



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

**Richard E. Dunn, Director**

**EPD Director's Office**  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive  
Suite 1456, East Tower  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
404-656-4713

Ms. Linda MacGregor, Director of Water Resources      NOV 7 2017  
City of Gainesville  
757 Queen City Parkway SW  
Gainesville, GA 30501

RE: City of Gainesville – Flat Creek  
Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP)  
NPDES Permit No. GA0021156  
Hall County

Dear Ms. MacGregor:

Pursuant to the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, as amended; the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended; and the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereunder, we have today issued the attached National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the referenced water pollution control plant.

Your facility is assigned to the following EPD office for reporting, compliance and enforcement:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division  
Watershed Compliance Program  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 1152 East  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Please note that the attached permit requires the use of electronic reporting in accordance with Part I.D. of the permit. On and after the effective date indicated in the attached NPDES permit, the permittee must comply with all the terms, conditions and limitations of this permit. If you have questions, please contact Benoit Causse at 404.463.4958 or [benoit.causse@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:benoit.causse@dnr.ga.gov).

Sincerely,

Richard E. Dunn  
Director

RED/hcc  
Attachments: Permit

cc: Marzieh Shahbazaz, Municipal Compliance Unit ([Marzieh.shahbazaz@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Marzieh.shahbazaz@dnr.ga.gov))

PERMIT NO. GA0021156  
Issuance Date: NOV 7 2017



**GEORGIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System**

In accordance with the provisions of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Georgia Laws 1964, p. 416, as amended), hereinafter called the "State Act"; the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S. C. 1251 et seq.), hereinafter called the "Federal Act;" and the Rules and Regulations promulgated pursuant to each of these Acts,

City of Gainesville  
757 Queen City Parkway SW  
Gainesville, Georgia 30501

is authorized to discharge from a facility located at

Flat Creek  
Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP)  
2641 Old Flowery Branch Road  
Gainesville, Georgia 30504  
(Hall County)

to receiving waters

Flat Creek to Lake Sidney Lanier  
(Chattahoochee River Basin)

in accordance with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in the permit.

This permit is issued in reliance upon the permit application signed on January 13, 2017, any other applications upon which this permit is based, supporting data entered therein or attached thereto, and any subsequent submittal of supporting data.

This permit shall become effective on December 1, 2017. This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, November 30, 2022.



  
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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." The effluent shall meet the requirements in the table(s) or the condition in paragraph I.A.1.a., whichever yields the higher quality effluent.

- a. For 5 day carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD<sub>5</sub>) and total suspended solids (TSS), the arithmetic mean of the values of the effluent samples collected during a month shall not exceed 15 percent of the arithmetic mean of values for influent samples collected at approximately the same times (85 percent removal). In accordance with Chapter 391-3-6-.06(4)(d) 2., of the State Rules, under certain conditions the 85 percent removal requirement may not be applicable, as specified in 40 CFR 133.
- b. The monthly average, other than for fecal coliform bacteria, is the arithmetic mean of values obtained for samples collected during a calendar month.
- c. 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 7:00 AM Sunday and ends at 7:00 AM the following Sunday. 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.
- d. 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.b. and I.A.1.c.
- e. 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.

- f. 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.
- g. A composite sample shall consist of a minimum of 13 subsamples collected at least once every 2 hours for at least 24 hours and shall be composited proportionately to flow.
- h. Flow measurements shall be conducted using the flow measuring device(s) 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. Calibration shall be maintained of the continuous recording instrumentation to  $\pm 10\%$  of the actual flow.

Flow shall be measured manually to check the flow meter calibration at a frequency of once a month. If secondary flow instruments are in use and malfunction or fail to maintain calibration as required, the flow shall be computed from manual measurements or by other method(s) approved by EPD until such time as the secondary flow instrument is repaired. For facilities which utilize alternate technologies for measuring flow, the flow measurement device must be calibrated semi-annually by qualified personnel.

Records of the calibration checks shall be maintained.

- i. If secondary flow instruments malfunction or fail to maintain calibration as required in I.A.1.h., the flow shall be computed from manual measurements taken at the times specified for the collection of composite samples.
- 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 approval and modification of the

permit. 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).

4. INTRODUCTION OF POLLUTANTS INTO THE PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS (POTW)

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 POTW.

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)(e) 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.

B. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

B.1. Discharge to Flat Creek – Outfall 001 (34.26720075° N, 83.86585236° W):

The discharge from the water pollution control plant (WPCP) shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as follows beginning the date of the permit issuance and continuing until permit expiration:

Parameters	Discharge Limitations mg/L (kg/day) unless otherwise specified <sup>(6)</sup>		Monitoring Requirements		
	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Flow (MGD)	12	15	Seven Days/Week	Continuous	Effluent
Five-Day Carbonaceous Biochemical Oxygen Demand, CBOD <sub>5</sub>	2.5 (114)	3.75 (142)	Five Days/Week	Composite	Influent & Effluent
Total Suspended Solids	7.0 (318)	11 (398)	Five Days/Week	Composite	Influent & Effluent
Ammonia, as N	0.5 (23)	0.75 (28)	Five Days/Week	Composite	Effluent
Fecal Coliform Bacteria (#/100 mL)	23	46	Three Days/Week	Grab	Effluent
Total Phosphorus, as P <sup>(1)</sup>	0.13 (6.0)	0.20 (7.4)	Five Days/Week	Composite	Effluent

Parameters	Discharge Limitations mg/L unless otherwise specified	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
pH, Minimum – Maximum (Standard Unit)	6.0 – 8.5	Seven Days/Week	Grab	Effluent
Dissolved Oxygen, Daily Minimum	7.0	Seven Days/Week	Grab	Effluent
Turbidity (NTU)	1.0	Seven Days/Week	Continuous	Effluent
Ortho-phosphate, as P <sup>(1)</sup>	Report	One Day/Month	Composite	Effluent
Organic Nitrogen, as N <sup>(2)(3)</sup>	Report	One Day/Month	Composite	Effluent
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, as N <sup>(3)</sup>	Report	One Day/Month	Composite	Effluent
Nitrate-Nitrite, as N <sup>(3)</sup>	Report	One Day/Month	Composite	Effluent
Chronic Whole Effluent Toxicity (%) <sup>(4)</sup>	Report NOEC	Annually	Composite	Effluent
Temperature (°F) <sup>(5)</sup>	Report	See Below	Continuous	Effluent

(Effluent limitations continued on next page)

Discharge to Flat Creek (Continued):

- (1) Total Phosphorus and Ortho-phosphate must be analyzed from the same sample.
- (2) Organic Nitrogen = TKN – Ammonia
- (3) Organic Nitrogen, Nitrate-Nitrite as N, and Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen must be analyzed from the same sample.
- (4) Refer to Part I.C.9. Chronic Whole Effluent Toxicity
- (5) Refer to Part I.C.8. Temperature Monitoring - Effluent
- (6) Refer to Part I.C.12. Lake Lanier TMDL



B.2. Instream Surface Water Quality Monitoring – Flat Creek:

Stream monitoring in Flat Creek shall be performed upstream and downstream of the facility discharge, as specified below:

Parameters	Discharge Limitations mg/L unless otherwise specified	Monitoring Requirements		
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location <sup>(3)</sup>
Temperature (°F)	Report <sup>(1)</sup>	One Day/Week	Grab	Upstream & Downstream
Dissolved Oxygen	Report <sup>(2)</sup>	One Day/Week	Grab	Upstream & Downstream
pH (SU)	Report <sup>(2)</sup>	One Day/Week	Grab	Upstream & Downstream
Conductivity (µS/cm)	Report <sup>(1)</sup>	One Day/Week	Grab	Upstream & Downstream

- (1) Report Monthly Minimum, Average, and Maximum
- (2) Report Monthly Minimum
- (3) Stream monitoring in Flat Creek shall be performed upstream of the facility discharge and downstream of the facility discharge at the bridge on Old Flowery Branch Road

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. SAMPLING PERIOD

- a. Unless otherwise specified in this permit, quarterly samples shall be taken during the periods January-March, April-June, July-September, and October-December.
- b. Unless otherwise specified in this permit, semiannual samples shall be taken during the periods January-June and July-December.
- c. Unless otherwise specified in this permit, annual samples shall be taken during the period of January-December.

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. TEMPERATURE MONITORING - EFFLUENT

Temperature of the effluent shall be monitored on the plant site. Daily minimum, maximum, and average effluent temperature data are to be reported on the monthly report "long form" or daily sheets submitted with the monthly discharge monitoring reports. Also for reporting purposes, the data are to be recorded at least hourly seven days a week and archived using a digital format such as a spreadsheet developed in coordination with EPD. The data shall be maintained by the permittee for a period of five years and the data for the previous year shall be submitted to EPD by January 31<sup>st</sup>. In addition, the permittee shall make the data available to EPD upon request. If continuous recording equipment fails, manual recording measurements, which meet the above criteria, are acceptable.

