

**GENERAL PERMIT
NO. GAG960000**

**STATE OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION**

Authorization To Discharge Under The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Treated Water Associated With The Use Of Reclaimed Water Discharges From Reclaimed Water Treatment Systems In Gwinnett County

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, Reclaimed Water Treatment Systems located within Gwinnett County in the State of Georgia that are currently permitted as a Water Pollution Control Plant to Discharge to Waters of the State under an individual NPDES permit, and who desire to beneficially reclaim wastewater for the purpose of reuse, may, upon 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 this permit.

Designated users with intermittently discharging reclaimed water holding ponds, upon submittal of a notice of intent, and acknowledgement by the Environmental Protection Division, are authorized to discharge from reclaimed water holding ponds as a result of storm events exceeding the pond design, in accordance with the limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions set forth in this permit.

This permit shall become effective on July 1, 2014.

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, June 30, 2019.

Issued this 16th day of June 2014.



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

A. COVERAGE UNDER THIS PERMIT

1. PURPOSE

- a. The purpose of this permit is to allow the use of reclaimed water by a designated user. The reclaimed water can come from any of the Gwinnett County wastewater treatment plants located wholly or partially within the boundaries of Gwinnett County and permitted with an NPDES permit from EPD. The reclaimed water must meet the effluent limitations in Part II.B. of this permit.
- b. The purpose of this permit is also to allow intermittent discharges from reuse holding ponds, which are used and designed to store reclaimed water and stormwater. EPD recognizes that these reuse holding ponds may discharge intermittently to waters of the state if storm events exceed the holding pond design. Therefore, this permit will allow discharges from these impoundments to waters of the state in response to storm events.

The intermittent discharge allowed under this permit is the release of water from reuse holding ponds via the overflow weir or peak discharge control structure and the bleed-down device. After the water level lowers from the storm water storage level (Level A), it is recognized that a bleed-down to the reclaimed water storage level (Level B) will occur for a period of time. Once the water level lowers to the reclaimed water storage level (Level B), there shall be no discharge allowed from the reuse holding pond until the next rain or storm event. The designated user shall not add reclaimed water to the holding pond when the elevation of water in the reuse holding pond is greater than the reclaimed water storage level (Level B).

2. NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI)

- a. To be covered under this permit, the permittee must submit an NOI to EPD. The NOI shall be on forms provided by EPD, shall include all information requested on the form, and must be signed in accordance with Part III.A.16. of this permit.
- b. The NOI forms may be obtained at www.georgiaepd.org or by contacting the Wastewater Regulatory Program of the Environmental Protection Division's Watershed Protection Branch.

3. COVERAGE

a. ELIGIBILITY

- 1) This general permit allows the discharge of reclaimed water from a Gwinnett County reclaimed water treatment facility (reuse provider), located wholly or partially within the boundaries of Gwinnett County, whose reclaimed water meets the effluent limits outlined in Part II.B. to designated users at designated sites for the reuse of the reclaimed water.
- 2) This general permit allows the intermittent discharge from reuse holding ponds designed in accordance with EPD's Guidelines for Water Reclamation and Urban Water Reuse for Ponds with Intermittent Discharges (Section 11), which are used to store reclaimed water and stormwater and, which receive reclaimed water from a Gwinnett County reclaimed water treatment facility (reuse provider), when the water elevation in the holding pond is above the reclaimed water storage level.

b. DISCHARGE AUTHORIZATION

Upon the effective date of the permit, permittees will be covered as follows:

- 1) Existing permittees that meet the eligibility requirements described in Part I.A.3.a. are automatically covered under this general permit unless otherwise notified by EPD. However, the following conditions must be met to maintain coverage.
 - i. The permittee's complete NOI has been received by EPD.
 - ii. Within thirty (30) days of EPD's receipt of the NOI, EPD has not issued a written response stating that the permittee is not covered by this general permit, then the permittee will remain covered under this permit.
- 2) New permittees described in Part I.A.2.a. will be covered under this permit after EPD acceptance of an NOI submitted to EPD.

