

5.4 Service Delivery Strategy

City of Ray City is in compliance with the Department of Community Affairs approved Service Delivery Strategy for Berrien County.

5.5 Compliance Schedules

A 36-month compliance schedule to meet the new limitations for ammonia, dissolved oxygen, total nitrogen, and total phosphorus along with the reduced limitation for total suspended solids, five-day biochemical oxygen demand have been included in the draft permit. Based on best professional judgment, the proposed compliance schedule represents the shortest reasonable period of time to allow the permittee to upgrade the treatment process and test new equipment before the limit becomes effective. Language has also been included in the permit for the new or reduced limitation to become effective prior to the end of the schedule if the permittee can consistently meet the new or reduced limitation. All other effluent limitations are applicable immediately upon the effective date of the permit.

5.6 Anti-Backsliding

In accordance with Section 404(o) of the Clean Water Act and 40 C.F.R. 122.44(l)(2)(i)(B)(1), a permit may be renewed, reissued, or modified to contain a less stringent effluent limitation applicable to a pollutant if information is available which was not available at the time of permit issuance and which would have justified the application of a less stringent effluent limitation at the time of permit issuance.

The TRC limit has been increased due to updated receiving stream information. Therefore, the permit complies with the anti-backsliding requirements of the Clean Water Act.

5.7 Development of a Comprehensive Permitting Strategy for Nutrients

The Clean Water Act (CWA) authorizes EPA and delegated states to develop and implement water quality standards to protect human health and the environment. In 1990, the Georgia General Assembly passed the “Lake Law” (OCGA 12-5-23.1) that authorizes the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to establish water quality standards for each publicly owned lake or reservoir located wholly or partially within the state of Georgia that have a normal pool level surface average of 1,000 or more acres. The law requires that a comprehensive study of each lake be conducted prior to the adoption of lake and major tributary water quality standards. Since that time, Georgia has evaluated all our waterbodies for nutrients and developed water quality models for our watershed, lakes, and estuaries.

EPD is developing a comprehensive Permitting Strategy for Nutrients (Nutrient Permitting Strategy). The development of the Nutrient Permitting Strategy will allow EPD to update the 2011 Phosphorus Strategy; develop a comprehensive nutrient reduction approach to tackle phosphorus, nitrogen, and their effect on chlorophyll a; and solicit stakeholder and permittee feedback on key strategy elements. EPD anticipates the Nutrient Permitting Strategy will provide some degree of regulatory certainty for point source dischargers and minimize the regulatory burden whereby EPD will be evaluating and establishing WLAs for nitrogen and phosphorus.

The Nutrient Permitting Strategy will complement the work completed over the last several decades and build upon the Nutrient WQS Plan, analyze available ambient and permitted discharge data, determine limiting factors, develop a reasonable potential analysis for total