

Permit No. GAG620000
Issuance Date: 06/10/2024



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

GENERAL LAND APPLICATION SYSTEM PERMIT FOR LAND DISPOSAL OF DOMESTIC SEPTAGE TIER 1 OPERATION

In accordance with the provisions of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (O.C.G.A. §12-5-20), and the Rules and Regulations (Chapters 391-3-6-.23 and 391-3-6-.19, as amended) promulgated pursuant thereto, this permit is issued for the land disposal of domestic septage by either injection or incorporation within the State of Georgia.

Any site that receives septage, any person who prepares septage for land application, or any person who applies septage to the land for subsurface injection or incorporation into soil, upon obtaining coverage under this permit, shall carry out the land application of domestic septage in accordance with this permit.

This permit is conditioned upon the permittee complying with the limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth in the permit, with the statements and supporting data submitted with the Notice of Intent and with any requirements specified in the Notice of Inclusion letter from the Division.

This general permit shall become effective on July 1, 2024.

This permit shall expire at midnight on June 30, 2029.



Jeffrey W. Cown

Jeffrey W. Cown, Director
Environmental Protection Division

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PART I. Coverage Under This General Permit

A. Eligibility for Coverage

To obtain coverage under this permit, the person applying or proposing to apply domestic septage to land disposal systems must meet the eligibility requirements identified below:

1. This permit regulates any site that receives septage, any person who prepares septage for land application, or any person who applies septage to the land for subsurface injection or incorporation into soil within the State of Georgia.
2. This permit does not authorize coverage of the following land disposal systems:
 - a. Systems associated with or containing biosolids;
 - b. Systems that are covered by an individual land disposal system permit;
 - c. Systems associated with or containing grease trap waste;
 - d. Systems associated with or containing industrial, commercial, solid, hazardous, or non-biodegradable wastes;
 - e. Systems that incinerate septage;
 - f. Systems that generate ash during the firing of septage in a septage incinerator;
 - g. Systems that dispose septage by means other than land application at agronomic rates via subsurface injection or incorporation into soil;
 - h. Grit and screenings generated during pretreatment of septage;
 - i. Persons proposing to sell or give away septage in a bag or other container for application to the land.

B. Authorized Operation Requirements

1. The owner/operator who intends to obtain coverage under this permit for the land disposal of domestic septage, shall submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) along with a Septage Management Plan (SMP), and any other documents as required for the system, to the Division for approval.

Prior to the startup of a new system:

- a. The owner must submit a completed Notice of Intent to the Division.
 - b. The owner must have a Division-approved SMP.
 - c. The Director's authorized agent may conduct an operability inspection of the septage handling facilities.
 - d. The owner must receive, in writing, a final authorization to begin operation from the Division.
2. The owner of an existing septage land disposal system that has received prior coverage under this general permit must have a Division-approved SMP.

Failure to have a Division-approved SMP may result in coverage under this permit being modified, terminated, or revoked and reissued in whole or in part during its term.

3. Coverage under this general permit shall become effective upon written receipt of Notice of Inclusion by the Division.
4. Establishment of an unauthorized septage land disposal system after the effective date of this permit will be considered a violation of this permit, the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control, and the Water Quality Control Act; unless an NOI and SMP have been submitted to the Division and the Division allows coverage of the system under this general permit; or unless the system is covered under an individual permit.

C. Transfer of Ownership or Control

Coverage under this permit may be transferred to another person by a permittee if:

1. The new owner/operator submits a new NOI to the Division at least thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed ownership transfer. The new owner/operator must also submit a Septage Management Plan, and any other documents as required, to the Division for approval prior to receiving coverage under the General Permit.
2. A written agreement containing a specific date for transfer of permit responsibility and coverage between the current and new permittee (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) is submitted to the Director at least thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed transfer; and

3. The Director, within thirty (30) days, does not notify the current permittee and the new permittee of the Division's intent to modify, revoke and reissue, or terminate the permit.

Failure to submit the information required in Part I.C.1 and Part I.C.2 above may be considered a violation of this permit. The Division may decline to allow continued coverage under this general permit and may require coverage by another permit.

