

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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Georgia EPD Reissues NPDES General Permit No. GAR000000 for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) announces that it has reissued an industrial storm water general permit, which will regulate thousands of industrial sites across the state.

Georgia's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit No. GAR000000 for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity (permit) was reissued on June 16, 2006. The permit regulates storm water discharges associated with industrial activity in ten categories statewide. The Federal Clean Water Act prohibits the point source discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States from the ten categories of industrial activity unless the discharge is authorized by a NPDES permit. The permit will be effective August 1, 2006.

This permit is a revised version of a general permit which was reissued on March 18, 2005, for which two administrative appeals were filed in April 2005. Negotiations were conducted with the petitioners and interveners between August 2005 and February 2006, and a settlement agreement was reached in March 2006 concerning the requirements of this version of the permit. EPD published a public notice of a draft of the permit on March 31, 2006, and a number of comments on the proposed permit were received by the end of the public comment period. Several minor revisions to the final permit were made in response to those comments.

The permit contains new sampling requirements for facilities discharging pollutants of concern to impaired stream segments. The permit also contains new clarifications on public access to Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans (SWP3s), new requirements for facilities claiming the Industrial No Exposure Exclusion, and a number of additional revisions. Permit coverage may be obtained by submitting a Notice Of Intent – Version 2006 form to EPD's NonPoint Source Program within thirty (30) days after the effective date of the permit. All facilities regulated by this permit are required to submit the Notice of Intent – Version 2006 to obtain coverage under this permit.

A copy of the final permit will be available on EPD's website (www.gaepd.org). The Notice Of Intent – Version 2006 form will also be posted to the website before the effective date of the permit. For additional information, contact Chip Scroggs at 404/675-1632.