9. CHRONIC WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY

The permittee shall conduct annual chronic whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing. The testing must include the most current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chronic aquatic toxicity testing manuals. The referenced document is entitled Short-Term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, U.S. EPA, 821-R-02-013, October 2002. Definitive tests must be run on the same samples concurrently using both an invertebrate species (i.e., Ceriodaphnia dubia) and a vertebrate species (i.e., Fathead Minnow, Pimephales promelas) and should include a dilution equal to the facility's instream wastewater concentration (IWC) of 99 % at an effluent flow of 12 MGD.

EPD will evaluate the WET tests submitted to determine whether toxicity has been demonstrated. An effluent discharge will not be considered toxic if the No Observed Effect Concentration (NOEC) is greater than or equal to the Instream Wastewater Concentration (IWC) of 99 % at an effluent flow of 12 MGD. If substances are measured at levels of concern, then the permittee may be required to perform additional WET tests or the permit may be modified to include chronic WET effluent limitations. Results of annual WET tests must be submitted prior to December 31 of each year.

10. FLAT CREEK EMBAYMENT STUDY PLAN

In order for EPD to have sufficient water quality data to evaluate anticipated future permit requests for facility expansion to 15 MGD and 18 MGD the permittee shall submit a scope of work for a "Flat Creek Embayment Study," prior to requesting discharges at the higher flows. The "Embayment Study" shall look at the embayment as well as the creek up to the current flat Creek Facility outfall. The permittee shall implement the Study up on approval of the aforementioned scope of work by EPD in accordance with an approved schedule. The schedule will be included in the scope.

11. WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

The permittee has developed a watershed protection plan and the plan has been approved by EPD. The permittee's approved watershed protection plan shall be enforceable through this permit.

Each June 30<sup>th</sup> the permittee is to submit the following to EPD:

- a. An annual certification statement documenting that the plan is being implemented as approved. The certification statement shall read as follows: "I certify, under penalty of law, that the watershed protection plan is being implemented. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."
- b. All watershed plan data collected during the previous year in an electronic format. This data shall be archived using a digital format such as a spreadsheet developed in coordination with EPD. All archived records, data, and information pertaining to the watershed protection plan shall be maintained permanently.
- c. A progress report that provides a summary of the BMPs that have been implemented and documented water quality improvements. The progress report shall also include any necessary changes to the watershed protection plan.

12. LAKE LANIER TMDL

The State of Georgia is in the process of drafting a Site-Specific Numeric Nutrient Criterion total Maximum Daily Load for Lake Lanier in the Chattahoochee River Basin. Once the Lake Lanier TMDL is finalized, EPD will reopen this permit to include nutrient effluent limitations or modify current effluent limitations in order to meet the reduction of nutrients in the lake.

D. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. The permittee must electronically report the DMR, OMR and additional monitoring data using the web based electronic NetDMR reporting system, unless a waiver is granted by EPD.
  - a. The permittee must comply with the Federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Electronic Reporting regulations in 40 CFR §127. The permittee must electronically report the DMR, OMR, and additional monitoring data using the web based electronic NetDMR reporting system online at:  
<https://netdmr.epa.gov/netdmr/public/home.htm>.

- b. Monitoring results obtained during the calendar month shall be summarized for each month and reported on the DMR. The results of each sampling event shall be reported on the OMR and submitted as an attachment to the DMR.
    - c. The permittee shall submit the DMR, OMR and additional monitoring data no later than 11:59 p.m. on the 15th day of the month following the sampling period.
    - d. All other reports required herein, unless otherwise stated, shall be submitted to the EPD Office listed on the permit issuance letter signed by the Director of EPD.
  2. **No later than December 21, 2020**, the permittee must electronically report the following compliance monitoring data and reports using the online web based electronic system approved by EPD, unless a waiver is granted by EPD:
    - a. Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Annual Program Reports provided that the permittee has an approved Sewage Sludge (Biosolids) Plan;
    - b. Pretreatment Program Reports provided that the permittee has an approved Industrial Pretreatment Program in this permit;
    - c. Sewer Overflow/Bypass Event Reports;
    - d. Noncompliance Notification;
    - e. Other noncompliance; and
    - f. Bypass
3. OTHER REPORTS

