

# **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Georgia EPD Prepares To Reissue General Storm Water Permit For Industries**

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has announced the resolution of the legal challenges blocking a general storm water permit for thousands of industries statewide and it has begun the public comment process to issue the negotiated version of the permit.

“This is a fine example of environmental organizations and regulated industries working together to find a sensible solution for protecting Georgia’s water quality,” said EPD Director Dr. Carol A. Couch.

The revised permit will contain new sampling requirements for industries 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 industries claiming the Industrial No Exposure Exclusion and a number of additional revisions.

Georgia’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit No. GAR000000 for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity is required under federal law. EPD is responsible for issuing the Industrial Activity General Permit, which regulates storm water discharges associated with industrial activity in ten categories and is good for five years. The permit was issued first in 1993 and was reissued in 1998. However, due to concerns expressed in public comments on a proposed 2003-2008 permit, EPD administratively extended the 1998-2003 permit until the issues could be addressed.

Representatives of environmental organizations, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, regulated industries and other concerned parties met with EPD a number of times during 2004 and 2005 to discuss proposed language for the permit. A revised version of the permit was reissued in March 2005, but environmental organizations, including the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper (UCR), the Altamaha Riverkeeper (AR) and the Coosa River Basin Initiative (CRBI), appealed the permit before it became effective. A second appeal was filed on behalf of Alcoa, Inc. The Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition (GIEC) and the Georgia Poultry Federation (GPF) filed motions to intervene in support of the permit.

EPD, GIEC, GPF and Alcoa, Inc. conducted negotiations with UCR, AR and CRBI between August 2005 and February 2006. The negotiations resulted in a settlement agreement earlier this month, which sets the requirements of the next version of the storm water general permit.

EPD has today published a public notice of the proposed permit. A draft of the proposed permit and a fact sheet summarizing the permit is available on EPD’s website ([www.gaepd.org](http://www.gaepd.org)) along with the public notice. The Notice Of Intent – Version 2006 form also will be available on the EPD Web site upon issuance of the permit and can be submitted to the EPD Nonpoint Source Program within 30 days after the effective date of the permit.

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