EPD may deny coverage based on an incomplete or incorrect NOI submittal, past noncompliance by the applicant at similar facilities, or other factors.

B. CONDITIONS

1. DEFINITIONS

- a. Bleed Down Device: orifice or other flow-limiting device through which the pond slowly bleeds down rainwater that accumulates above the reclaimed water storage level.
- b. Designated User or User: any site or facility, located physically within the geographic and political boundaries of Gwinnett County, which receives reclaimed water from Gwinnett County under a contract or written agreement or has filed a NOI under this permit.

- c. Monthly Average: the arithmetic mean of values for samples collected during a calendar month.
- d. Non-restricted Access: landscape areas where reclaimed wastewater is used for irrigation purposes, public access cannot be controlled, and adequate buffer zones cannot be maintained. Reclaimed wastewater used to irrigate non-restricted access areas must be treated to urban water reuse standards.
- e. Overflow Weir or Peak Discharge Control Structure: a device constructed in accordance with EPD's Reuse Guidelines that will limit the discharge from the holding pond to occur only when the water elevation in the pond exceeds the stormwater storage level.
- f. Permittee: for the purpose of this permit, means the Reuse Provider(s) and the Designated User(s).
- g. Reclaimed Water: water that has received treatment to urban water reuse standards, meets the effluent limitations specified in Part II.B. of this permit, and is utilized at a reuse area or is sent to a designated user for reuse.
- h. Reclaimed Water Storage Level (Level B): the maximum fill level or water elevation of a reuse holding pond that allows for storage of reclaimed water.
- i. Reclaimed Water Treatment System: the treatment system for urban water reuse shall include biological oxidation/clarification, coagulation/filtration, and disinfection.
- j. Reject Water: wastewater that does not meet the 3 NTU criteria or which exceeds 100 colonies per 100 mL for a single sample of fecal coliform bacteria.
- k. Restricted Access: landscape areas where reclaimed wastewater is used for irrigation purposes and public access is restricted to specific and controlled periods of time. Reclaimed wastewater used to irrigate restricted access areas must be pretreated and receive disinfection as specified in Part II.B. of this permit.
- l. Reuse or Urban Water Reuse: the use of reclaimed water as a substitute for other water sources for the beneficial irrigation of areas that may be accessible to the public, such as golf courses, residential and commercial landscaping, parks, athletic fields, roadway medians, industrial processes, and landscape impoundments.
- m. Reuse Area: the irrigated area of any designated user. For the purposes of this permit, it is defined as the irrigated area of any designated user located physically within the geographic and political boundaries of Gwinnett County.
- n. Reuse Guidelines: EPD's Guidelines for Water Reclamation and Urban Water Reuse (March 2012) and amendments thereafter.
- o. Reuse Provider: Gwinnett County, which is the owner of the reclaimed water treatment system for which a Notice of Intent to provide reclaimed water to designated users has to be filed for coverage under this permit.
- p. Reuse Water Holding Pond: 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.

- q. State Act: the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Official Code of Georgia Annotated; Title 12, Chapter 5, Article 2).
- r. Storm Event: any event in which precipitation exceeds 3.25 inches within a 24-hour period.
- s. Storm Water Storage Level (Level A): the maximum fill level of the holding pond that allows for storage of reclaimed water and rainwater up to the design storm event.

2. DESIGNATED USERS

a. DESIGNATION AND LISTING

- 1) After EPD acceptance of an NOI submitted by a reuse provider, the reuse provider may provide reclaimed water to designated users (as defined in Part A.1.). The reuse provider may provide reclaimed water to additional designated users as long as prior written notice is provided to EPD and a 30-day period for public comment is provided to the community. The public notice shall be published for one day in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the area affected by the discharge. The public notice shall include the name of the designated user, facility location and a description stating that the reuse provider is to provide reclaimed water to the designated user. The additional users list will be considered an addendum to the permit, but the permit will not be reopened to add new designated users. The reuse provider must keep records of the volume of reuse water provided to each of the designated users.
- 2) Within 30 days of the close of the reporting period January through December, with the report due each January, the reuse provider shall submit a report to EPD that includes an updated list of all designated users. This list shall contain the name of the designated user, the contact person, title, address, and phone number and the total annual volume of reclaimed water delivered to the designated users as reported in the reuse water meter readings taken in the months of January through December of the report year.

