

# Atlanta Environmental Management, Inc.

## Newsletter



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### Georgia EPD Issues Third Public Notice for Industrial NPDES General Permit

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has issued a third public notice for the 2012 NPDES General Permit No. GAR050000 for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity (2012 IGP). The public can comment on the notice until March 16, 2012. The 2012 IGP is slated to be issued in April 2012.

The 2012 IGP is the replacement permit for the 2006 IGP (GAR000000), which expired on July 31, 2011. However, the 2006 IGP continues in force and effect until the new general permit is issued. Any permittee who submitted a properly completed Notice of Intent (NOI) Version 2006 or Version 2010 form to obtain coverage under the current permit prior to the expiration date will automatically remain covered until the new permit is issued. Existing permittees will have up to 30 days after the effective date of the new permit to submit an NOI (Version 2012 only) to obtain coverage under the new permit. New dischargers commencing

discharge on or after the effective date of the 2012 IGP must submit an NOI for coverage 7 days prior to commencing discharge.

The 2012 IGP authorizes all new and existing storm water point sources within Georgia to discharge storm water associated with industrial activity, excluding construction, to the waters of the State upon submittal of a Notice of Intent (NOI). The proposed permit is patterned after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) September 29, 2008, MultiSector General NPDES Permit (2008 MSGP) for industrial storm water.

Parts 1 through 7 and Appendices A, B, and D of the 2012 IGP contain information pertinent to all permittees. Part 8 contains sector-specific requirements; typically one, or at most a few, of the requirements in Part 8 will apply to any one permittee. Appendix C contains information for those permittees who discharge to impaired stream segments. Appendix E ad-

dresses hardness testing for facilities with hardness-dependent benchmark values for cadmium, copper, lead, nickel, and zinc.

A detailed listing of facilities required to obtain coverage under the 2012 IGP is contained in Appendix D of the permit. In addition to the facilities classified as requiring coverage under the 2012 IGP by SIC Code, EPD may designate a particular facility to obtain coverage under the 2012 IGP even though the facility does not meet the definition of a category of activities generally required to be covered by the permit. Such a designation would be made by the Director of EPD where there is a concern for the discharge to cause a water quality problem.

If a facility failed the benchmark sampling required by Part III.C of the 2006 permit, the facility may not be authorized to discharge storm water under the proposed permit and may be required to apply for an individual NPDES permit or alternative general permit. The facility has the options to conduct 12 months of flow-weighted composite sampling to demonstrate that the discharge does not cause or contribute to an exceedence of water quality standards (Appendix C.4.1) or to make the necessary improvements to the facility to achieve the in-stream water quality standard as an effluent limit within 36 months (Appendix C.10.1.a).

Public comment periods were held on earlier versions of the 2012 IGP from June 27 to August 1, 2011, and from September 2 to September 16, 2011, and a public meeting and hearing on the Permit were held on August 1, 2011. Changes to the Permits advertised in June and September have been noted in a Comment

Response and Change Summary for each version of the Permit. Where appropriate, the Comment Response groups common comments into a single item for a single response. In addition, changes were made to Appendix B of the 2012 IGP to be consistent with federal NPDES regulations. Changes were also made to Appendix C in order to clarify various requirements.

The Change Summaries, Comment Responses, Revised Fact Sheet, and Revised Permit are now available at <http://www.gaepd.org/Documents/IndustrialStormwater.html>. Persons wishing to comment on the proposed Permit are invited to submit comments in writing to Lawrence Hedges, Program Manager, Non-Point Source Program (Georgia Environmental Protection Division, 4220 International Parkway, Atlanta Tradeport, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354) by March 16, 2012.

All comments received prior to or on that date will be considered in the formulation of the final determination regarding the Permit. "General Permit to Discharge Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activity" should be placed at the top of the first page of comments. Comments may also be e-mailed to [EPDComments@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:EPDComments@dnr.state.ga.us) and should contain "General Permit to Discharge Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activity" in the subject line.

If you would like more information or need assistance, contact Jeff Cook, P.E., at [Jeff-Cook@AEM-net.com](mailto:Jeff-Cook@AEM-net.com)

## Georgia Ranks 12th in 2010 Nationwide Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Data released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on January 11, 2012, on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from large facilities and suppliers across the country show that 3,214 million metric tons (mmt) of GHGs were emitted nationwide in 2010. Among the states, Georgia ranked 12th with 96.3 mmt of GHG emissions, accounting for 2.99% of the nationwide total. The data also indicate that two of the nation's top three GHG-emitting facilities are located in Georgia. The nation's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases is located in Alabama.

