



**Alabama Department of Environmental Management**  
**adem.alabama.gov**

1400 Coliseum Blvd. 36110-2400 ■ Post Office Box 301463  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463  
(334) 271-7700 ■ FAX (334) 271-7950

March 25, 2025

Mr. Jerry Hammon  
The Waterworks Sewer & Gas Board of the Town of Section  
P.O. Box 1159  
Rainsville, AL 35986

RE: **UIC PERMIT NUMBER ALSI9925001**  
Town of Geraldine WWTP  
North of Lebanon Road and East Shadow Ridge Lane  
Geraldine, DeKalb County, Alabama

Dear Mr. Hammon:

A **Draft** copy of the modified permit is enclosed for your review.

If you have any comments on the draft permit, please submit them to this office **within the next thirty (30) days** so that any issues of concern might be resolved.

If you have any questions, please call me at (334) 271-7844.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Aul", is written over a light blue circular background.

Jeff Aul  
UIC Program

JA

Enclosure: Draft UIC Permit ALSI9925001



**Birmingham Office**  
110 Vulcan Road  
Birmingham, AL 35209-4702  
(205) 942-6168  
(205) 941-1603 (FAX)

**Decatur Office**  
2715 Sandlin Road, S.W.  
Decatur, AL 35603-1333  
(256) 353-1713  
(256) 340-9359 (FAX)

**Coastal Office**  
1615 South Broad Street  
Mobile, AL 36605  
(251) 450-3400  
(251) 479-2593 (FAX)



# UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PERMIT

**PERMITTEE:** The Waterworks Sewer & Gas Board of the Town of Section

**FACILITY/LOCATION:** Town of Geraldine WWTP  
North Lebanon Road and East of Shadow Ridge Lane  
Geraldine, DeKalb County, Alabama  
Latitude: N 34.35886/ Longitude W -85.992308

**PERMIT NUMBER:** ALSI9925001

**INJECTION WELL CLASS:** Class V

**SOURCE OF POLLUTANTS:** Injection of treated domestic sanitary effluent from a wastewater treatment facility.

*In accordance with and subject to the provisions of the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300f-300j (the "SDWA"), the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, Code of Alabama 1975, §§ 22-22-1 to 22-22-14, (the "AWPCA"), the Alabama Environmental Management Act, as amended, Code of Alabama 1975, §§ 22-22A-1 to 22-22A-15, and rules and regulations adopted thereunder, and subject further to the terms and conditions set forth in this permit, the Permittee is hereby authorized to construct and operate injection well(s) of the above-described class.*

**ISSUANCE DATE:**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:**

**EXPIRATION DATE:**

**DRAFT**

Alabama Department of Environmental Management

**Permit Terms and Conditions    The Waterworks Sewer & Gas Board of the Town of Section ALSI9925001  
Town of Geraldine WWTP**

**PART I            Authorization to Operate**

- A.     The permittee is authorized to operate Class V Injection Well(s) at the facility described in the permit application and in the cover page of this permit in accordance with the provisions set forth in this permit. In the case of this permit, the subsurface effluent disposal system is defined as the injection well(s).
- B.     The permittee must have routine and daily control of the treatment and effluent disposal system for operation in accordance with the terms of this permit.
- C.     Only treated sanitary wastewater described in the original permit application shall be injected. Injection of industrial waste(s) is prohibited.
- D.     This permit and the authorization to inject shall remain in effect until the expiration date as stated on the cover page of this permit. If the permittee desires to continue injection past the expiration date of this permit, the permittee shall request a permit reissuance at least 180 days prior to expiration of this permit.

**PART II           Construction Requirements**

- A.     Injection Well Requirements
  - 1.     The permittee shall inject only sanitary wastewater that has been treated by passing through a wastewater treatment system. The treatment system shall be adequate to meet the discharge limitations contained in Appendix A.
  - 2.     Injected effluent shall not surface from the effluent disposal system.
  - 3.     The permittee shall maintain a means of sampling the wastewater after treatment and prior to injection. The permittee shall monitor the influent for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5). The plans for the sampling access are required to be submitted to the ADEM.
  - 4.     The disposal field areas shall be the areas identified by the permit application.
  - 5.     The disposal field areas shall be maintained so that standing or ponded water resulting from precipitation does not occur.
  - 6.     Adequate select soil fill material shall be maintained in areas where shallow subsurface soil restrictive features might limit effluent absorption.
  - 7.     The permittee shall maintain a thriving vegetated cover throughout the year and must overseed the disposal field area when necessary to maintain a cover crop.
  - 8.     All treatment and disposal system components and equipment shall be installed, monitored, and maintained in accordance with the design engineer's directions.
  - 9.     The loading rate of treated wastewater shall not exceed the design loading rate as specified in the permit application.
  - 10.    The permittee shall maintain fencing around the disposal area(s).

