

NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule Phase 2 Implementation Plan

Georgia Environmental Protection Division December 21, 2016

1. Overview/Executive Summary

The final National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting Rule was published on December 21, 2015. The United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) rule primary objective is to replace most paper-based Clean Water Act (CWA) NPDES permitting and compliance monitoring requirements with electronic reporting. This includes both electronic receipts of data from regulated community as well as electronic submittal of data into the Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS).

Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD), located in Region 4, plans to implement the NPDES e-Reporting Rule (Phase 2) by utilizing agile project management methodology and principles. GAEPD will use internal and external resources to develop functionality to enhance the features and data flows for the existing water permitting systems. This project management approach is contingent on several deliverables from EPA, GAEPD and GAEPD's contractors to meet the deadline of December 21, 2020 to be fully compliant. GAEPD plans to start the e-Reporting Rule (Phase 2) development and implementation no later than January 1, 2019 and evaluate the progress with a milestone date of January 1, 2020. Completion of the Phase 2 requirements is planned before December 21, 2020. See section 4 of the Implementation Plan for more details. Georgia's expenditures on electronic reporting to date are 1) \$365,548 for NetDMR training; 2) \$1,050,000 for Georgia's permit database (GAPDES) and 3) \$319,000 for implementation of GEOS (permit application/facility information). In addition, for training and enhancement of GAPDES/GEOS, there will be additional costs to meet Phase 2 components.

During the implementation of the e-Reporting Rule Phase 2, GAEPD will have to enhance and modify several data systems that will flow data to EPA's ICIS system (Integrated Compliance Information System).

System Name	System Full Name
GAPDES	Georgia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
GEOS	Georgia Environmental Online System
FIS	Facility Identification System

The following key functional roles are needed for success of the project. Core responsibilities are identified. Please note that responsibilities may be further defined as the project progresses and specific needs are identified.

Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) Staff

Name	Role	Key Responsibilities
Angela Ivester and Chuck Mueller	Project Sponsors/Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lead, champion and

<p><i>(Information Technology)/ Jac Capp and Jeff Larson (Watershed Protection Branch permit database management/GAPDES to ICIS flow)</i></p>	<p>Contacts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote the project effort • Ensure funding is available for project effort • Assist with resolution escalated issues • Review/Approve project approach and deliverables • Approve the vision and direction of project effort • Remove barriers
<p>Renee Alonso & Daniel Boykins</p>	<p>Project Managers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead efforts to manage project according to project scope. Drive execution of work efforts to ensure tasks are completed within required timeframes. • Provide comprehensive oversight of the project • Communicate with other work areas inside respective business areas to ensure successful project delivery • Communicate project status to Project Sponsor, project team members and other Business Liaisons • Prioritize, resolve, or escalate risks or issues • Screen and consolidate deliverable review feedback from staff • Prevent conflict and facilitate conflict resolution
<p>Jill Causse; Audra Dickson; Connie Haynes; Lewis Hays; Gigi Steele; Anna Truszczynski, ES4 data manager <i>(in hiring process)</i></p>	<p>Subject Matter Experts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with and support Project Manager(s) to define requirements and functional specifications for the application systems • Participate in requirements/design sessions • Complete review of deliverables artifacts as assigned • Assist with tracking issues and action items within the functional areas • Test the product

		functionality to ensure a quality result
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2. Agency NPDES Universe

The following section provides a snapshot in time of the NPDES universe of permits captured in November 2016.