D. Termination of Coverage

1. In accordance with the State Rules, Section 391-3-6-.23(16), the Director shall have the power and authority to modify, suspend, or revoke coverage under this permit for good cause, including failure to provide accurate information in the Notice of Intent or Septage Management Plan, or failure to comply with any provisions of this permit.
2. A permittee that has ceased the land application of septage for which permit coverage was obtained must submit a completed Notice of Termination form within thirty (30) days after the clean-up and closure of the operation.

E. Facility Closure

1. The Septage Management Plan shall include an identified section specifying details for the clean-up and closure of the operation.
2. If operation of the system ceases, the land disposal of septage will be eliminated and the site decommissioned consistent with the approved Septage Management Plan.

F. Expansion of System

The permittee shall not allow any unauthorized sites or locations to receive domestic septage beyond those specifically identified in the Notice of Intent and approved Septage Management Plan without written approval from the Division.

G. Expiration of Permit

This permit will expire five (5) years from the effective date of the permit. The permittee must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) for continuation of coverage to the Division one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the expiration date of this permit, unless the permit has been terminated.

If this permit is not reissued or replaced prior to the expiration date, the permit will be administratively continued and remain in force and effect. Any applicant who has submitted a completed NOI one hundred and eighty (180) days prior to the expiration date of the permit will automatically remain covered by the administratively continued permit until the earlier of:

1. Reissuance or replacement of this permit, at which time the permittee must comply with the conditions of the new permit to maintain authorization to land apply;
2. Issuance of an individual permit for land application;
3. A formal decision by the permitting authority not to reissue this permit, at which time the permittee must seek coverage under an individual permit; or
4. The permitting authority grants the permittee's request for termination of permit coverage.

The Division may bring an enforcement action for failure to submit a NOI or for any unauthorized disposal of septage or sewage wastes to the land disposal system that have occurred after the deadlines provided in this permit.

PART II. Monitoring and Analysis

A. Representative Sampling

Samples and measurements of the monitored septage shall represent the volume and nature of the septage. The permittee shall maintain a written sampling and monitoring schedule that shall be available for EPD inspection.

B. Sampling Period

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

C. Analytical 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, as amended, 40 CFR 503.8, or other methods approved by the Division. The analytical method used shall be sufficiently sensitive. Parameters must be analyzed to the detection limits. The parameters will be reported as "not detected" or "ND" when they are below the detection limit and will be considered in compliance. The detection limit shall also be reported.

D. Additional Monitoring by Permittee

If the permittee monitors required parameters designated in this permit more frequently than required, the permittee shall analyze all samples using approved analytical methods. The results of this additional monitoring shall be included in calculating and reporting the values on the Operation Monitoring Report forms. The permittee shall indicate the monitoring frequency on the report.

E. Recording of Results

For each measurement of sample taken pursuant to the requirements of this permit, the permittee shall record the following information:

1. The exact place, date, and time of sampling, and the person(s) collecting the samples;
2. The dates and times the analyses were performed;
3. The person(s) who performed the analyses;
4. The analytical procedures or methods used; and
5. The results of all required analyses.

F. Reporting

1. Required analytical results obtained by the permittee shall be summarized on an Operational Monitoring Report (OMR) form. The OMR forms shall be completed quarterly and the summarized monitoring results compiled in an annual report. The annual report shall be signed in accordance with the Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6-.11(5)(e) and maintained on file at the facility in accordance with Part II.G of this permit. The permittee shall submit the results of all required monitoring activities to the Division upon request. The quarterly OMR summaries shall be compiled in an annual report as specified below. The Division may require the reporting of additional monitoring results by written notification.
2. The annual report shall further include:
 - a. A record of the time spent on site by the operator;
 - b. A summary of the amount of septage received from each delivery, including hauler name, company, vehicle tag number, date, time, and origin of the septage;
 - c. A written certification from each septage hauler for each load certifying that only domestic septage is being delivered to the land disposal site, accompanied by each customer's name and address, and the estimated volume of waste received from each customer that was delivered to the land disposal site;
 - d. A record of the pH value of each septage load prior to stabilization and the pH value after stabilization;
 - e. The number of acres of each site on which domestic septage is applied and the amount of septage applied (per field) at the land disposal system, with dates

and times, the name of the applicer, and the methods used to meet the pathogen and vector attraction reduction requirements;

- f. The location, by street address and latitude and longitude, of each site on which domestic septage is applied; and
- g. A report on the crops grown and harvested at each site, including type of crop and date harvested.