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Town of Geraldine WWTP**

**B.        Modifications**

Approval by the ADEM shall be obtained prior to modification of any injection well or supporting surface. Modification shall mean any action that will change the configuration of the well beneath the surface, the methods of monitoring injection, or will result in injection of a fluid not specifically authorized by this permit.

**PART III        Operating and Monitoring Requirements**

**A.        Injection Fluid**

1.        The permittee shall not inject any substance that is defined as hazardous or toxic by Federal or State laws or regulations or any substance not identified in the application for this permit. The proposed use of substances other than those identified in the permit application must be reviewed and approved by the ADEM prior to use.
2.        The daily volume of injected wastewater shall not exceed the design flow of 240,000 gallons per day, in accordance with the plans and specifications submitted with the permit application and modification.
3.        The rate of wastewater injection into the effluent disposal system shall not exceed the soil infiltration rate and the requirements of Part II.A.9 of this permit.
4.        The permittee shall monitor the fluid to be injected as specified in Appendix A of this permit. The permittee shall monitor the influent for Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5).
5.        The permittee shall not exceed the limits established in Appendix A of this permit.
6.        The ADEM may change the sampling requirements if the sampling data indicates a need to do so.

**B.        Groundwater Monitoring Requirements**

1.        Prior to injection, the permittee shall submit a groundwater monitoring plan. The plan shall include proposed locations and construction plans for monitoring wells sufficient to monitor groundwater quality immediately hydraulically down gradient of the disposal fields. The permittee shall make any modifications to the monitoring plan, as deemed necessary by the ADEM.
2.        Each monitoring well shall include the following.
  - a)        The permittee shall screen each monitoring well in the uppermost saturated zone. The well screen shall be of sufficient length to account for seasonal fluctuations in the water table and affects of the subsurface effluent disposal system.
  - b)        The annulus around each well casing above the well screen shall be sealed with bentonite to prevent the passage of surface water into the injection zone.

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- c)        The surface installation shall include a concrete protective pad around the base of the well, a metal protective casing, and a locking cap.
- 3.        All surface water shall be routed away from the monitoring well's surface installation.
- 4.        The monitoring well installation shall be completed and monitoring wells shall be sampled for background water quality prior to the use of the drip fields.
- 5.        The permittee shall submit as built descriptions and geologic logs of monitoring wells within 60 days after drilling.
- 6.        The permittee shall monitor the groundwater as specified in Appendix B of this permit.
- 7.        The permittee shall not exceed the limits established in Appendix B of this permit.

**C.        Test Procedures**

Test procedures for the analysis of pollutants shall conform to 40 CFR Part 136 of the Federal Register and guidelines published pursuant to Section 304(h) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA). If more than one method of analysis of a substance is approved for use, a method having a detection limit lower than the permit limit shall be used. If the detection limit of all methods is higher than the permit limit, the method having the lowest detection limit shall be used and a report of less than detection limit shall constitute compliance. However, should the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approve a method with a lower detection limit during the term of this permit the permittee shall use the newly approved method.

**D.        Certified Operation**

If required by the ADEM, the wastewater treatment plant shall only be operated by a duly certified operator who meets the requirements specified in the ADEM Administrative Code, Rule 335-10-1.

**E.        Operation**

- 1.        The injection well(s) operated under this permit shall function properly and wastewater shall not surface. Should the injection well(s) fail to function properly, the permittee shall take immediate corrective action, to include cessation of injection, as required by the ADEM.
- 2.        The permittee shall adopt the following best management practices:
  - a)        Properly operate and maintain in good working order all treatment or control facilities or systems (and related appurtenances) installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. Proper operation and maintenance includes effective performance, adequate funding, adequate operator staffing and training, and adequate laboratory and process controls, including appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems only when necessary to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit.

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- b) Comply with Federal, State, and local solid and liquid waste disposal regulations.
- c) Solids, sludges, filter backwash, or any other pollutant or other waste removed in the course of treatment or control of wastewaters shall be disposed in a manner that complies with all applicable the ADEM rules and regulations.
- d) Upon the loss or failure of any treatment facilities, including but not limited to the loss or failure of the primary source of power of the treatment facility, the permittee shall, where necessary to maintain compliance with the discharge limitations specified in Appendix A, of this permit, or any other terms or conditions of this permit, cease, reduce or otherwise control all discharges until treatment is restored. If control of discharges during loss or failure of the primary source of power is to be accomplished by means of alternate power sources, standby generators or retention of inadequately treated effluent, the permittee must furnish to the ADEM prior to the initiation of injection, a certification that such control mechanisms have been installed.