Wastewater Regulatory and Non-Point Source Programs:

A. No. of POTW & Non-POTW NPDES Individual Permits

Number of Active Individual NPDES Permits: 964

Number of Administratively Continued Major Individual NPDES Permits: 63

Number of Active and Administratively Continued Minor Individual NPDES Permits: 79

B. POTW and Non-POTW NPDES General permits

Number of Active General NPDES Permits: 9

Number of Active General NPDES Permit Coverage's: 488

Name of Active General NPDES Permits:

1. Animal (Non-Swine) Feeding Operations – More Than 1000 Animal Units
2. Mining and Processing Facilities
3. Once-Through Noncontact Cooling Water with No Chemical Additives
4. Sediment Pond Discharges from Sand & Gravel Dredgers
5. Pesticides General Permit
6. Filter Backwash Discharges Associated With Water Treatment Activity with Sludge Handling Capability
7. Private and Industrial Development (PID) WPCP
8. Gwinnett County Reuse
9. Reuse

C. General Permits/Stormwater:

Permit Type	Permit No.	Permit Coverage	Authorizations (as of 9/30/16)	Reissuance Date
General	GAR050000	Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity	3,135	1-Jun-17
General	GAG610000	Storm Water Discharges Associated with Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems	107	6-Dec-17
General	GAR041000	Storm Water Discharges Associated with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System-Georgia Department of Transportation	1	3-Jan-17
General	GAG480000	Storm Water Discharges Associated with Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems at Military Facilities	5	15-Jan-19
General	GAR100001	Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity for Stand Alone Construction Projects	8,693	1-Aug-18
General	GAR100002	Storm Water Discharges Associated	6,525	1-Aug-18

		with Construction Activity for Infrastructure Construction Projects		
General	GAR100003	Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity for Common Developments	8,935	1-Aug-18

D. Individual Stormwater Permits:

Permit Coverage	#of Municipalities	Reissuance Date
Discharges from Medium Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems	12	12-Apr-17
Discharges from Large Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems	45	11-Jun-19

3. [Current and/or Planned NPDES Data Systems and E-reporting Tools](#)

During the implementation of the e-Reporting Rule Phase 2, GAEPD will have to enhance and modify several data systems:

- GAPDES (Georgia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System)**
 GAPDES manages Wastewater and Stormwater permits for GAEPD Watershed Protection Branch along with the related compliance and enforcement actions. Also, the data system is the primary source of information for all NPDES data submitted into EPA’s Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS-NPDES).
- NetDMR (Electronic Reporting of Monitoring Reports)**
 NetDMR is a free EPA web based program that allows NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permittees to electronically upload their discharge monitoring reports (DMR) to the EPA’s Integrated Compliance Information System (ICIS-NPDES). For the Wastewater Regulatory Program, all 964 NPDES permits have been verified for GAPDES to ICIS flow. GAEPD will continue with its efforts to get 100% participation for DMR submittal via NetDMR.
- GEOS (Georgia Environmental Online System)**
 GEOS is a web based portal that provides a one-stop interface to allow the regulated community to submit information to GAEPD, and also to support the general public to query environmental data of their interests.
 For GAEPD, GEOS serves as a central platform to review submission, permit management, compliance monitoring, and agency performance monitoring.
- FIS (Facility Identification System)**
 The Facility Identification System is a web-based application which provides centralized facility management, subsystem facility information, and facility reconciliation management.

Each of GAEPD's data systems will perform a vital role to submit the required information to EPA for the e-Reporting Rule Phase 2 project.

4. Key Tasks for Updating Agency Data Systems and Data Transmission Systems for Phase 2 Data Groups

GAEPD has a contractual agreement with service provider(s) to design, develop and enhance the existing GAPDES and GEOS systems to flow the proper data and submit reports electronically to the ICIS-NPDES system.