All other reports required in this permit not listed above in Part I.D.2 or unless otherwise stated, shall be submitted to the EPD Office listed on the permit issuance letter signed by the Director of EPD.
4. OTHER NONCOMPLIANCE

All instances of noncompliance not reported under Part I.B. and Part II. A. shall be reported to EPD at the time the monitoring report is submitted.
5. SIGNATORY REQUIREMENTS

All reports, certifications, data or information submitted in compliance with this permit or requested by EPD must be signed and certified as follows:

  - a. Any State or NPDES Permit Application form submitted to the EPD shall be signed as follows in accordance with the Federal Regulations, 40 C.F.R. 122.22:
    1. For a corporation, by a responsible corporate officer. A responsible corporate officer means:

- i 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
    - ii. the manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities employing more than 250 persons or having gross annual sales or expenditures exceeding \$25 million (in second-quarter 1980 dollars), 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 facility, by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.
- b. All other reports or requests for information required by the permit issuing authority 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 the discharge originates, e.g., a plant manager, superintendent or person of equivalent responsibility;
  2. The authorization is made in writing by the person designated under (a) above; and
  3. The written authorization is submitted to the Director.
- c. Any changes in written authorization submitted to the permitting authority under (b) above which occur after the issuance of a permit shall be reported to the permitting authority by submitting a copy of a new written authorization which meets the requirements of (b) and (b.1) and (b.2) above.
- d. Any person signing any document under (a) or (b) above shall make the following certification:

“I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there

are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.”



## **PART II**

### **A. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS**

#### **1. PROPER OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

The permittee shall properly 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. PLANNED CHANGE**

Any anticipated facility expansions, or process modifications which will result in new, different, or increased discharges of pollutants requires 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. TWENTY-FOUR HOUR REPORTING**

If, for any reason the permittee does not comply with, or will be unable to comply with any effluent limitations specified in the permittee's NPDES permit, the permittee 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 five (5) days of becoming aware of such condition. The written submission shall contain the following information:

- 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

The person responsible for the daily operation of the facility must be a Class I Certified Operator in compliance with the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Act, as amended, and as specified by Subparagraph 391-3-6-.12 of the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control. All other operators must have the minimum certification required by this Act.

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. DUTY TO MITIGATE

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. NOTICE CONCERNING ENDANGERING WATERS OF THE STATE

Whenever, because of an accident or otherwise, any toxic or taste and color producing substance, or any other substance which would endanger downstream users of the waters of the State or would damage property, is discharged into such waters, or is so placed that it might flow, be washed, or fall into them, it shall be the duty of the person in charge of such substances at the time to forthwith notify EPD in person or by telephone of the location and nature of the danger, and it shall be such person's further duty to immediately take all reasonable and necessary steps to prevent injury to property and downstream users of said water.

Spills and Major Spills:

A "spill" is any discharge of raw sewage by a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) to the waters of the State.

A "major spill" means:

1. The discharge of pollutants into waters of the State by a POTW that exceeds the weekly average permitted effluent limit for biochemical oxygen demand (5-day) or total suspended solids by 50 percent or greater in one day, provided that the effluent discharge concentration is equal to or greater than 25 mg/L for biochemical oxygen demand or total suspended solids.
2. Any discharge of raw sewage that 1) exceeds 10,000 gallons or 2) results in water quality violations in the waters of the State.

"Consistently exceeding effluent limitation" means a POTW exceeding the 30 day average limit for biochemical oxygen demand or total suspended solids for at least five days out of each seven day period during a total period of 180 consecutive days.

The following specific requirements shall apply to POTW's. If a spill or major spill occurs, the owner of a POTW shall immediately:

- a. Notify EPD, in person or by telephone, when a spill or major spill occurs in the system.

- b. Report the incident to the local health department(s) for the area affected by the incident.

