

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Environmental Protection Division • Watershed Protection Branch
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive • Suite 1152 East • Atlanta • Georgia 30334
(404) 463-1511; Fax (404) 656-2453
Richard E. Dunn, Director

September 9, 2016

Honorable Ronnie Searcy, Mayor
City of Ochlocknee
Post Office Box 56
Ochlocknee, Georgia 31773

RE: Response to Comments
Ochlocknee Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP)
NPDES Permit No. GA0046370
(Thomas County)

Dear Mayor Searcy:

We are in receipt of your comments regarding the permit issuance for the Ochlocknee WPCP. Attached is a summary of the comments received and our responses to the issues raised. In addition, we have attached a fact sheet addendum which documents changes (if any) in the attached permit. We appreciate your interest in this matter.

After consideration of your comments, EPD has determined that the permit is protective of water quality standards and we have issued the permit.

If you have any questions, please contact Emily Wingo of my staff at 404-463-4932 or emily.wingo@dnr.ga.gov.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Larson, Assistant Branch Chief
Watershed Protection Branch

JL\elw

Attachment: Response to Comments

cc: Mr. Jim York, York & Associated Engineering, Inc. (jjork@yorkassociates.net)
Mr. Bill Gerber, Water Solutions Inc., (watersolutions@rose.net)

ATTACHMENT – Response to Comments
City of Ochlocknee Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP)
NPDES Permit No. GA0046370
(Thomas County)

Comment #1: If at all possible, I would like the State to give consideration to changing the sample type for all composite samples to grab. This would make all sample collection types uniform. Additionally, Ochlocknee is a small (0.05MGD) constructed wetland system with two treatment cells. In my years of experience with this facility, daily flows do not vary during the course of a sample period. Grab sampling would simplify the process and lessen the opportunity for sampling errors. The flow is only reported on a weekly basis. Lastly, the town of Ochlocknee is a small system with only a couple of full time employees. Composite sampling is a challenge to complete and place a hardship on the operator who has to do a multiple of tasks in varied areas of the City.

EPD Response:

EPD has considered your request and based on the fact that there are no industrial users discharging to the City, flow records, a review permits of wastewater facilities of similar size and treatment, EPD has changed sample types from composite to grab for Biochemical Oxygen Demand, Total Suspended Solids, Ammonia as N, Nitrate plus Nitrite as Nitrogen and Orthophosphate in the permit.