G. Records Retention

The permittee shall retain records of:

1. All laboratory analyses performed including sample data, quality control data, and standard curves;
2. Calibration and maintenance records of laboratory instruments;
3. Calibration and maintenance records and recordings from continuous recording instruments;
4. Process control monitoring records;
5. Facility operation and maintenance records;
6. Copies of all reports required by this permit; and
7. All data and information used to complete the permit NOI.

All records and information resulting from monitoring activities and record keeping requirements required by this permit and the Rules shall be retained by the permittee for a minimum of five (5) years or longer if requested by the Division.

PART III. Limitations and Monitoring Requirements

A. Septage Monitoring & Loading

1. Septage shall be monitored at least once per year. More frequent monitoring may be required in the Septage Management Plan. Septage at the time of application shall be monitored for the following parameters:

Parameter	Value	Measurement Frequency
Arsenic (mg/Kg)	Report	Once/Year
Cadmium (mg/Kg)	Report	Once/Year
Chromium (mg/Kg)	Report	Once/Year
Copper (mg/Kg)	Report	Once/Year
Lead (mg/Kg)	Report	Once/Year
Mercury (mg/Kg)	Report	Once/Year
Nickel (mg/Kg)	Report	Once/Year
Selenium (mg/Kg)	Report	Once/Year
Zinc (mg/Kg)	Report	Once/Year
Total Nitrogen (%)	Report	Once/Year
Ammonia, as N (%)	Report	Once/Year
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (%)	Report	Once/Year
Nitrate, as N (%)	Report	Once/Year
Total Volatile Solids Report (%)	Report	Once/Year
Total Solids (%)	Report	Once/Year
Total Suspended Solids (%)	Report	Once/Year
Total Phosphorus, as P (%)	Report	Once/Year
Total Potassium, as K (%)	Report	Once/Year
pH (Standard unit)	Report	See Below ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ pH shall be measured for each septage load received prior to screening and stabilization, and after screening and stabilization.

2. The permittee may be required, upon written notification by the Division, to sample for additional parameters. These parameters may include, but are not limited to, additional heavy metals and organic compounds.

3. The application rate shall not exceed 40,000 gallons/acre/year and shall comply with the site specific application rates in the approved Septage Management Plan.
4. Pollutant loading rate on the application sites shall be limited as specified below:

Parameter	Annual Pollutant Loading Rate (lbs/acre/year)	Cumulative Pollutant Loading Rate (lbs/acre)
Arsenic	1.8	37
Cadmium	1.7	35
Chromium	134	2,677
Copper	67	1,338
Lead	13	268
Mercury	0.76	15
Nickel	19	375
Selenium	4.5	89
Zinc	125	2,498

B. Septage Vector Attraction Reduction

The domestic septage, at the time of application, shall be disposed of by the permittee as specified below:

Operational Standard	Method	Limitations
Vector Attraction Reduction	Injection ⁽¹⁾	1. Septage shall be injected below the surface of the land. 2. No significant amount of the septage shall be present on the land surface within one hour after the septage is injected.
	Incorporation	Septage shall be incorporated into the soil within 6 hours after septage land application.

⁽¹⁾ Injection may be accomplished by any device(s) that place(s) the septage beneath the soil in a narrow trench at a depth of no greater than eighteen (18) inches and promptly replaces the cover soil in the same action of trenching and placing septage. Excavation of a trench followed by placement of septage and later covering of the trench is not considered injection.