The report at a minimum shall include the following:

1. Date of the spill or major spill;
  2. Location and cause of the spill or major spill;
  3. Estimated volume discharged and name of receiving waters; and
  4. Corrective action taken to mitigate or reduce the adverse effects of the spill or major spill.
- c. Post a notice as close as possible to where the spill or major spill occurred and where the spill entered State waters and also post additional notices along portions of the waterway affected by the incident (i.e. bridge crossings, boat ramps, recreational areas, and other points of public access to the affected waterway). The notice at a minimum shall include the same information required in 11(b)(1-4) above. These notices shall remain in place for a minimum of seven days after the spill or major spill has ceased.
  - d. Within 24 hours of becoming aware of a spill or major spill, the owner of a POTW shall report the incident to the local media (television, radio, and print media). The report shall include the same information required in 11(b)(1-4) above.
  - e. Within five (5) days (of the date of the spill or major spill), the owner of a POTW shall submit to EPD a written report which includes the same information required in 11(b)(1-4) above.
  - f. Within 7 days (after the date of a major spill), the owner of a POTW responsible for the major spill, shall publish a notice in the largest legal organ of the County where the incident occurred. The notice shall include the same information required in 11(b)(1-4) above.
  - g. The owner of a POTW shall immediately establish a monitoring program of the receiving waters affected by a major spill or by consistently exceeding an effluent limit, with such monitoring being at the expense of the POTW for at least one year. The monitoring program shall include an upstream sampling point as well as sufficient downstream locations to accurately characterize the impact of the major spill or the consistent exceedence of effluent limitations described in the definition of "Consistently exceeding effluent limitation" above. As a minimum, the following parameters shall be monitored in the receiving stream:
    1. Dissolved Oxygen;
    2. Fecal Coliform Bacteria;
    3. pH;
    4. Temperature; and

5. Other parameters required by the EPD.

The monitoring and reporting frequency as well as the need to monitor additional parameters, will be determined by EPD. The results of the monitoring will be provided by the POTW owner to EPD and all downstream public agencies using the affected waters as a source of a public water supply.

- h. Within 24 hours of becoming aware of a major spill, the owner of a POTW shall provide notice of a major spill to every county, municipality, or other public agency whose public water supply is within a distance of 20 miles downstream and to any others which could be potentially affected by the major spill.

12. 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. DUTY TO COMPLY

The permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance is a violation of the Federal Clean Water Act, State Act, and the State Rules, and is grounds for:

- a. Enforcement action;
- b. Permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or
- c. Denial of a permit renewal application.

2. NEED TO HALT OR REDUCE ACTIVITY NOT A DEFENSE

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.

3. INSPECTION AND 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.

4. DUTY TO PROVIDE 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.

5. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

A permit may be transferred to another person by a permittee if:

- a. The permittee notifies the Director in writing at least 30 days in advance of the proposed transfer;
- b. An agreement is written containing a specific date for transfer of permit responsibility including acknowledgment that the existing permittee is liable for violations up to that date, and that the new permittee is liable for violations from that date on. This agreement must be submitted to the Director at least 30 days in advance of the proposed transfer; and
- c. The Director does not notify the current permittee and the new permittee within 30 days of EPD intent to modify, revoke and reissue, or terminate the permit. The Director may require that a new application be filed instead of agreeing to the transfer of the permit.

6. 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, permittees' names and addresses, and permits shall not be considered confidential.

7. PERMIT ACTIONS

This permit may be modified, terminated, or revoked and reissued in whole or in part during its term for causes including, but not limited to:

- a. Permit violations;
- b. Obtaining this permit by misrepresentation or by failure to disclose all relevant facts;
- c. Changing any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the permitted discharge;
- d. Changes in effluent characteristics; and
- e. Violations of water quality standards.

The filing of a request by the permittee for permit modification, termination, revocation and reissuance, or notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not negate any permit condition.

8. CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LIABILITY

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee from civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance.

9. 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.

10. DUTY TO REAPPLY

The permittee shall submit an application for permit reissuance at least 180 days before the expiration date of this permit. The permittee shall not discharge after the permit expiration date without written authorization from the EPD. To receive this authorization, the permittee shall submit the information, forms, and fees required by the EPD no later than 180 days before the expiration date.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. OTHER INFORMATION

Where the permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report form to the Director, it shall promptly submit such facts or information.

14. 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).



