

PERMIT NO. 022-1302-07
ISSUANCE DATE: Nov 02, 2021



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

PERMIT TO WITHDRAW, DIVERT OR IMPOUND SURFACE WATER

PERMIT HOLDER'S NAME **Carroll County Water Authority**
PERMIT HOLDER'S ADDRESS **P.O. Box 739 Carrollton, Georgia 30112**
COUNTY: **Carroll County**

In accordance with the provisions of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, (O.C.G.A. § 12-5-20 et seq.) as amended, and the Rules and Regulations for Water Quality Control, Chapter 391-3-6, promulgated pursuant thereto, this permit is issued to withdraw surface water from the (source) Little Tallapoosa River in the Tallapoosa River Basin for the purpose of municipal water supply.

Carroll County Water Authority (Permittee) must comply with the following limitations:

- (1) Maximum 24 hour: Withdrawal **40.0** MGD; Impoundment ____ MGD; Diversion ____ MGD
- (2) Not to exceed a monthly average of Variable (See Table 1) MGD

This Permit is conditioned upon the permit holder complying with the attached **Standard Conditions** (1 through 5) and the additional **Special Conditions** (11 through 25) which are hereby made a part of this Permit.

In accordance with the application dated 2/14/2019 and in conformity with the statements and supporting data entered therein or attached thereto, all of which are filed with the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources and are hereby made part of this Permit.

This Permit is effective from the date first above written and is subject to revocation pursuant to the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, as amended, O.C.G.A. § 12-5-31 (k).

Absent prior revocation in accordance with the above language, this Permit will expire **ten (10) years** from the issuance date on this permit.



Richard E. Dunn, Director
Environmental Protection Division

This permit is conditioned upon the permittee complying with the provisions of the Water Quality Control Act, as amended, or any of the Rules and Regulations promulgated thereto;

STANDARD CONDITIONS

1) GENERAL PERMIT CHARACTERISTICS

- a) The use of surface water is limited to the quantities and purposes as specified herein;
- b) Water associated with this Permit must not be withdrawn by, released for, or otherwise utilized by any other entity or for any other purpose without first modifying this Permit.
- c) This permit must not be transferred except with the approval of the Division;
- d) This permit supersedes any and all previous permits of the same permit number.

2) PERMIT RENEWAL

All permittees desiring to renew a permit shall submit an application for renewal to the Director within six (6) months prior to its expiration.

3) PERMIT MODIFICATION

- a) The permittee may seek modification of any of the terms of an unexpired permit upon written request to the Director.
- b) The Georgia EPD has the authority to modify any surface water withdrawal permit at any time.

4) MONITORING AND REPORTING

- a) The permittee must submit annually to the Division, within 30 days of completion of the calendar year, a report listing for each month of the previous year:
 - 1. The gallons per day withdrawn, based on an average of the daily withdrawals for the month;
 - 2. The maximum 24 hour withdrawal;
- b) In addition to Condition 4a, the permittee must submit to the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) within 10 days of completion of the calendar month, a monthly Surface Water Withdrawal Report for the previous month showing daily raw water withdrawals associated with this Permit.

5) WATER PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

- a) The permittee must abide by all applicable water conservation requirements, which may include but are not limited to submission of a Water Conservation Plan for EPD approval and submission of a five-year Water Conservation Progress Report in accordance with 391-3-6-.07. The Progress Report must include all actions and improvements made to conserve water and reduce water loss and shall be submitted for EPD review no later than July 15, 2026.
- b) The permittee must abide by all applicable drought response requirements, which include but are not limited to the Georgia Drought Management Rule (391-3-30) and the permittee's Drought Contingency Plan.
- c) The permittee must maintain ongoing compliance with applicable "Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water Plan" requirements.