b. USER AGREEMENT

Any designated user receiving reuse water from the reuse provider must enter into an agreement with the reuse provider. The reuse provider shall ensure that agreements executed with designated users shall meet the requirements of the Guidelines for Urban Reuse including the Procedures and Potable Water Cross Connections (Section 9.2), and Access Control and Warning Signs (Section 8.0).

c. REUSE HOLDING PONDS WITH INTERMITTENT DISCHARGES

All reuse holding ponds with intermittent discharges must be designed and operated in accordance with EPD's Reuse Guidelines for Ponds with Intermittent Discharges (Section 11). For new intermittently discharging holding ponds, the designated user must certify that the holding pond has been designed in accordance with Section 11 of the Reuse Guidelines. After EPD's acceptance of an NOI submitted by a designated user with a holding pond with intermittent discharges, the reuse provider

is allowed to provide reuse water to the identified designated user. The designated user may utilize holding ponds to store reclaimed water and stormwater and may discharge intermittently to waters of the State in response to storm events.

For each reuse holding pond with intermittent discharges, the designated user must provide the reclaimed water storage level (Level B), the stormwater storage level (Level A), the location of the holding pond including the address, the latitude/longitude or GIS coordinates, and the name of the designated user's holding pond, and receiving waters as required on the NOI.

Discharge of reclaimed water to the reuse holding pond shall only occur when the elevation of the water in the holding pond is less than the reclaimed water storage level (Level B). The designated user shall not add reclaimed water to the holding pond when the elevation of water in the pond is greater than the reclaimed water storage level (Level B).

When a discharge occurs from the reuse holding pond overflow weir, the designated user must report to the reuse provider as follows:

- 1) A list of all days during a calendar month, on which discharges from the reuse holding ponds occurred;
- 2) The approximate number of hours of discharge for each day;
- 3) The approximate volume of the discharge for each day.

The reuse provider must attach the information provided by the designated user to the Discharge Monitoring Report as required in Part II.A.4. when applicable.

If additional monitoring is requested by EPD, the designated user must comply with the following sections of the permit (as applicable): Part II.A.8., Part II.A.9., Part II.A.10., and Part II.A.12.

PART II - REUSE PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS

A. MONITORING AND REPORTING

1. The reuse provider shall have a primary flow-measuring device installed in accordance with the approved design of the facility. If instantaneous measurements are required, then the permittee shall have a primary flow measuring device that is correctly installed and maintained. If continuous recording measurements are required, then flow measurements must be made using continuous recording equipment.
2. The reuse provider shall ensure that the designated user with intermittent discharging holding ponds has a primary flow-indicating device installed for the discharge from both the bleed down device and the overflow weir or peak discharge control device.
3. A composite sample shall consist of a minimum of 13 subsamples collected at least every 2 hours for at least 24 hours, and shall be composited proportionally to flow.
4. All reports of information submitted in compliance with this permit or requested by EPD must be signed in accordance with Part III.A.16. of this permit. Required analytical results obtained by the permittee shall be summarized on a Discharge Monitoring Report form and any EPD specified forms. Monitoring results for the reuse provider shall be submitted to EPD postmarked no later than the 15th day of the month following the end of the reporting period. EPD may require in writing that additional monitoring results be reported.
5. The monthly average, other than for fecal coliform bacteria, is the arithmetic mean of values obtained for samples collected during a calendar month.
6. Fecal coliform bacteria will be reported as the geometric mean of values obtained for samples collected during a calendar month and will be reported as a monthly average.
7. 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. For all values reported below the detection limit except fecal coliform bacteria, a value of "zero" (0) shall be utilized in the calculation of monthly and weekly averages. For fecal coliform bacteria the value to be used in averaging shall be "one" (1).
8. 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. The analytical method used shall be sufficiently sensitive. EPA approved methods must be applicable to the concentration ranges of the NPDES permit samples.
9. Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored waste stream. The reuse provider shall maintain a written sampling and monitoring schedule.
10. For each measurement of a sample taken pursuant to the requirements of this permit, the reuse provider shall record the following information:
 - a. The exact place, date, and time of sampling, and the person(s) collecting the 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,
 - e. The results of all required analyses
11. If the reuse provider monitors required parameters at the locations designated in Part II.B. more frequently than required, the reuse 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 Discharge Monitoring Report Forms. The increased monitoring frequency shall also be reported. EPD may require by written notification, more frequent monitoring or the monitoring of other pollutants not specified in this permit.
12. The reuse provider 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; and
 - g. All data and information used to complete the NOI.

