

3. WATER QUALITY STANDARDS & RECEIVING WATERBODY INFORMATION

Section 301(b)(1)(C) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) requires the development of limitations in permits necessary to meet water quality standards. Federal Regulations 40 CFR 122.4(d) require that conditions in NPDES permits ensure compliance with the water quality standards which are composed of designated use classifications, numeric and or narrative water quality criteria and an antidegradation policy. The designated use classification system identifies the designated uses that each waterbody is expected to achieve, such as drinking water, fishing, or recreation. The numeric and narrative water quality criteria are deemed necessary to support the designated use for each water body. The antidegradation policy represents an approach to maintain and to protect various levels of water quality and uses. Section 391-3-6-.3(5) of the GA Water Quality Control Act provide General Criteria for All Waters, commonly referred to as the narrative water quality standards, and Specific Criteria for Specific Designated Uses. In addition to the General Criteria the Specific Criteria in Section 3.1 below are deemed necessary for this waterbody and shall be required for the specific designated uses.

3.1 Receiving Waterbody Name and Specific Designated Use:

Name: Unnamed tributary of Franks Creek

Specific Designated Use(s) [391-3-6-.03(6)]:

Fishing:

Propagation of Fish, Shellfish, Game and Other Aquatic Life; primary contact recreation in and on the water for the months of May – October, secondary contact recreation in and on the water for the months of November – April; or for any other use requiring water of a lower quality.

(i) Dissolved Oxygen: A daily average of 6.0 mg/L and no less than 5.0 mg/L at all times for water designated as trout streams by the Wildlife Resources Division. A daily average of 5.0 mg/L and no less than 4.0 mg/L at all times for waters supporting warm water species of fish.

(ii) pH: Within the range of 6.0 - 8.5.

(iii) Bacteria:

1. Estuarine waters:

For the months of May through October, when primary water contact recreation activities are expected to occur, culturable enterococci not to exceed a geometric mean of 35 counts per 100 mL based on at least four samples collected from a given sampling site over a 30-day period at intervals not less than 24 hours. There shall be no greater than a ten percent excursion frequency of an enterococci statistical threshold value (STV) of 130 counts per 100 mL the same 30-day interval.