

Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division

2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 1456, Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Judson H. Turner, Director
(404) 656-4713

November 25, 2013

Via Email and U.S. Mail

Mr. Ken Rearden, P.E., Director
Hall County Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1435
Gainesville, GA 30503

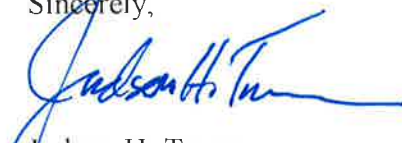
Dear Ken:

Thank you for dropping by to discuss the County's plans for a new discharge into the North Oconee River, the Hall County Plan Amendment Request to the Metro District related to the provision of sanitary sewer service along the S.R. 365 Corridor, and questions related to the timing for any permit determinations by EPD related to the above. Please accept this letter related to the latter question – timing of any decision on a permit for any new wastewater treatment plant, involving new discharge to North Oconee River.

As we discussed, your permit application for new wastewater treatment plant anticipates an interbasin transfer (IBT) from the Chattahoochee Basin to the Oconee Basin. The initial IBT would be in the amount of 0.5 MGD. The ultimate size of the IBT will depend on the year in which the Cedar Creek/North Oconee water withdrawal comes fully online, but the IBT could ultimately reach 2 MGD by 2026. As we also discussed, DNR Board Rule 391-3-6-.07 lists a variety of factors important in evaluating the impact of an IBT on both donor and receiving basins. Given the particular concerns about Lake Lanier, I feel these factors are important to consider here and I anticipate that this work will add another six months to any schedule for permit issuance. Thus, action on your permit could not reasonably be anticipated before June 2014.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



Judson H. Turner
Director

cc: Richard Mecum, Chair, Hall County