3.3 Georgia 305(b)/303(d) List Documents

Cat Creek	Beatty Mill Creek to Withlacoochee River near Ray City	Suwannee	Not Supporting	DO	4	4a	TMDL completed DO 2001.
GAR031102030304	Lowndes	Fishing	10,62	NP	Miles		

Cat Creek is listed on the 2022 305(b)/303(d) list as not supporting its designated use (fishing) but TMDLs have been completed for the impacted parameters (dissolved oxygen).

3.4 Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

Dissolved Oxygen:

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) completed a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Dissolved oxygen (DO) for Cat Creek in the Suwannee River Basin in 2001. The TMDL includes wasteload allocations for total organic carbon (TOC), total nitrogen (TN), and total phosphorus (TP); however, the TMDL did not include any wasteload allocations for Ray City WPCP. A revised DO TMDL is being developed by EPD and will supersede the 2001 TMDL. Ray City WPCP will be included into the TMDL and given wasteload allocations for five-day biochemical oxygen demand, ammonia, and dissolved oxygen of 15.0, 5.2, and 6.0 mg/L, respectively.

3.5 Wasteload Allocation (WLA)

WLAs for reissuance was issued on March 17, 2022. Refer to *Appendix A* of the Fact Sheet for a copy of the WLAs.

4. PERMIT CONDITIONS AND EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

4.1 Water Quality Based Effluent Limitations (WQBELs) & Technology Based Effluent Limits (TBELS)

When drafting a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, a permit writer must consider the impact of the proposed pollutants in a discharge on the quality of the receiving water. Water quality goals for a waterbody are defined by state water quality criteria or standards. By analyzing the effect of a pollutant in the discharge on the receiving water, a permit writer could find that technology-based effluent limitations (TBELs) alone will not achieve the applicable water quality standards or protect downstream users. In such cases, the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its implementing regulations require development of water quality-based effluent limitations (WQBELs). WQBELs help meet the CWA objective of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters and the goal of water quality that provides for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation in and on the water (fishable/swimmable).

WQBELs are designed to protect water quality by ensuring water quality standards are met in the receiving water and the designated use and downstream uses are protected. On the basis of the requirements of 40 C.F.R §125.3(a), additional or more stringent effluent limitations and conditions, such as WQBELs, are imposed when TBELs are not sufficient to protect water quality.