C. Septage Pathogen Control

The following management practices on all permitted land application sites must be met to comply with pathogen control requirements:

Operational Standard	Limitations
Pathogen Control	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food crops with harvested parts that touch the land surface or that develop above the land surface shall not be harvested for fourteen (14) months after domestic septage application. 2. Feed crops or fiber crops shall not be harvested for thirty (30) days after domestic domestic septage application. 3. Food crops with harvested parts below the land surface shall not be harvested for thirty-eight (38) months after domestic septage application. 4. Turf grown on land where domestic septage is applied shall not be harvested for one (1) year after domestic septage application. 5. Animals shall not be allowed to graze on the land for thirty (30) days after the application of domestic septage. 6. Public access shall be restricted for thirty (30) days after the application of domestic septage. 7. Domestic septage shall not be applied to soils saturated with water or during rain events. 8. Domestic septage shall not be applied to a site that is frozen, flooded, or snow-covered.

D. Soil Monitoring Requirements

Representative samples shall be collected from each major soil series present within the land application area. The samples shall be analyzed in accordance with the latest edition of Methods of Soil Analysis (published by the American Society of Agronomy, Madison, Wisconsin) or other methods approved by the Division. The soil samples shall be analyzed for the parameters and at the frequency listed below:

Parameter	Measurement Frequency
Soil Fertility Test ⁽¹⁾	Once/Year

⁽¹⁾ This testing is to be done in October of each year. The soil fertility testing is to include soil pH, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, zinc, and manganese using the Mehlich I extraction procedure.

The permittee may be required, upon written notification by the Division, to sample for additional parameters. These parameters may include, but are not limited to, heavy metals and organic compounds.

E. Groundwater Limits and Monitoring Requirements

1. Groundwater leaving the land disposal system boundaries must not exceed maximum contaminant levels for drinking water. Groundwater from each groundwater monitoring well identified in the SMP shall be monitored by the permittee for the parameters and at the frequency listed below:

Parameter (units)	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Depth to Groundwater (feet)	One Day/Month	Grab
Nitrate, as N (mg/L) ⁽¹⁾	One Day/Month	Grab
pH (standard unit)	One Day/Month	Grab
Specific Conductivity (µmho/cm)	One Day/Month	Grab
<i>Escherichia Coli</i> (#/100mL) ⁽²⁾	One Day/Quarter	Grab

⁽¹⁾ The maximum contaminant level for nitrate nitrogen is 10.0 mg/L, as amended in the Safe Drinking Water Rules and Regulations.

⁽²⁾ The maximum contaminant level for *E. coli* is zero positive samples, as amended in the Safe Drinking Water Rules and Regulations.

2. The permittee may be required, upon written notification by the Division, to sample for additional parameters. These parameters may include, but are not limited to, heavy metals and organic compounds.
3. The permittee, upon written notification by the Division, may be required to install groundwater monitoring wells. This requirement may apply if monitoring wells were not included in the SMP and also, if the Division determines the existing groundwater monitoring wells are not adequate.
4. If groundwater samples indicate contamination, within sixty (60) days of those results, the permittee shall submit to the Division a corrective action plan that will ensure that the primary maximum contaminant levels for drinking water are not exceeded.
5. The corrective action plan will be implemented by the permittee immediately upon Division approval.