Texas had the largest total statewide GHG emissions (387 mmt, or 12% of the nationwide total) and the fourth-largest GHG-emitting facility. In the state rankings, Texas was followed by Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Florida. Vermont (0.224 mmt) had the lowest statewide GHG emissions, trailing even Guam (0.287 mmt) and the U.S. Virgin Islands (5.4 mmt).

The 2010 GHG data include public information from facilities in nine industry sectors (power plants, refineries, chemical manufacturers, landfills, metals, minerals, pulp and paper, government and commercial, and other industrial) that directly emit large quantities of GHGs, as well as suppliers of certain fossil fuels.

EPA also provided a new on-line data publication tool that allows users to view and sort GHG data for calendar year 2010 from more than 6,700 facilities in a variety of ways—including by facility, location, industrial sector, and the type of GHG emitted. This information can be used to identify sources of GHGs, help businesses compare and track emissions, and provide information to state and local governments. EPA's new GHG Reporting Program Data and Data Publication Tool can be accessed at <http://epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ghgdata/>.

The nationwide GHG data for direct emitters also show that, in 2010:

- CO<sub>2</sub> accounted for the largest share of nationwide GHG emissions with 95 percent, followed by methane with 4 percent, and nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases accounting for the remaining 1 percent.
- Power plants were the largest stationary sources of direct emissions nationwide with 2,324 mmt of carbon dioxide equivalent (mmtCO<sub>2</sub>e), followed by petroleum refineries with emissions of 183 mmtCO<sub>2</sub>e. In Georgia, power plant emissions accounted for 84% of the statewide GHG emissions.
- 100 facilities across the country each reported emissions over 7 mmtCO<sub>2</sub>e, including 96 power plants, two iron and steel mills, and two refineries.
- The two largest GHG emitters in the United States in 2010 are both located in Georgia: Plant Scherer in Juliette, with 23 mmtCO<sub>2</sub>e, and Plant Bowen in Cartersville (21 mmtCO<sub>2</sub>e). Combined, these two plants account for 1.37% of the total GHG emissions nationwide. The James H. Miller Jr. power plant in Quinton, Alabama, was the nation's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases with 20.75 mmtCO<sub>2</sub>e.
- Of the 28 suppliers of fossil fuels identified in Georgia, 23 were municipal natural gas utilities. It should be noted that emissions were not associated with these municipal suppliers.

Mandated by the FY2008 Consolidated Appropriations Act, EPA launched the GHG Reporting Program in October 2009, requiring the reporting of GHG data from large-emission sources across a range of industry sectors, as well as suppliers of products that would emit GHGs if released or combusted. Most reporting entities submitted data for calendar year 2010. However, an additional 12 source categories will begin reporting their 2011 GHG data this year.

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## Southern Wood Piedmont Company Settles Financial Assurance Claims

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced on January 23, 2011, that Southern Wood Piedmont Company (SWP) and its parent company, Rayonier Inc., have agreed to pay a \$317,000 penalty to resolve alleged violations of hazardous waste financial assurance requirements and have obtained more than \$41.7 million in financial assurance. Financial assurance protects public health and the environment by ensuring that financial resources are available to properly close and clean up facilities in the event that an owner or operator defaults on its closure, post-closure, or cleanup obligations under environmental laws.

"EPA is committed to bringing hazardous waste facilities into compliance with financial assurance requirements that prevent shifting future cleanup costs onto taxpayers," said Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "Today's settlement will reduce the likelihood of improper handling of hazardous waste and ensure that environmental damage at these facilities can be properly cleaned up."

On February 4, 2010, EPA sent a notice of violation to SWP notifying the company that its hazardous waste facilities were not in compliance with applicable financial assurance requirements under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and that it needed to obtain qualifying financial assurance for these obligations. The hazardous waste facilities are located in Baldwin, Florida, in Augusta and East Point, Georgia, in Waverly, Ohio, and in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

SWP was previously alleged to have had inadequate RCRA financial assurance coverage at a facility in Chattanooga, Tennessee, not covered by EPA's administrative agreement. In 2010, EPA worked with Tennessee to ensure that SWP obtained an additional \$1.6 million in financial assurance for that facility.

SWP is a wholly owned subsidiary of Rayonier, Inc., a global forest products company involved in the ownership, leasing, and management of forest resources and related real estate and in the production of performance fibers.

