

> From: Lee Becker [<mailto:lbbecker@mindspring.com>]

> Sent: Thu 6/29/2006 8:42 PM

> To: Christopher Thomas

> Subject: Question about Treatment Plans

>

> Dear Chris,

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> The stories about the county's efforts to land a vaccine manufacturer for the Orkin tract raise questions in my mind about what special procedures the county will need to have in place to treat wastewater from the plant. Mr. Dodd has been quoted as saying that Oconee County has the capability to provide sewage treatment for the tract. Can you elaborate on how that treatment will be handled and what will be done to safeguard those of us who live downstream from the Rocky Branch, which is closest to the Orkin tract? Even if you are unsuccessful in getting a permit to dump treated wastewater into Barber Creek, the spray fields at the plant ultimately drain into the Barber Creek watershed, making treatment of the byproduct of this vaccine manufacturing plant of considerable importance.

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> Thanks

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> Lee

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> [From: Christopher Thomas "<cthomas@oconee.ga.us>](mailto:cthomas@oconee.ga.us)

> To: "[lbbecker@mindspring.com](mailto:lbbecker@mindspring.com)"

> Cc: Gary Dodd "[gdodd@oconee.ga.us](mailto:gdodd@oconee.ga.us)"

> Date: 7/5/2006 8:16:00 AM

> Subject: RE: Question about Treatment Plans

>

> Mr. Becker,

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> There are safeguards that protect wastewater plants from heavy industrial users. The first safeguard is EPA's categorical industrial user requirements. The EPA lists certain industrial facilities, including pharmaceuticals, which are required to pretreat their waste before discharging into sewer systems. The EPA not only specifies which type of treatment is needed, but sets acceptable limits for their pretreatment facility. The next safeguard is Oconee County's sewer use ordinance. The ordinance sets allowable limits for anyone wishing to discharge sewage into Oconee County's sewer system. Also, wastewater treatment plants are designed to handle higher loadings than their influent flows would normally bring. These safeguards along with stringent effluent monitoring and limits at the wastewater plants insure consistently safe discharges into streams and rivers as required under the rules of NPDES permitting. If you have any more questions let me know.

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> Thanks Chris

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From: Lee Becker [<mailto:lbbecker@mindspring.com>]

Sent: Wed 7/5/2006 9:16 PM

To: Christopher Thomas

Subject: RE: Question about Treatment Plans

Chris,

Thanks. This is very helpful.

Can you specify where I can find the actual language of:

1. The EPA's categorical industrial user requirements, and
2. Oconee County's sewer use ordinance?

Also, can you elaborate on the details of the proposed effluent monitoring and limits to be in place at the Oconee plants?

Thanks.

Lee

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> From: Christopher Thomas "<[cthomas@oconee.ga.us](mailto:cthomas@oconee.ga.us)>

> To: "<[lbbecker@mindspring.com](mailto:lbbecker@mindspring.com)>

> Date: 7/6/2006 9:34:04 AM

> Subject: RE: Question about Treatment Plans

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> Lee,

> You can find more information about EPA's categorical users in 40 CFR(Code of Federal Register) 403.6.

> The County's sewer use ordinance is about a forty page document that mimics most of the standards noted in the 403 regulations without the specific requirements of the categorical users. The ordinance is mainly geared for commercial and residential usages, but it does place restrictions on BOD, total solids, pH, and some other common discharge parameters. At this time the GA EPD regulates all significant industrial users for the County due to our small number of users. The EPD utilizes industry standard limits and regulations. Oconee is in the process of implementing it's own pretreatment program, but it will be some time before we complete all of the requirements necessary. As with all reciprocity agreements, Oconee will have to be as stringent or more stringent than the State requires.

> Chris

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[From: Lee Becker \[mailto:lbbecker@mindspring.com\]](mailto:lbbecker@mindspring.com)

Sent: Thu 7/6/2006 5:06 PM

To: Christopher Thomas

Subject: RE: Question about Treatment Plans

Chris,

Thanks. I think I would like to have a copy of the county document. Do you have it in electronic format? If not, I'll make arrangements to request a printed copy.

Also, unless I misunderstood your answer, you didn't address my question about effluent monitoring at the existing Oconee County plants and how that will be operationalized with the proposed expansion at Rocky Branch.

Thanks

Lee

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> [Original Message]

> From: Christopher Thomas "[cthomas@oconee.ga.us](mailto:cthomas@oconee.ga.us)>

> To: "[lbbecker@mindspring.com](mailto:lbbecker@mindspring.com)>

> Cc: Gary Dodd "[gdodd@oconee.ga.us](mailto:gdodd@oconee.ga.us)>

> Date: 7/7/2006 8:48:28 AM

> Subject: RE: Question about Treatment Plans

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> Lee,

> I am looking for the electronic version of the sewer use ordinance, I think I have it. As far as monitoring of the wastewater effluent, I may have been confusing when I referred to the stringent monitoring of the plants effluent. Although all treatment plants are closely monitored to ensure protection of the environment and public health, I was referring to the reuse limits. Reuse limits are more stringent than most plants in the state operate under. During recent public meetings, meetings in our office with you, and numerous handouts, we have described the extent of treatment that will be utilized at our plants and the safeguards that we will have in place. It is very difficult to go into great detail about our treatment processes in an e-mail, but if you need more info please give me a call or set up a face to face appointment.

> Chris