


July 26, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Interested Parties

FROM: Linda MacGregor 

RE: **Certification Process for Plans and Specifications Submittals**

The Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA) 12-2-2 establishes the authority of the EPD Director to “grant, deny, revoke, or amend all permits or variances provided for in the laws to be enforced by the division.” It also provides for an independent third party review, and includes the 2012 SB 427 provisions for timely processing and independent review. 2012 SR 1281 urges various stakeholder groups to cooperate with EPD to develop a formal process for approval of certified plans and specifications for water and wastewater treatment facilities in lieu of detailed review by EPD.

Recent discussions with stakeholders have identified significant means for EPD’s Watershed Protection Branch (WPB) to focus our resources. Representatives from the Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP), American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC), Georgia Municipal Association (GMA), Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), and the Georgia Chamber of Commerce (GCC) have concluded that EPD’s role in wastewater infrastructure projects should be focused more towards “front-end” activities. Examples include water quality modeling and development of wasteload allocations, permit issuances, environmental reviews, and early-stage design/development reviews. These activities are generally regarded as those upon which WPB can provide the most valuable input. On the other hand, the stakeholders contend that technical review of construction documents, ie. plans and specifications, is less beneficial, and perhaps even unnecessary.

As a direct result of EPD’s collaboration with the stakeholder group, the following certification will henceforth become a required component of all wastewater infrastructure plans and specifications submitted for WPB approval:

I certify that I have been in responsible charge of the design of this project in accordance with the rules of the Georgia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. I further certify, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that these plans and specifications were prepared in accordance with current standard engineering practices and accurately reflect the Design Development Report (DDR) previously reviewed and concurred in by EPD. I further certify that the system as designed can reasonably be expected to consistently meet all currently applicable permit limits, conditions, and regulatory requirements, provided the facility is constructed as designed and properly operated and maintained.

Complete sets of plans and specifications containing this certification will generally be regarded as approvable in accordance with OCGA and the State's Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control. As such, detailed technical review by WPB staff will not be required in such instances.

LM/jtw