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## Georgia EPD Enacts Changes to Hazardous Waste Rules

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) periodically makes revisions to the Rules for Hazardous Waste Management (Chapter 391-3-11) in order to maintain equivalency to the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) rules. On January 25, 2012, the Board of Natural Resources approved several amendments to the Georgia rules, including the following:

- **Rule 391-3-11-04–“Notification of Hazardous Waste Activities,” Rule 391-3-11-08–“Standards Applicable to Generators of Hazardous Waste,” and Rule 391-3-11-17–“Recycled Used Oil Management Standards”** were amended to clarify notification requirements for hazardous waste transfer facilities and used oil facilities and documentation and record-keeping requirements for hazardous waste accumulation areas. The amendments also clarified that used oil containers and tanks must be kept closed except when adding or removing waste.
- **Rule 391-3-11-07–“Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste”** amended the F019 listing to exempt wastewater treatment sludge from zinc phosphating processes used in automobile assembly, provided that the wastes are not placed on the land prior to shipment to a landfill for disposal and are disposed in a landfill unit subject to certain liner requirements.
- **Rule 391-3-11-07–“Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste” and Rule 391-3-11-08–“Standards Applicable to Generators of Hazardous Waste”** were amended to establish an alternative set of generator requirements applicable to eligible academic entities and to address hazardous waste generation and accumulation in academic laboratories in order to provide incentives to conduct laboratory cleanouts of old, unneeded chemicals.
- **Rule 391-3-11-08–“Standards Applicable to Generators of Hazardous Waste”** was amended to terminate regulations known as the National Environmental Per-

formance Track Program. Former members of this program must now comply with the standard RCRA requirements for hazardous waste accumulation times and facility inspections.

- **Rule 391-3-11-07–“Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste” and Rule 391-3-11-16–“Land Disposal Restrictions”** were amended to remove saccharin and its salts from the lists of hazardous constituents and commercial chemical properties.
- **Rule 391-3-11-10–“Standards for Owners and Operators of Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities”** was amended to clarify compliance monitoring provisions and to finalize amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs) and Final Standards for HAPs for hazardous waste combustion facilities.
- **Rule 391-3-11-16–“Land Disposal Restrictions”** was amended to provide an alternative standard to use best demonstrated available technologies for treating carbamate wastes prior to land disposal, as analytical standards to determine numerical concentration limits for carbamate wastes are not readily available.

Other rule amendments were approved to correct typographical errors and omissions, to reflect bureaucratic name changes, to allow authorized manifest form printers greater flexibility in complying with federal printing specifications, and to reflect recent changes to the agreements concerning transboundary movement of hazardous waste among Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries.

A hearing was held on December 15, 2011, to provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the amendments, and a public notice of the amendments has been posted to the Georgia EPD website.

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## Salt Water Alone Unlikely to Halt Burmese Python Invasion

Invasive Burmese python hatchlings from the Florida Everglades can withstand exposure to salt water long enough to potentially expand their range through ocean and estuarine environments, according to research in the *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*.

This recent study, based on lab experiments conducted by researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), provides initial evidence that pythons may be able to survive in marine and estuarine environments such as bays, inlets, and open seas. The results raise concerns that the invasive constrictor may invade nearby islands, such as the Florida Keys, said Kristen Hart, a USGS research ecologist and lead author of the study.

“Because reptiles, in general, have poor salinity tolerance, it was hoped that salt water would naturally hinder

pythons’ ability to expand their range beyond the Everglades,” Hart said. “Unfortunately, our results suggest that salt water alone cannot act as a reliable barrier to the Everglades python population.”

Before the study, Burmese pythons had been found in brackish margins of the Everglades, the expansive and predominantly freshwater wetland that is home to the only known wild-breeding population of Burmese pythons in the United States. However, no information was available to indicate how long the snakes could persist in saline environments.

The issue of salinity tolerance is critical for understanding the risks of the giant constrictors spreading beyond the Everglades, given the Everglades location on the southernmost end of the South Florida peninsula.

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AND ENGINEERING PROBLEMS!  
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**ABOUT US ...**

AEM is a full-service environmental firm based in the southeastern United States, which has been in business for 24 years and has project locations nationwide. AEM's mission remains providing individualized, strategic, technically competent, responsive, yet highly cost-effective environmental consulting and engineering services. AEM has many long-term clients, including industrial, governmental, and commercial, many of whom have been clients for decades. Although company growth is an objective, it is our philosophy that growth is secondary to client service and quality. The company's primary loyalty is to its clients, not to the growth of the company, unless growth provides for better client service. Building strong and lasting relationships with our clients is the most important thing that we can do to achieve our goals and ensure long-term stability and business sustainability.

One quality that sets AEM apart from the competition is the personalized service, quick response, and attention given to clients. We continuously work to improve the quality of our services to our clients.

AEM actively supports a number of charities including the U.S.O., Antares Orphan Foundation, the Humane Society of the United States, the SPCA, Make A Wish Foundation, and A Welcome Home Animal Rescue (AWHAR). AEM's president, Janet Hart, is also president of AWHAR, which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation.

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