PART IV. Operational Requirements

A. Site Management Requirements:

1. Only domestic septage shall be applied to the site. No grease, industrial, solid, or hazardous waste shall be applied on the site.
2. As a means of pretreatment, all septage shall undergo screening and stabilization prior to being land applied via injection and/or incorporation in accordance with the SMP as approved by the Division.
3. Public access to the land disposal system shall be restricted by fencing or other means approved by the Division. Each site entrance shall be posted with a "No Trespassing" sign to identify the area as a land disposal site. The sign shall include the name and address of the person or business engaging in the land disposal of septage and the site permit number.
4. Disposal of domestic septage by land disposal shall only occur on land with a low potential for public exposure (non-public contact sites).
5. An annual soil fertility test shall be required and utilized to determine the agronomic application rate. No person shall land apply domestic septage to a site on which the nitrogen requirements have been met for the calendar year. The pH of the soil in the land disposal area shall be maintained at a pH amendable for growing the cover crop.
6. No person shall land apply domestic septage to a site that exceeds the annual pollutant loading rate limit in Part III.A for arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, and zinc.
7. No person shall land apply domestic septage to a site that exceeds the cumulative pollutant loading rate limit in Part III.A of this permit for arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, selenium, and zinc.
8. The land application rate shall not exceed 40,000 gallons/acre/year and shall comply with the site specific application rates in the approved Septage Management Plan. The rate of septage application must be adjusted as necessary to prevent run-off of septage into buffer areas or waters of the State of Georgia.
9. The locations of groundwater monitoring wells must be proposed in the SMP including locations upgradient and downgradient of the application site (unless EPD determines that groundwater monitoring is not needed).
10. All vehicles that are to be used for the transportation of septage (from the point of origin to the disposal site) shall be permitted by a county health department in accordance with Department of Public Health rules and/or guidelines. All septage will be transported and unloaded to a permitted site in a manner as outlined in the SMP as approved by the Division.

11. Septage shall not be applied to a site that is frozen, flooded, or snow-covered. If it is raining or if the soil is saturated, then land application of septage shall not occur.
12. If the septage must be stored due to weather or operational concerns, it may be temporarily stored only in accordance with the approved SMP which shall include an alternative method for the temporary holding of domestic septage. No overflow or leakage of septage may be allowed from the system onto the ground surface, into surface waters or into the groundwater. Odor from such systems shall be controlled at all times. Septage shall be removed from the holding facility and applied to the land disposal site as soon as weather and soil conditions permit. All holding facilities must be allowable and in compliance with local land use ordinances, if applicable.
13. Septage shall not be applied to slopes greater than 10%, areas with karst topography or sinkholes, or in groundwater recharge areas.
14. The sites and location of the land disposal system shall consist of the acreage identified in the Notice of Intent.

B. General Buffer Requirements

The following buffer distance requirements shall be met as a minimum. The Division may require additional buffer distances, on a case-by case basis.

1. Land disposal sites shall not be located within 300 feet of a residence or other facility or land frequently used by the general public.
2. Domestic septage shall not be applied within 300 feet from the normal water level of any impoundment, tributary, stream, or other body of water considered waters of the State; within 300 feet of a sinkhole; within 300 feet of a marsh, wetland or coastal waters.
3. Domestic septage shall not be applied within 500 feet of a public, non-public, or individual well.
4. An undisturbed vegetative buffer strip of at least 50 feet wide shall be maintained along all streams and drainage ditches within or adjacent to the land disposal site.

PART V. Management Requirements

A. Facility Operation

1. A land disposal site that receives septic tank waste (septage) shall not operate until such time as the Division has issued a valid permit and the permit becomes effective.
2. The permittee shall not receive, process, or apply septage unless all preliminary treatment equipment and, if applicable, an odor control technology (and related appurtenances), which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit, are in working order. If odor cannot be minimized, an odor control technology shall be placed in operation during the processing of the septage.
3. The permittee shall at all times maintain in good working order and operate as efficiently as possible all treatment or control facilities or systems installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. Proper operation and maintenance includes effective performance, adequate funding, adequate operator staffing and training, and adequate laboratory and process controls, including appropriate quality assurance procedures.
4. Proper operation of the land disposal system also includes the best management practice of establishing and maintaining a vegetative cover on the land application site(s).

B. Noncompliance Notification

1. If, for any reason the permittee does not comply with, or will be unable to comply with any terms and limits specified in the permit, the permittee shall provide the Division 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;
 - 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 non-complying discharge.
2. If, for any reason the permittee anticipates a noncompliance event, the permittee shall give written notice to the Division at least 10 days before:
 - a. Any planned changes in the permitted facility; or
 - b. Any activity that may result in noncompliance with the permit.

3. 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.

C. Operator Certification Requirements

The permittee shall ensure that:

1. The operator in charge of the daily operation of this land disposal system must hold a valid Septic Tank Pumper certification issued by the Georgia Department of Public Health, or other certification that is acceptable to the Division.
2. All application of septage shall be under the general supervision of a certified operator unless no acceptable certification process exists.