Table 1:

NPDES Data Group	Development Start Date	Milestone Date	Completion Date
General Permit Reports	January 1, 2019	January 1, 2020	December 21, 2020
Program Compliance Reports	January 1, 2019	January 1, 2020	December 21, 2020
ICIS Flow	January 1, 2019	January 1, 2020	December 21, 2020

As referenced above in the Table 1, NPDES Data Group information for Phase 2 falls into several categories:

General Permit Reports

- Notice of Intent to be covered (NOI)
- Notice of Termination (NOT)
- No Exposure Certification (NOE)
- Low Erosivity Waiver and Other Waivers from Stormwater Controls (LEW)

Program Compliance Reports

- Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Annual Program
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program Reports
- Pretreatment Program Reports
- Significant Industrial User Compliance Reports in Municipalities without Approved Pretreatment Programs
- Sewer Overflow/Bypass Event Reports
- CWA Section 316(b) Annual Reports

A. General Permit Reports - Including NOIs, NOTs, NOEs, and LEWs; see 40 CFR 122.26(b)(15), 122.28, and 124.5

Agency/Contractor/EPA Roles and Responsibilities: GAEPD/Contractor TBD
 Task Completion Timeline: December 1, 2020

B. Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Annual Program Reports - See 40 CFR 122.42(e)(4)

Agency/Contractor/EPA Roles and Responsibilities: GAEPD/Contractor TBD
 Task Completion Timeline: December 1, 2020

C. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program Reports - See 40 CFR 122.34(g)(3) and 122.42(c)

Agency/Contractor/EPA Roles and Responsibilities: GAEPD/Windsor Solutions
 Task Completion Timeline: December 1, 2020

D. Pretreatment Program Reports - See 40 CFR 403.12(i)

Agency/Contractor/EPA Roles and Responsibilities: GAEPD/Windsor Solutions
Task Completion Timeline: December 1, 2020

E. Significant Industrial User Compliance Reports in Municipalities Without Approved Pretreatment Programs - See 40 CFR 403.12(e) and (h)

Agency/Contractor/EPA Roles and Responsibilities: GAEPD/ Contractor TBD
Task Completion Timeline: December 1, 2020

F. Sewer Overflow/Bypass Event Reports - See 40 CFR 122.41(l)(4), (l)(6) and (7), and (m)(3)

Agency/Contractor/EPA Roles and Responsibilities: GAEPD/Contractor TBD
Task Completion Timeline: December 1, 2020

G. CWA section 316(b) Annual Reports - See 40 CFR 125, subpart J

Agency/Contractor/EPA Roles and Responsibilities: GAEPD/Contractor TBD
Task Completion Timeline: December 1, 2020

H. Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Annual Program Reports - Complete this subsection only if the agency is the authorized NPDES program for biosolids; see 40 CFR 503

Agency/Contractor/EPA Roles and Responsibilities: N/A
Task Completion Timeline: GAEPD is not an authorized program for biosolids.

ICIS Flow

GAEPD will evaluate the ICIS flow implementation in Phase 2 to determine if the 47 payload types (also called “data groups”) are determined to be in scope or out of scope per GAEPD’s standard business standards and operations.

The flowing payload types are in scope to flow to ICIS-NPDES for e-Reporting Rule Phase 2:

Compliance Monitoring	Narrative Condition Schedule
Compliance Monitoring Linkage	POTW Permit
Compliance Schedule	Parameter Limits
Enforcement Action Milestone	Permit Termination
Enforcement Action Violation Linkage	Permitted Feature
Final Order Violation Linkage	Pretreatment Permit
Formal Enforcement Action	Schedule Event Violation
General Permit	Single Event Violation
Informal Enforcement Action	Unpermitted Facility
Limit Set	Master General Permit

5. CROMERR Compliance Status for Agency Electronic Reporting Systems

GAEPD’s data system, Georgia Environmental Online System for Permitting, Compliance & Facility Information System (GEOS) was approved for CROMERR in July 2015. The CROMERR approval covers all of the items listed below.