**PART III**

**A. APPROVED INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT PROGRAM FOR PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS (POTWs)**

1. The permittee's approved pretreatment program shall be enforceable through this permit. The permittee shall also comply with the provisions of 40 CFR 403.
2. The permittee shall administer the approved pretreatment program by:
  - a. Maintaining records identifying the character and volume of pollutants contributed by industrial users to the POTW.
  - b. Enforcing and obtaining appropriate remedies for noncompliance by any industrial user with any applicable pretreatment standard or requirement defined by Section 307(b) and (c) of the Federal Act, 40 CFR Part 403.5 and 403.6 or any State or local requirement, whichever is more stringent.
  - c. Revising the adopted local limits based on technical analyses to ensure that the local limits continue to prevent:
    1. Interference with the operation of the POTW;
    2. Pass-through of pollutants in violation of this permit;
    3. Municipal sludge contamination; and
    4. Toxicity to life in the receiving stream.

Within 180 days of the effective date of this permit issuance or reissuance (excluding permit modifications), the permittee shall review the local limits of the program and submit to EPD a written technical evaluation of the need to revise the local limits.

- d. Ensuring that industrial wastewater discharges from industrial users are regulated through discharge permits or equivalent individual control mechanisms. Compliance schedules will be required of each industrial user for the installation of control technologies to meet applicable pretreatment standards and the requirements of the approved program.
- e. Inspecting, surveying, and monitoring to determine if the industrial user is in compliance with the applicable pretreatment standards.
- f. Equitably maintaining and adjusting revenue levels to ensure adequate and continued pretreatment program implementation.
- g. Preparing a list of industrial users which, during the previous twelve months, have been in significant noncompliance with the pretreatment requirements enumerated in 40 CFR Part 403.8 (f)(2)(viii). This list will be published annually in the newspaper with the largest circulation in the service area in December, and every December thereafter.

B. APPROVED PRETREATMENT PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT

1. Within 30 days of the close of the reporting period December through November, with the first report due December 2017 and each December thereafter, the permittee shall submit a report to the EPD that includes:
  - a. An updated list of POTW industrial users;
  - b. The results of POTW sampling and analyses required by the EPD;
  - c. A summary of POTW industrial user inspections;
  - d. A summary of POTW operations including information on upsets, interferences, pass through events, or violations of the permit related to industrial user discharges;
  - e. A summary of all activities to involve and inform the public of pretreatment requirements;
  - f. A summary of the annual pretreatment program budget;
  - g. A descriptive summary of any compliance activities initiated, ongoing, or completed against industrial users which shall include the number of administrative orders, show cause hearings, penalties, civil actions, and fines;
  - h. A list of contributing industries using the treatment works, divided into Standard Industrial Classification Code (SIC) categories, which have been issued permits or similar enforceable individual control mechanisms, and a status of compliance for each industrial user. The list should also identify the industries that are categorical or significant industrial users
  - i. The name and address of each industrial user that has received a conditionally revised discharge limit;
  - j. A list of all industrial users who were in significant noncompliance with applicable pretreatment standards and requirements;
  - k. A list of all industrial users showing the date that each was notified that a categorical pretreatment standard had been promulgated by EPA for their industrial category and the status of each industrial user in achieving compliance within the 3 year period allowed by the Federal Act; and
  - l. A description of all substantial changes proposed for the program. All substantial changes must first be approved by the EPD before formal adoption by the POTW. Substantial changes shall include but not be limited to:

1. Changes in legal authority;
  2. Changes in local limits;
  3. Changes in the control mechanisms;
  4. Changes in the method for implementing categorical pretreatment standards.
  5. A decrease in the frequency of self-monitoring or reporting required of industrial users;
  6. A decrease in the frequency of industrial user inspections or sampling by the POTW;
  7. Significant reductions in the program resources including personnel commitments, equipment, and funding levels;
  8. Changes in confidentiality procedures; and
  9. Changes in the POTW sludge disposal and management practices.
2. Reports submitted by an industrial user will be retained by the permittee for at least 3 years and shall be available to the EPD for inspection and copying. This period shall be extended during the course of any unresolved litigation concerning the discharge of pollutants by an industrial user or concerning the operations of the program or when requested by the Director.

#### C. INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT STANDARDS

Effluent limitations for the permittee's discharge are listed in Part I. Other pollutants attributable to industrial users may also be present in the discharge. When sufficient information becomes available, this permit may be revised to specify effluent limitations for these pollutants based on best practicable technology or water quality standards. Once the specific nature of industrial contributions has been identified, data collection and reporting may be required for parameters not specified in Part I.