SYSTEM INFORMATION

- 6) Water withdrawn under this permit is pumped from the Little Tallapoosa River to supplement inflows into the Indian Creek Reservoir. Withdrawals from Indian Creek Reservoir are covered under Permit No. 022-1302-08.
- 7) The Indian Creek Reservoir is located on Indian Creek approximately four miles upstream of the confluence of Indian Creek and Turkey Creek. Indian Creek is a tributary of the Little Tallapoosa River and provides natural inflow to the Indian Creek Reservoir. When local inflow into the Indian Creek Reservoir is not sufficient to maintain reservoir levels, water is pumped from the Little Tallapoosa River into the reservoir under this permit. A system schematic map is included as Figure 1. This figure also shows locations of required instream water quality monitoring required in Conditions #13 and 14 of this permit and Condition #12 of Permit No. 022-1302-08.
- 8) The safe yield of the Indian Creek Reservoir was calculated by a model independently developed by the EPD. The model calculated a safe yield of 8.8 MGD for the Indian Creek Reservoir using flow data available from 1939-2015 and concluded the 2007-2009 critical period to be the drought of record.
- 9) While evaluating the potential impacts of the Indian Creek Reservoir system, the Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources recommended that the monthly average withdrawal limits in the Little Tallapoosa River withdrawal permit reflect 20% of long-term average monthly flow to minimize the downstream impacts on fish and aquatic life and their habitats. The permit limits originally proposed by the permittee exceeded these flow values in the Little Tallapoosa River in August, September, and October. As a result, the permittee agreed to modify its original request to reflect a set of variable limits, ranging from 20% of the long-term average monthly flows in June through November, to 40 MGD for other months. These variable limits are shown in Table 1 of Condition #12. Variable withdrawal limits minimize the potential impacts on downstream fish and aquatic life and their habitats, reducing allowable withdrawals from the Little Tallapoosa River in later summer and fall and compensating for these reduced withdrawals with higher limits in wet months.

- 10) In addition to the permits associated with the Indian Creek Reservoir system, the Carroll County Water Authority also holds 1 surface water withdrawal permit (Permit # 022-1217-01) and 1 groundwater withdrawal permit (Permit # 022-0001).

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- 11) The permittee's intake structure is located near Reavesville Road on the Little Tallapoosa River. All water withdrawn must be metered at or immediately upon leaving the intake structure.
- 12) Water must be withdrawn under this permit in accordance with the variable monthly average limits outlined in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Variable Monthly Average Withdrawal Limits

Month	Monthly Avg Limits (MGD)
January	40.0
February	40.0
March	40.0
April	40.0
May	40.0
June	28.4
July	26.1
August	17.9
September	15.0
October	16.4
November	27.6
December	40.0

- 13) The permittee must establish a new continuous streamflow and water quality monitoring station at the Reavesville Road / Little Tallapoosa River crossing, approximately 0.5 mile upstream of the Little Tallapoosa River intake. This station must monitor streamflow, dissolved oxygen (DO), temperature, and pH, and operate for at least two years prior to land disturbance for project construction. The details of the new monitoring installed, including gage type and location, must be submitted to EPD at least two years prior to land disturbance for project construction.
- 14) The permittee must maintain the existing continuous streamflow and water quality monitoring station located at the State Route 100 / Little Tallapoosa River crossing, approximately 2.75 miles downstream of the project's Little Tallapoosa River intake (USGS Gage No. 02413210). This station must monitor streamflow, dissolved oxygen (DO), temperature, and pH.
- 15) Water quality and biological monitoring must occur in accordance with the 401 Water Quality Certification issued by EPD on August 5, 2020.
- 16) The water quality monitoring results obtained via the monitoring required in Conditions #13 and 14 shall be made available online and evaluated for compliance with water quality standards only during periods of measurable stream flow. This monitoring must continue for at least 10 years after the start of the project construction phase or for three years after the reservoir has filled and reservoir operation has begun, whichever term is greater. EPD will re-evaluate the need for the

water quality monitoring at that time.

- 17) The permittee must pass the non-depletable flows shown in Table 2 or the natural flow, whichever is less, downstream of its intake on the Little Tallapoosa River at all times. USGS Gage No. 02413210, as referenced in Condition #14, serves as the compliance point for this requirement.

Table 2. Low Flow Protection Thresholds at the Little Tallapoosa River Intake

Month	Low Flow Protection Threshold at Intake (cfs)
January	111.42
February	145.39
March	188.93
April	169.13
May	100.52
June	45.28
July	40.92
August	22.90
September	15.93
October	19.54
November	35.15
December	69.37

- 18) The permittee must establish biological monitoring in accordance with the following conditions:
- a) Biological monitoring must occur annually at two locations associated with this permit: 1) in the vicinity of the existing USGS Gage No. 02413210, located at the State Route 100 / Little Tallapoosa River crossing approximately 2.75 miles downstream of the intake covered under this permit, and 2) in the vicinity of the new gage to be installed to comply with the requirements outlined in Condition #13, near the Reavesville Road / Little Tallapoosa River crossing, approximately 0.5 mile upstream of the intake.
 - b) Monitoring must consist in-situ water quality sampling during all sampling events and the biological parameters outlined in Table 3.