D. Laboratory Analyst Certification Requirements

The permittee shall ensure that all persons performing the laboratory analyses for this land disposal system are Certified Wastewater Laboratory Analysts unless such analyses is performed in a commercial environmental laboratory that is approved by the Division under the Rules for Commercial Environmental Laboratories, Chapter 391-3-26.

E. Adverse Impact

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any septage discharge or disposal that might adversely affect human health or the environment.

F. Responsibilities

1. Compliance
 - a. The permittee must comply with this permit. Any permit noncompliance is a violation of the State Act, and the Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control and is grounds for:
 - i. Enforcement action;
 - ii. Permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or
 - iii. Denial of coverage under this permit.
 - b. 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. Right of Entry

The permittee shall allow the Director of the Division, the Regional Administrator of EPA, the Department of Public Health, or the local County Health Department 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.

3. **Submittal of Information**

The permittee shall furnish to the Division, within a reasonable time established by the Division, any information which the Division may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating coverage under this permit or to determine compliance with this permit. The permittee shall also furnish to the Division upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this permit. Where the permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a NOI, or submitted incorrect information in a NOI or in any report to the Division, the permittee shall promptly submit such facts or information.

4. **Permit Modification**

Coverage under 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 septage characteristics; and
- e. Failure to have a Division-approved SMP.

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.

5. Penalties

The State Act provides that any person who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under this permit, makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or noncompliance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine or by imprisonment, or by both. The State Act also provides procedures for imposing civil penalties which may be levied for violations of the Act, any permit condition or limitation established pursuant to the Act, or negligently or intentionally failing or refusing to comply with any final or emergency order of the Director of the Division.

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

6. Civil and Criminal Liabilities

The permittee is liable for civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance with this permit and must comply with applicable State 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.

7. Contested Hearings

Any person aggrieved or adversely affected by any action of the Director of the Division shall petition the Director for a hearing within 30 days of notice of the action.

8. 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.

9. Introduction of Pollutants to the Land Disposal System

The permittee must notify and obtain approval from the Division of any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants from a septage source that existed when the permittee obtained coverage under this permit. This written notice shall include detailed information on the change in the quality and quantity of the septage source.

PART VI. Definitions

“Agronomic Rate” means the septage application rate based on a dry weight basis determined to provide the amount of nitrogen needed by the food crop, feed crop, fiber crop, cover crop or vegetation grown on the land; and to minimize the amount of nitrogen in the domestic septage that passes below the root zone of the crop or vegetation grown on the land to the groundwater.

“Annual septage application rate” means the maximum amount of septage (dry weight basis) that may be applied to a unit area of land during a 365-day period.

“Applicant” means the owner of the site or the operator of the site.

“Applier” means the person who applies septage to the land.

“Certification” means the procedure by which an accreditation or certification agency, a state, or a Federal agency evaluates and acknowledges a person as meeting certain qualifications or standards. The certification shall be valid only for the time period specified by the agency.

“County Board of Health” means the County Board of Health established by the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Title 31-3-1 or its designee.

“DPH” means the Department of Public Health of the State of Georgia.

“Director” means the Director of the EPD.

“Division” means the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

“Domestic septage” means the liquid or solid material removed from a septic tank, cesspool, portable toilet, type III marine sanitation device, or a similar system that receives only domestic sewage. Domestic septage does not include liquid or solid material removed from a septic tank or similar treatment works that receives either commercial wastewater or industrial wastewater. Domestic septage does not include grease removed from a grease trap.

“Domestic sewage” means the water and wastewater from humans or household operations that is discharged to a treatment works. This includes wastes derived from a toilet, bath, shower, sink, garbage disposal, dishwasher, and/or washing machine. Domestic sewage may include household sewage as well as sewage from establishments such as schools, restaurants, businesses and motels as long as the sewage does not contain other types of waste than those listed above.

“EPA” or “US EPA” means the United States Environmental Protection Agency and any of its authorized personnel.

“EPD” means the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources.

