

**Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

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Noel Holcomb, Commissioner

Carol A. Couch, Ph.D., Director

Environmental Protection Division

404/656-4713

August 6, 2008

Mr. James D. Giattina, Director  
Water Management Division  
United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 4  
Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-8960

RE: Draft NPDES General Permit for Vessels  
Georgia 401 Certification

Dear Mr. Giattina:

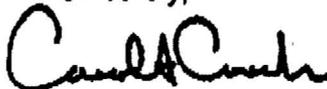
The Georgia Environmental Protection Division has reviewed the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Discharges Incidental to the Normal Operation of Commercial and Large Recreational Vessels for the purpose of providing State certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The permit complies with the applicable provisions of CWA Sections 208(e), 310, 302, 303, 306, and 307. To be consistent with Georgia law, the following requirement must be added to the permit, or the language of the permit modified appropriately:

Except for ocean going vessels of 20 tons displacement or more, the discharge of graywater shall be through a marine sanitation device that is in compliance with the Federal standards of performance and regulations for marine sanitation devices promulgated pursuant to Section 312 of the Clean Water Act.

The regulatory basis for the above requirement is Chapter 391-3-6-.04 (copy attached) of the Georgia Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control (Rules). This section of the Rules includes graywater in the definition of sewage and requires all sewage passing into or through a marine toilet or other disposal unit to discharge solely to a marine sanitation device.

Should you have any questions, please contact Bill Noell at (404) 362-2680.

Sincerely,



Carol A. Couch  
Director

CAC/bn

Enclosure