- A. General Permit Reports
CROMERR Approval Date: July 2015
- B. Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Annual Program Reports
CROMERR Approval Date: July 2015
- C. Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Program Reports
CROMERR Approval Date: July 2015
- D. Pretreatment Program Reports
CROMERR Approval Date: July 2015
- E. Significant Industrial User Compliance Reports in Municipalities Without Approved Pretreatment Programs
CROMERR Approval Date: July 2015
- F. Sewer Overflow/Bypass Event Reports
CROMERR Approval Date: July 2015
- G. CWA section 316(b) Annual Reports
CROMERR Approval Date: July 2015
- H. Sewage Sludge/Biosolids Annual Program Reports
CROMERR Approval Date: N/A

6. **State Statutes, State Regulation/Administrative Rule, and NPDES Permit Update Estimated Completion Dates**

Georgia EPD is continuing to review portions of Georgia’s Rules for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, to determine whether any of our existing rules need to be amended to provide consistency with the requirements of the final NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule. If rule amendments are determined to be necessary, they must be adopted by the Board of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (“DNR Board”) and then certified by the Secretary of State’s office in order to be effective. Pursuant to 40 CFR § 123.23, Georgia EPD would also need to provide an Attorney General’s statement to EPA concerning its authorities regarding the rule amendments. If rule amendments are determined to be necessary, Georgia EPD will complete the process to adopt the relevant rule amendments and provide a completed package regarding the rule amendments to EPA before December 21, 2017. Georgia EPD has not identified any state statutes that need to be updated for consistency with the final NPDES Electronic Reporting Rule.

7. **Temporary and Permanent Waiver Approval Process (127.24c)**

Permittees may submit an application for electronic reporting waiver to their compliance officer (engineer or specialist at the Watershed Protection Branch or a District office). The compliance officer will route a recommendation for approval or denial through the unit manager and then to the Watershed Compliance Program Manager. The compliance officer will send written response to the applicant regarding final disposition.

Permanent waivers will be granted in accordance with 40 CFR §127.15(c).

Temporary waivers will be granted when an applicant can demonstrate to GAEPD that a hardship or impediment to complying with the electronic reporting requirements cannot be resolved in a satisfactory manner. Temporary waivers will be issued for one year. A Permittee may re-apply to renew the waiver.

It is expected that temporary waivers will rarely be used. Compliance assistance, eventually followed by escalating enforcement action, will be the primary methods for helping late-complying facilities achieve compliance.

8. Outreach and Training: To date GAEPD has developed a contractual agreement with an outside service provider for the following:

- Development of a NetDMR training module using Microsoft PowerPoint
- Ability to track and report the completion information of the training program for each Facility
- Conduct twelve state-wide computer lab training sessions
- Develop and publish training materials (training modules, advertisements and brochures)
- The creation of a GEOS website with GTA, training development, quick development guides, quick development videos
- Content uploading onto the website, product familiarization, module creations
- Conduct 26 training on-site sessions in state-wide with two trainers, travel, marketing, registration, refreshments and facility rental. The website created for GEOS was <http://epd.georgia.gov/geos>.

As GAEPD implements Phase 2 of the e-Reporting Rule requirements, we will continue training efforts.

With respect to NetDMR, between March and June 2016, GAEPD sent notifications to all NPDES permit holders informing them of the Electronic Reporting Rule requirements with a deadline date for them to register for NetDMR. To date there have been over thirty training events teaching permit holders the process of NetDMR.

9. Alternative Options

Currently, GAEPD is utilizing EPA's instance of NetDMR to allow all of Georgia's NPDES wastewater permittees to electronically report DMRs. GAEPD does not anticipate needing a plan B for NetDMR.

In addition, GAEPD is utilizing contractors for the development of GAPDES, FIS and GEOS. In the event, that these contractors are not available GAEPD would contract with another vendor to complete the work.

10. Obstacles to Rule Implementation

At this time, GAEPD does not anticipate obstacles for rule implementation however funding challenges may arise due to the complex nature of changes to our data systems. GAEPD will keep EPA advised on any incremental problems/issues that may arise as Phase 2 progresses.

11. Implementation Plan Reassessment

This will be accomplished on a periodic basis through regular check-ins with EPA's data group to troubleshoot needed areas of data management.