“Land disposal” or “applied to the land” means the spraying or spreading of septage on the land surface; the injection of septage below the land surface; or the incorporation of septage into the soil at agronomic rates for the purpose of soil conditioning or fertilization of crops or vegetation grown in the soil.

“Land with a low potential for public exposure” means land that the public uses infrequently. This includes, but is not limited to, agricultural land, forest, and a reclamation site located in an unpopulated area.

“Monitoring Well” means a well purposely installed, in accordance with Division guidelines, to ensure monitoring results that provide an accurate representation of groundwater quality.

“Notice of Intent (NOI)” means the form used by a potential permittee to notify the EPD that they intend to seek coverage under a general permit.

“Notice of Termination (NOT)” means the form used by a permittee to notify the EPD that they wish to cease coverage under a general permit.

“Operator” or “certified operator” means the person who has direct general charge of the day-to-day field operation of the septage storage, pretreatment, and disposal system and who is responsible for the quality of the treated septage; and who holds a valid certification acceptable to the Division.

“Owner” means any person owning land where septage or septic tank waste will be land applied.

“Permit” means a land disposal system permit issued to an applicant by the Division for a land disposal site that receives septage.

“Permittee” means the owner or operator of a septage disposal site that has submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under this general permit and who is authorized for coverage under this permit.

“Person” means any owner or operator who applies septage to land.

“Septage” means the same as “domestic septage”.

“Septage Management Plan” means a detailed plan of operation for land disposal of septage. The plan shall, at a minimum, comply with the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control (Georgia Chapters 391-3-6-.23 as amended), the Federal Code of Regulations, Title 40, Part 503, and any additional requirements established by the Division.

“Septage Removal and Disposal Permit” means a permit issued by a county board of health under the Rule for Onsite Sewage Management Systems of the Department of Public Health. The permit authorizes a business to remove and dispose of the contents of the on-site sewage management system.

“Septic System” means a well or subsurface fluid distribution system that is used to emplace sanitary wastes below the surface and is typically comprised of a preapplication treatment system and subsurface fluid distribution system or disposal system.

“Septic Tank” means a watertight tank designed or used to receive sewage and to affect separation and organic decomposition of sewage solids and which discharges effluent to a subsurface disposal system.

“Septic Tank Pumping and Hauling Business” means a business that has been issued a septage removal and disposal permit by a county board of health for the removal and/or disposal of domestic septage.

“Sewage Sludge” means the liquid or solid residue generated during the treatment of domestic sewage in a preapplication treatment system.

“Site” means land dedicated to be used as a land disposal system for land disposal of domestic septage by incorporation or injection.

“Soil Report and Map” means a site specific soil interpretative table that identifies as a minimum the following: the name of the soil series, the percent slope, the seasonal high groundwater table, the depth of any impervious layer, and the absorption rate for each horizon.

“State Act” means the Georgia Water Quality Control Act (Official Code of Georgia Annotated; Title 12, Chapter 5, Article 20).

“Stockpile” means to place septage on land in piles or in any other manner that does not constitute application to the land as defined in land disposal above.

“Tier 1 Operation” means a land disposal site that receives and land applies septic tank waste from a single permitted septic tank pumping and hauling business.

“Tier 2 Operation” means a land disposal site that receives septic tank waste from more than one permitted septic tank pumping and hauling business.

“Total Solids” means the materials in septage that remains as residue when the septage is dried at 103 to 105 degrees Celsius.

“Treat”, “treatment”, or “pretreatment of septage” means the preparation of septage for final use or disposal. This includes, but is not limited to, thickening, stabilization, and dewatering of septage. This does not include storage of septage.

“Unauthorized System” means any system not addressed in the approved Septage Management Plan and NOI.

“Vector attraction” means the characteristic of septage that attracts rodents, flies, mosquitoes, or other organisms capable of transporting infectious agents.

“Volatile solids” means the amount of the total solids in septage lost when the septage is combusted at 550 degrees Celsius in the presence of excess air.

“Well” means an excavation or opening into the ground by which groundwater is sought for use. This term shall not include monitoring wells used to sample for groundwater quality.