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

B. REUSE PROVIDER WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY - TREATMENT AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

The reclaimed water from the reuse provider shall be limited and monitored as follows prior to delivery to the designated user; with effluent defined as the final effluent which comes from the reclaimed water treatment system and which meets the following requirements:

Parameters	Discharge Limitation Monthly Average, mg/l unless otherwise specified	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Volume (gallons) ^a	Report	Seven Days/Week	Continuous	Effluent
Total Phosphorus (as P)	Report	Weekly	Composite	Effluent
Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand	5	Weekly	Composite	Effluent
Ammonia (as N)	Report	Weekly	Composite	Effluent
Total Suspended Solids	5	Weekly	Composite	Effluent
pH, standard units	6.0 - 9.0	Weekly	Grab	Effluent
Fecal Coliform Bacteria (#/100ml) ^b	23 100 (Maximum per sample)	Seven Days/Week	Grab	Effluent
Turbidity ^c	3	Seven Days/Week	Continuous	Effluent

- a. The reuse provider must keep records of the volume of reuse water provided to each of its customers.
- b. For any single sample that exceeds 100 per 100 mL, the cause should be determined and appropriate actions must be taken. No reuse water shall be provided to customers until a sample less than 100 per 100 mL is obtained. Water exceeding 100 per 100 mL may be discharged under the treatment facilities individual permit if it complies with those permit requirements.
- c. This is an instantaneous maximum limitation. 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 the treatment facilities individual permit if it complies with those permit requirements.

PART III

A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

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. FACILITY OPERATION

The permittee shall maintain and operate efficiently all treatment or control facilities and related equipment installed or used by the permittee or 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 reuse 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 shall be a certified Class I operator. On-site operation 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

Laboratory Analysts for the Reclaimed Water Treatment System 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.

5. 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.

6. GROUNDWATER MONITORING WELLS

The permittee may be required by written notification from EPD to install groundwater monitoring wells at the site of an existing or future designated user.

7. RIGHT OF ENTRY

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

- a. Enter the permittee'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 EPD.

9. CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LIABILITY

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.

10. SUBMITTAL OF INFORMATION

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

11. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

If the permittee changes, a new notice of intent must be submitted at least 30 days in advance of when a new permittee will take over operation. The permittee covered by this permit must provide a notice of termination to EPD and a copy to the new proposed permittee.

12. CONTESTED HEARINGS

Any person aggrieved or adversely affected by any action of the Director of EPD 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

The permittee shall not discharge under the provisions of this permit without authorization from EPD. The permittee shall submit any necessary information, forms, and fees as required by EPD no later than 180 days before the expiration date for permit reissuance.

15. TERMINATING COVERAGE

a. SUBMITTING A NOTICE OF TERMINATION (NOT)

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

b. WHEN TO SUBMIT A NOTICE OF TERMINATION

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

- 1) A new permittee has taken over responsibility of a reclaimed water treatment system or designated user covered under an existing NOI;
- 2) 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.

16. SIGNATORY REQUIREMENTS

a. Any NOI or NOT required by this permit must be signed as follows:

- 1) For a corporation: By a responsible corporate officer. For the purpose of this subsection, a responsible corporate officer means: (a) 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 (b) the manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities, provided, 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 agency, by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.

- b. All other reports, engineering reports, plans, or request for information required by the EPD 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 discharge originates;
 - 2) The authorization is made in writing by the person designated under (a) above; and
 - 3) The written authorization is submitted to the Director.