

**STATE OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION**

REVISED FACT SHEET

**NATIONAL POLLUTION DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
GENERAL PERMIT NO. GAG930000
ANIMAL (NON-SWINE) FEEDING OPERATIONS**

The 1972 amendments to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA, also referred to as the Clean Water Act or CWA) prohibit the discharge of any pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source unless the discharge is authorized by a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Efforts to improve water quality under the NPDES program are focused on reducing pollutants by eliminating discharges from animal (non-swine) feeding operations (AFOs).

Comprehensive NPDES requirements are needed for waste storage and disposal at AFOs. The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) amended the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control in April 1990 to allow the issuance of general NPDES permits. In January 1991, the EPA granted authority to EPD to issue general NPDES permits.

Pursuant to the Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6.-21, EPD is proposing to issue a non-discharging land application system NPDES general permit to owners of existing AFOs with more than 1000 but equal to or less than 3000 animal units (AU); new or expanding AFOs with more than 1000 but equal to or less than 3000 AU; and existing AFOs with more than 3000 AU. The proposed NPDES general permit will authorize these categories of applicants to land apply waste from non-swine animal feeding operations. The permit area of the proposed NPDES general permit is state-wide.

Coverage under this permit is achieved by submitting an application. The application will include basic information about the facility and the watershed of Georgia where the AFO is located. The application needs to be completed entirely and submitted to EPD. Specific forms will be available from EPD. This general permit will be valid for a maximum period of 5 years.

LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

1. Pretreatment Facility (Lagoon)

Parameter (Units)	Monitoring Requirements		
	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type	Sample Location
Total Flow (MG)	Daily	Total	Effluent to spray field
TKN	Semiannually	Grab	Effluent to spray field
NO ₃ -N	Semiannually	Grab	Effluent to spray field

2. Ground Water Limitations and Monitoring

The waste disposal system shall be designed and operated such that it does not cause Nitrate Nitrogen (NO₃-N) in the ground water at the operation's property line to exceed 10 mg/l. The ground water shall be monitored from each ground water monitoring well by the permittee for the parameters and at the frequency listed below:

Parameter	Measurement Frequency
TKN (mg/l as N)	Semiannually
NO ₃ -N (mg/l as N)	Semiannually
Depth to Ground Water	Semiannually

3. Soil Monitoring

Representative samples shall be collected from each major soil series present within the spray field 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
pH, standard units	Annually
Soil test phosphorus by Mehlich-1 extraction	Annually

PROCEDURES FOR THE FORMULATION OF FINAL DETERMINATIONS

1. Comment Period

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) proposes to issue a general NPDES permit to AFOs subject to the effluent limitations and special conditions outlined above. These determinations are tentative.

Director
Environmental Protection Division
Department of Natural Resources
205 Butler Street, S.E.
Floyd Towers East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the determinations are invited to submit same in writing to the EPD address above by close of business on January 31, 2002. All comments received prior to that date will be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the application. The permit name and number should be placed on the envelope next to the above address and also at the top of the first page of comments.

2. Public Hearing

EPD will be holding a public hearing at **10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 31, 2002** at the Environmental Protection Division Training Center, Atlanta Tradeport, 4244 International Parkway, Suite 114, Atlanta, Georgia 30354. The purpose of the public hearing will be to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input on the proposed issuance of the NPDES General Permit for Animal (Non-Swine) Feeding Operations (AFOs), NPDES Permit No. GAG930000.

Participants at the meeting and hearing are requested to register upon arrival and include their intent to give oral or written statements. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature must also be submitted in writing for the official record. During the hearing, oral statements shall be limited to five minutes to permit

everyone an opportunity to be heard. Hearing participants will not be subject to questions from the audience, but may be questioned by the hearing officer for clarification of technical points or to develop a better understanding of statements. Written comments are welcomed. To ensure their consideration, written comments should be received by close of business, January 31, 2002. Address comments to: Director, Environmental Protection Division, Department of Natural Resources, 205 Butler Street, S.E., Floyd Towers East, Atlanta, Georgia 30334.

A fact sheet and copy of the draft permit are available by writing the Environmental Protection Division at the address below. A copying charge of 25¢ per page will be assessed. The draft permit, comments received, and other information are available for review at Water Protection Branch, Permitting, Compliance and Enforcement Program, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354, 404-362-2680, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For additional information, contact Mike Creason or Tom Hopkins.

Following the public hearing, the Director may make such modifications in the terms and conditions of the proposed permit as may be appropriate and shall issue the permit. Notice of issuance or denial will be circulated to those persons or groups who participated in the hearing and to those persons or groups who submitted written comments to the Director on the proposed permit in accordance with the public notice of the permit.

3. Contested Hearings

Any person who is aggrieved or adversely affected by the issuance or denial of a permit by the Director of EPD may petition the Director for a hearing if such petition is filed in the office of the director within thirty (30) days from the date of notice of such permit issuance or denial. Such hearing shall be held in accordance with the EPD Rules, Water Quality Control, Subparagraph 391-3-6-.01.

Petitions for a contested hearing must include the following:

- a. The name and address of the petitioner;
- b. The grounds under which petitioner alleges to be aggrieved or adversely affected by the issuance or denial of a permit;
- c. The reason or reasons why petitioner takes issue with the action of the Director;
- d. All other matters asserted by petitioner which are relevant to the action in question.

4. Issuance of the Permit

If, after review of the written comments received, the Director determines that a permit should be issued and that his determinations as set forth in the proposed permit are substantially unchanged, the permit will be issued and will become final in the absence of a request for a contested hearing. Notice of issuance or denial will be circulated to those persons who submitted written comments to the Director on the proposed permit within thirty (30) days from the date of the public notice of such proposed permit.

If the Director determines, after a review of the written comments received, that a permit should be issued but that substantial changes in the proposed permit are warranted, public notice of the revised determinations will be given and written comments accepted in the same manner as the initial notice of application was given and written comments accepted pursuant to EPD Rules, Water Quality Control, subparagraph 391-3-6-.06(7)(b). The Director shall provide an opportunity for public hearing on the revised determinations. Such opportunity for public hearing and the issuance or denial of a permit thereafter shall be in accordance with the procedures as are set forth above.