#### D. REQUIREMENTS FOR EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS ON POLLUTANTS ATTRIBUTABLE TO INDUSTRIAL USERS

1. The permittee shall require all industrial dischargers to the POTW to meet State pretreatment regulations promulgated in response to Section 307(b) of the Federal Act. Other information about new industrial discharges may be required and will be requested from the permittee after the EPD has received notice of the discharge.
2. The permittee may be required to supplement the requirements of the State and Federal pretreatment regulations to ensure compliance with all applicable effluent limitations listed in Part I. Supplemental actions by the permittee concerning some or all of the industries discharging to the POTW may be necessary.

#### E. RETAINER

EPD may require the permittee to amend an approved pretreatment program to incorporate revisions in State Pretreatment Regulations or other EPD requirements. Any approved POTW pretreatment program identified by EPD that needs to modify its

program to incorporate requirements that have resulted from revision to the Rules shall develop and submit those revisions to EPD no later than one (1) year of notification by EPD to modify the Program. Any modifications made to the approved pretreatment program must be incorporated into the permit and the program pursuant to Chapter 391-3-6-.09(7) of the State Rules. Implementation of any revision or amendments to the program shall be described in the subsequent annual report to the EPD.

**PART IV**

**A. APPROVED SLUDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

1. The permittee's approved Sludge Management Plan for composting shall be implemented in accordance with Chapter 391-3-6-.17 of the Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control (Rules) and EPD's, "*Guidelines for Land Application of Sewage Sludge (Biosolids) at Agronomic Rates*" where applicable, unless a more stringent requirement is stated in this Permit, and shall be enforceable through this Permit.
2. The biosolids compost must meet the pollutant concentrations in Section 391-3-6-.17(5)(a), the Class A pathogen reduction requirements in Section 391-3-6-.17(7)(a), and the vector attraction reduction requirements in Section 391-3-6-.17(8) of the Rules. Compost that fails to meet these requirements shall not be distributed to the public.
3. The permittee shall submit an annual report pertaining to the most recent calendar year, as required under Chapter 391-3-6-.17(14) of the Rules. The annual report shall be submitted to EPD no later than January 31 of the following year.
4. The final compost product must comply with all Georgia Department of Agriculture registration requirements as specified in Section 391-3-6-.17(3)(c)(3) of the Rules.
5. The person that receives the compost shall be provided with an information sheet in accordance with Section 391-3-6-.17(10)(e) of the Rules. The information sheet shall contain the information listed in Section 391-3-6-.17 (10)(e) 1 through 4 of the Rules.
6. The permittee has the responsibility to comply with all applicable operational standards, monitoring, record keeping, and reporting requirements as required under Section 391-3-6-.17 of the Rules and under 40 CFR Part 503 of the federal regulations administered by the Environmental Protection Agency.
7. The permittee will monitor in accordance with the following requirements:
  - a. Compost pile temperatures shall be monitored to demonstrate treatment in accordance with Section 391-3-6-.17(7)(a)(7), Processes to Further Reduce Pathogens.

- b. The biosolids compost shall be monitored for the following parameters at the frequencies specified in Part IV.A.8:

Parameter	Units*
Total Nitrogen	Percent
Total Phosphorus	Percent
Total Potassium	Percent
Total solids	Percent
pH	Standard units
Arsenic	mg/kg
Cadmium	mg/kg
Copper	mg/kg
Lead	mg/kg
Mercury	mg/kg
Molybdenum	mg/kg
Nickel	mg/kg
Selenium	mg/kg
Zinc	mg/kg

\*Units must be reported on a dry weight basis (no moisture content) with the exception of pH.

- c. The pathogen density requirements listed in Chapter 391-3-6-.17(7)(a) of the State Rules shall be monitored at the frequency listed in Part IV.A.8.
- d. The vector attraction reduction requirements listed in Chapter 391-3-6-.17(8) of the State Rules shall be monitored at the frequency listed in Part IV.A.8.

8. Monitoring Frequency:

<u>Amount of Sewage Sludge* (dry tons/year)</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
0-300	Once/year
300-1,600	Once/quarter
1,600-16,000	Once/two months
>16,000	Once/month

\*The amount of sewage sludge refers to the amount of sewage sludge (dry weight) received by a preparer that sells or otherwise distributes sewage sludge or sewage sludge derived compost in a bag or other container for application to the land.

9. In accordance with Chapter 391-3-6-.17(12) of the State Rules, biosolids compost samples shall be analyzed using EPA approved methods contained in 40 CFR Part 503.8.