Table 3. Biological Monitoring Parameters and Frequencies

Parameter	Monitoring Timeframe
Fish	May – October
Benthic Macroinvertebrates	October – February
Periphyton	May – October
Physical Habitat	October – February
Temperature	In-Situ
Dissolved Oxygen	In-Situ
pH	In-Situ
Turbidity	In-Situ
Specific Conductance	In-Situ

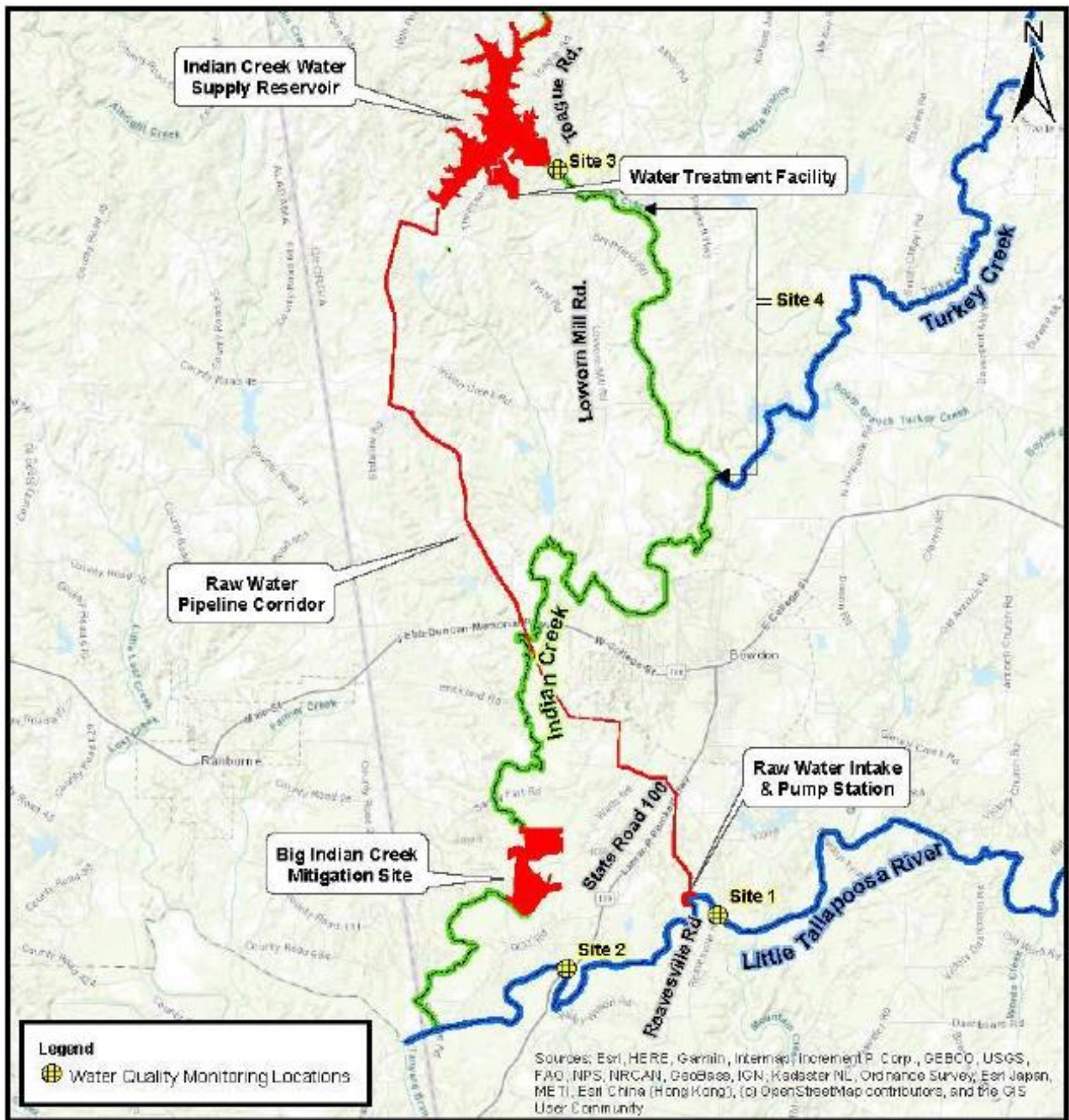
- c) Biological monitoring must begin at least two years prior to land disturbance for project construction and continue for at least 10 years after the start of the project construction

phase or for three years after the reservoir has filled and reservoir operation has begun, whichever term is greater. Georgia EPD will re-evaluate the need for biological monitoring at that time.

