part I.C.9. Removed the Total Residual Chlorine Compliance Schedule as it no longer applies.

Part II.A.4. Added language for “Other Noncompliance”.

Part II.A.5. Combined Certification requirements for Operator and Laboratory Analyst.

Part II.B.9. Added language for “Termination of Permit”.

**PROCEDURES FOR THE FORMULATION OF FINAL DETERMINATIONS**

**Comment Period**

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) proposes to reissue the General NPDES Filter Backwash Permit subject to the effluent limitations and special conditions outlined above. These determinations are tentative.

Georgia Environmental Protection Division

Wastewater Regulatory Program

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive

Suite 1152 East

Atlanta, Georgia 30334

The draft permit is available for review during the comment period at <http://epd.georgia.gov>. In addition, the NOIs, 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 Gigi Steele in the Wastewater Municipal Permitting Unit at 404-463-1511.

**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 [*EPD.comments@dnr.ga.gov*](mailto:EPD.comments@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 NPDES 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.

**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 it is determined 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.

**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 can be found at the following address:

<http://epd.georgia.gov/watershed-protection-branch-permit-and-public-comments-clearinghouse-0>

**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.