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**RULES OF THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION**

Chapter 391-3-33

Georgia Rules for Water Use Efficiency

391-3-33-.01 Purpose.

The purpose of these Rules is to establish policies, procedures, requirements and standards to implement the Georgia Water Stewardship Act of 2010 to carry out the purposes of adopting standards for public water systems to develop and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of water use. Georgia's Water Loss Audit Program started with public water systems serving at least 10,000 individuals conducting a water loss audit covering calendar year 2012, followed by public water systems serving at least 3,300 individuals conducting a water loss audit covering calendar year 2013.

391-3-33-.02 Definitions.

When used in this Chapter:

[Additional Definitions TBD]

- (1) "Certified Water Loss Auditor" means an individual with the demonstrated knowledge, skills and ability to conduct a validation assessment of a water loss audit.
- (2) "Public water system" means a system for the provision to the public of piped water for human consumption.

391-3-33-.03 Water Loss Audit Program.

(1) **Water Loss Audits.** Public water systems shall conduct an annual water loss audit in accordance with the International Water Association (IWA) and American Water Works Association (AWWA) methodology for water loss auditing as provided by the Division in the Georgia Water System Audits and Water Loss Control Manual and AWWA Water Audit Software.

(2) **Reporting.** By March 1 of each calendar year, annual water loss audit results for the previous calendar year shall be submitted to the Division in a form and manner prescribed by the Division.

(3) **Validation.** By March 1 of each calendar year, public water systems shall validate the annual water loss audit results for the previous calendar year prior to submission to the Division. The validation shall be performed in conformance with the Georgia Water System Audit and Water Loss Control Manual by a Certified Water Loss Auditor.

(a) For audits due on March 1, 2015, the validation shall be due on October 1, 2015.

(b) For audits due on March 1, 2016 and thereafter, the validation shall be performed prior to submission of the annual water loss audit to the Division.

391-3-33-.04 Water Use Efficiency and Effectiveness Improvement.

(1) **Water Loss Control Program.** Public water systems shall develop and conduct a water loss control program to investigate, assess, and implement efforts to improve water use efficiency. Water loss control programs may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (a) Leakage Management, including distribution system water leakage detection and repairs;
- (b) Finished Water Meter Flow Verification;

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- (c) Customer Water Meter Testing and Calibration;
- (d) Billing System Business Process Evaluation;
- (e) Resource Allocation, including planned preventive maintenance; and
- (f) Revenue Recovery Activities.

(2) Individualized Goals. Each public water system shall establish individual goals to set measures of water use efficiency and to improve water use efficiency. These measures may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Infrastructure Leakage Index;
- (b) Water Audit Data Validity Score;
- (c) Operational Basic Apparent Losses;
- (d) Operational Basic Real Losses; and
- (e) Economic Level of Leakage

(3) Reporting. Public water systems shall submit a report of the goals and measurements used to document improvements made to water use efficiency. This report shall be included with the annual water loss audits.

(4) Demonstrable Progress.

(a) Public water systems shall make Demonstrable Progress toward improving water use efficiency. Demonstrable Progress may be demonstrated through one or more of these measures:

1. Improvement in Infrastructure Leakage Index and Data Validity Score;
2. Improvement in Operational Basic Real Losses;
3. Improvement in Operational Basic Apparent Losses; and
4. Economic Level of Leakage has been achieved.

(b) Demonstrable Progress may be evaluated by the Division as part of the review of the following applications:

1. An application to renew a water withdrawal permit under the Georgia Groundwater Use Act of 1972, O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-90 et seq., or the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-20 et seq.;
2. An application to modify an existing water withdrawal permit which includes an increase in the permitted water use under the Georgia Groundwater Use Act of 1972, O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-90 et seq., or the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-20 et seq.; or
3. An application to increase the number of permitted service connections issued to a public water system under the Georgia Safe Drinking Water Act of 1977, O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-170 et seq.

(c) Failure to make Demonstrable Progress toward improving water use efficiency may result in an action by the Director that shall include one or more of the following:

1. A reduction in the permitted water quantity for any water withdrawal permit issued to the public water system under the Georgia Groundwater Use Act of 1972, O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-90 et seq., or the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-20 et seq.;
2. A denial of any application to modify any water withdrawal permit issued to the public water system under the Georgia Groundwater Use Act of 1972, O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-90 et seq., or the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-20 et seq.; or

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3. A denial of any application to increase the number of permitted service connections issued to the public water system under the Georgia Safe Drinking Water Act of 1977, O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-170 et seq.

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