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Georgia Mosquito Control Association

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NPDES Update

In 2009, the court vacated EPA's 2006 Final Rule on Aquatic Pesticides that said NPDES permits were not required for applications of pesticides to U.S. waters. As a result of the court's decision, discharges to waters of the U.S. from the application of pesticides will require NPDES permits when the court's mandate takes effect.

In Georgia, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) will issue the general NPDES permit, permit number GAG820000, for discharges to waters of the State of Georgia from the application of biological pesticides and chemical pesticides. All discharges authorized by this general permit involve applications made directly to waters of the State in order to control pests or applications to control pests near water in which pesticides will make unavoidable contact with the water.

On March 28, 2011, the Sixth Circuit of Appeals granted EPA's request for an extension to allow more time for pesticide operators to obtain permits for pesticide discharges into U.S. waters. The court's decision extends the deadline for when permits will be required from April 9, 2011 to October 31, 2011.

The House has passed HR 872: The Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2011. This would eliminate the need to work under the Pesticide General Permit. Senate Bill S 718 has also been introduced. This is NOT exactly a companion bill to HR 872, but a partial fix, and a means to begin seriously debating this issue. We need to push for this legislative "fix". Thanks to those of you who have already written or called your representatives requesting support.

In the meantime, continue to prepare.

Additional Information:

EPA - http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=410

EPD - <http://www.gaepd.org/Documents/NPDES-Pesticide.html>

AMCA BMP - http://www.gamosquito.org/resources/Special%20Projects/AMCA_BMPsforMosquitoManagement.pdf

GMCA - <http://www.gamosquito.org/SpecialProjects.htm>

AMCA - http://www.mosquito.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=53&Itemid=131

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Special points of interest:

- Washington Day



Focus on Mosquito Control

RICHMOND COUNTY POOL MITIGATION PROGRAM

Our pool program was born out of necessity back in May 2008. We began receiving complaints of neglected pools throughout the county. Upon investigation we found that the largest group of pools was from homes that were occupied. We did have some that were in foreclosure and we were not able to locate the owners or we were dealing with out-of-town mortgage companies who just ignored our letters.

We developed a program of checks and balances that sounded reasonable and took it to our Municipal Judges to get their input. With a few suggestions and some tinkering we came up with our plan.

The Plan

When we received a complaint we would investigate and fill out an inspection report that

included mosquito habitats that could be found on any property in the county. We tried to speak to the property owner, if possible, and make recommendations to eliminate the problem. This would be followed up with a letter outlining the violations of our Health Ordinance that states that “no one could permit the holding of any water on their property in which mosquitoes breed or are likely to breed”. It would also include a copy of the inspection report. The property owner would be given 30 days to correct the problem.

At 30 days we would show up to conduct another inspection and see what progress had been made. If the problem was eliminated we would send the property owner a thank you letter and a copy of the inspection report.

If the conditions weren't met we would then send them a 15 day notice that another inspection would be conducted and if the conditions weren't met that the case would be



turned over to the Marshal's Office for Citation for violating the Health Ordinance. If all was well during the second inspection we would send them a thank you letter and a copy of the inspection report.

We always took several photos at each visit, as the judges like to see what we are talking about and not try to visualize, as the property owner always had a different vision of the problem than we had.

If we had to go to court the judge would reach his decision based mostly on the photos, as well as on testimony .

As this is a misdemeanor, the sentences can range up to 6 months incarceration and / or \$1,000 fine. Sometimes the judge will include up to a year probation and some community service. He is also willing to work with the person just to get the problem solved.

Here are the numbers to date:

Total pools in the program	98
Pools Abated	82
Pools in maintenance	8
Pools in court currently	2
Pools somewhere in process	6
Total pools having gone through the court system	9

Most people will comply if you treat them fairly. Just keep after them and don't miss a deadline because they will think you quit on them and they won't do anything else.

If anyone would like a copy of our inspection form I'll be glad to e-mail you a copy. I can be reached at augmosq@dhr.state.ga.us or you can call me at 706-667-4241.

Fred Koehle
Operations Manager
Richmond County Mosquito Control



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Be sure to come to the GMCA Annual Meeting on Oct 19-21, 2011 to hear how we did at the Washington Day Conference, to make connections within the mosquito control community, and to listen to a great line-up of presentations. Meeting information can be found at <http://www.gamosquito.org/meeting.htm>. Additional information will be added as it becomes available.

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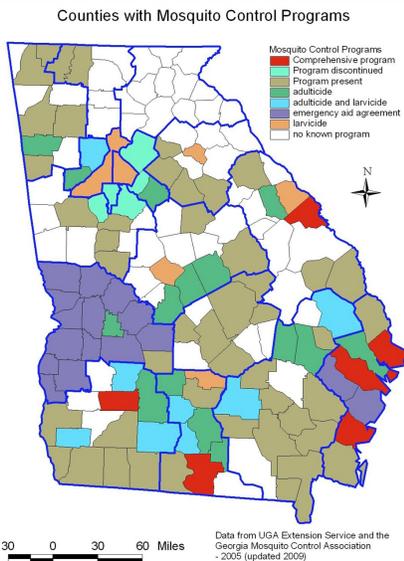
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Washington Day

May 9-11, 2011



Map of mosquito control programs in Georgia, 2009.

AMCA's Annual Washington Conference is THE venue to identify issues or concerns that can only be examined and resolved at the federal level or on a nationwide basis.

Position Papers:

1. Clean Water Act NPDES Impacts on Mosquito Control Programs
2. Funding for National Disease Surveillance Network through Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Grants from the Centers for Disease Control

3. Endangered Species Act Considerations and Mosquito Control

4. Failure to Appropriate FQPA-Authorized Funding Threatens Availability of Public Health Pesticides

5. Mosquito Control on National Wildlife Refuges

The position papers can be found at http://www.mosquito.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=52&Itemid=130.