- d) Biological monitoring must occur in accordance with Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Rapid Bioassessment, Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) macroinvertebrate protocol, and Georgia Wildlife Resources Division (WRD) protocols. Monitoring must include periphyton, macroinvertebrates, fish, and habitat and occur annually during the proper index period stated in each protocol. These sampling records must be kept on file at the water treatment plant and be submitted annually to EPD by March 31 of each calendar year.
- 19) The permittee must act promptly to address any violations of water quality standards (chemical or biological) indicated by the monitoring results provided in Conditions #13, 14, and 18 that are caused by or related to the operation of the Indian Creek Reservoir system and promptly notify EPD and consult with EPD to investigate and resolve any associated issues.
- 20) If water quality studies or biological monitoring show that different minimum instream flows or flow characteristics may be necessary to meet the Indian Creek or Little Tallapoosa River water quality standards and designated uses [Georgia Department of Natural Resources (EPD and WRD), United States Environmental Protection Agency, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service concurring], then the permittee must adjust reservoir operations by altering the rate and/or depth of the discharge from the reservoir, adjust pumping operations, or work with EPD and WRD to reevaluate minimum instream flows as needed to avoid water quality standards violations.
- 21) The permittee must obtain source water approval and a Permit to Operate a Public Water System from Georgia EPD before supplying any amount of water withdrawn under this permit to the public drinking water distribution system.
- 22) The permittee must submit annually to EPD, before March 1 of the calendar year for the previous year, a report for an annual average estimate of all water transferred out of or into the Tallapoosa River Basin (in million gallons per day). The estimate should include the following:
- a. Water that originates in the Tallapoosa River Basin but is transferred by the permit holder, or an entity that purchases water from the permit holder, into another river basin and discharged or consumed, broken down by the individual recipient of the transferred water and the river basin into which it is transferred.
 - b. Water that is returned to the Tallapoosa River Basin by the permit holder, or any entity that purchase water from the permittee, broken down by individual who returned the transferred water.
 - c. Water that does not originate in the Tallapoosa River Basin, but is transferred in to and consumed and/or discharged within the Tallapoosa River Basin by the permittee, broken down by individual supplier of the transferred water and the river basin in which the water originates.

- 23) The permittee must operate in accordance with all criteria for Water Supply Watersheds as outlined in 391-3-16-.01, including the applicable Water Supply Watershed Protection Plan.
- 24) In accordance with 391-3-33-.05, any future renewal or modification of this permit is conditioned upon the demonstration of progress towards improved water efficiency. The permittee must submit an annual Water Audit by March 1 of each year and maintain ongoing compliance with the following:
 - a) Establishment of a Water Loss Control Program and associated goals to set measures of water supply efficiency; and
 - b) Demonstration of progress toward improved water efficiency using the measures established; or
 - c) Demonstration that the permittee has reached its Economic Level of Leakage (ELL), and that the ELL is being maintained.
- 25) To ensure compliance with all provisions of 391-3-33, the permittee must provide the following documentation:
 - a) Within six months of the issuance date of this permit, a Water Loss Control Program designed to address priorities identified in the permittee's water loss audits and any other issues believed to contribute to current NRW levels. These include, but are not limited to, "Volume from Own Sources," "Customer Metering Inaccuracies," and "Variable Production Cost (Applied to Real Losses)." The Water Loss Control Program must contain concrete actions to increase water efficiency and deadlines will become enforceable through this permit.
 - b) A progress report every year starting one (1) year from this permit issuance date, on the permittee's Water Loss Control Plan, on efforts made to reduce Water Loss within the permits system. The progress report must provide a description of implemented measures and how the implemented measures have reduced the system's NRW. This annual report must continue to be submitted every year to ensure increasing water efficiency.

Figure 1. System Schematic and Stream Monitoring Locations





Richard E. Dunn, Director

Watershed Protection Branch

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1152, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-463-1511

Nov 02, 2021

Mr. Matt Windom
Carroll County Water Authority
P O Box 739
Carrollton, GA 30112

RE: Surface Water Withdrawal Permit Application (New)
Permit # 022-1302-07, Carroll County in the Tallapoosa River Basin
Source: Little Tallapoosa River
Current Permit Limits: 40.0 mgd max 24-hr day/ Variable mgd monthly average

Dear Mr. Windom:

In accordance with the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, as amended, the above referenced permit to withdraw surface water from Little Tallapoosa River has been issued by the Division and is hereby enclosed. The conditions of compliance are provided on pages 2 and 3 of this permit. Standard Condition number (4b) requires the permit holder to submit to the Division within the first 10 days of the calendar month, a monthly Surface Water Withdrawal Report for the previous month, showing daily raw water withdrawals associated with this permit. A copy of this reporting form is included.

Exceeding the maximum 24-hour or monthly average withdrawal limitations is a Permit violation and must be reported to the Water Protection Branch by telephone (404) 463-1511 within 48 hours and confirmed in writing within 10 days. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of the Permit may make the permit holder liable for civil penalties as provided by the Act.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or write me at (470) 251-4897 or wei.zeng@dnr.ga.gov.

Sincerely,

Wei Zeng

Wei Zeng, Ph.D., Professional Hydrologist
Manager, Water Supply Program
Watershed Protection Branch