

December 17, 2006

Director
Environmental Protection Division
Department of Natural Resources
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
Suite 1152 S.E. Floyd Towers East
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Director:

Please accept this letter as an addendum to written comments I filed on behalf of the Friends of Barber Creek at the Public Hearing held December 12, 2006, at the Oconee County Civic Center regarding NPDES Permit No. 0038806.

In addition to the reasons stated in those written comments, I am requesting, on behalf of the Friends of Barber Creek, that you deny Permit No. 0038806 for the following reason:

Based on data provided by Oconee County at the hearing, Barber Creek currently exceeds the level of fecal coliform allowed by the water quality standards and effluent standards stated in the supplementary documents attached to the draft permit.

Section 6, item 3, page 2 of the Fact Sheet attached to the Draft Permit states that for the months of May through October, fecal coliform is not to exceed a geometric mean of 200 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. Should water quality and sanitary studies show fecal coliform levels from non-human sources exceeds 200/100 ml occasionally, then the allowable fecal coliform shall not exceed 500/100 ml. For the months of November through April, fecal coliform shall not exceed a geometric mean of 1,000 per 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 and cannot exceed a maximum of 4,000 per 100 ml for any given sample.

At the hearing, in a chart at the rear of the room, Oconee County officials presented data that show that fecal coliform averaged 219 per 100 ml. The chart did not identify the sampling, but, in response to a question from a member of the public, a County official indicated the 219 figure was based on samples over an 18-month period.

In addition, data gathered on May 1, 2002, by The Watershed Group at the University of Georgia as part of a City of Statham watershed assessment and available on the web at <http://watershed.bae.uga.edu/webpage/adobe%20files/stathamwq.pdf> show three samples drawn from three different sites on Barber Creek with fecal coliform geometric means in excess of 500 CFU/100 ml. Two of those samples were in excess of 1000 cfu/100 ml.

Since Oconee County has not demonstrated that the fecal coliform is from non-human sources, and the County has not demonstrated that during the months of May through October Barber Creek has exceeded from non-human sources 200/100 ml only occasionally, as stipulated in the standard, Barber Creek must be judged to be in violation of Georgia water quality standards at this time, and no permit for discharge of effluent with additional fecal coliform should be allowed.

Consequently, we ask you to deny the permit.

I thank you for your consideration of this request and for including these comments in the record of comments regarding NPDES Permit No. 0038806.

Sincerely,

Lee B. Becker
1050 Scott Terrace
Athens, GA 30606
Tel. 706 548 1525

These comments are submitted on behalf of Friends of Barber Creek and also on behalf of the following individuals:

Lee B. Becker, President

Karen Kimbaris, Secretary/Treasurer

Tim Price, Board Member