**3. Bypass**

- a) A bypass of the permitted injection well is prohibited.
- b) A bypass of treatment facilities is not prohibited and need not meet the discharge limitations specified in Appendix A of this permit if:
  - (i) It is unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;
  - (ii) There are no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as use of auxiliary treatment facilities, retention of untreated wastes, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime (note: this condition is not satisfied if adequate back-up equipment should have been installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment to prevent a bypass which occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance); and
  - (iii) The permittee submits a written request for authorization to bypass to the ADEM at least ten (10) days prior to the anticipated bypass (if possible), the permittee is granted such authorization, and the permittee complies with any conditions imposed by the ADEM to minimize any adverse impact on human health or the environment from the bypass.

**F. Monitoring Equipment and Instrumentation**

All equipment and instrumentation used to determine compliance with the requirements of this permit shall be installed, maintained, and calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or, in the absence of manufacturer's instructions, in accordance with accepted practices. At a minimum, flow measurement devices shall be calibrated at least once every 12 months.

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**PART IV        Records, Reports, & Submittals**

**A.        Records**

1.        The permittee shall record the information listed below for all monitoring activities:
  - a)        The date, exact place, and time of sampling or sampling measurement(s);
  - b)        The name of individual(s) who perform the sampling or measurement(s);
  - c)        The date(s) analyses were performed;
  - d)        The name of the individual(s) who performed the analyses;
  - e)        The analytical or technical methods used;
  - f)        The results of each analysis performed; and
  - g)        The completed chain-of-custody forms for all samples collected.
2.        The permittee shall retain all records concerning the data used to complete the permit application, the operation of the wells, and the nature and composition of pollutants injected; to include records of the calibration of instruments, meters and gauges, quality control records, and recordings from continuous monitoring instrumentation for the previous three years of operation.
3.        When requested by the ADEM, the permittee shall deliver copies of any of the records maintained in accordance with this permit.

**B.        Reports**

1.        Prior to injection, the permittee shall submit a notification of initial injection. This notification shall identify the start date of injection and include a plat identifying the specific area within the effluent disposal field which will initially receive effluent.
2.        The reporting period for all monitoring performed under Appendix A shall be monthly. The reporting period for all monitoring performed under Appendix B shall be quarterly. Upon the effective date of this permit, the permittee shall submit reports not later than 28 days after each reporting period, whether a discharge from the wastewater treatment system occurs or not. The monitoring reports shall include:
  - a)        The date, exact place, and time of sampling or sampling measurement(s);
  - b)        The results of each analysis and measurement performed.
3.        If applicable, the permittee shall submit sludge inventory data not later than 30 days from the effective date of the permit which at a minimum contains the following information:
  - a)        Type of sludge stabilization/digestion method, daily or annual sludge production (dry weight basis), and ultimate sludge disposal practice(s).

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- b) The permittee shall give prior notice to the ADEM of at least 30 days of any change planned in the permittee's sludge disposal practices.
- 4. The permittee shall report to the ADEM any of the following:
  - a) Any planned action which will change the use of the injection well, will result in injection of a fluid different from that authorized by this permit, will result in injection of wastewater at a rate greater than the design flow rate, will change the method of operations of the injection well, or will change the method of the monitoring of well operations or injected fluids. No such changes shall be implemented unless or until a permit modification has been received.
  - b) Any planned transfer of ownership or responsibility of operation of all or part of the permitted facility.
  - c) Any relevant facts of which the permittee becomes aware which should have been submitted in a permit application and any corrections to data previously submitted in a permit application.
- 5. Within 120 days of the effective date of this Permit, the Permittee shall develop and submit a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) Response Plan to establish timely and effective methods for responding to notifiable sanitary sewer overflows. A notifiable sanitary sewer overflow is defined as an overflow, spill, release or diversion of wastewater from a sanitary sewer system that: (a) reaches a surface water of the State; or (b) may imminently and substantially endanger human health based on the potential for public exposure including but not limited to close proximity to public or private water supply wells or in areas where human contact would be likely to occur. The Plan shall include each of the following:
  - a) Procedures to notify the Department, the local county health department, and any other affected entity such as public water systems, within 24- hours of becoming aware of any sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) or other unpermitted discharge to the surface from any part of the sanitary sewer collection system, treatment system or injection well;
  - b) Procedures to notify the public, such as distributing flyers to nearby residents; posting signs at the location of the SSO and where the SSO enters a water of the state; posting signs at a central public location; posting signs at fishing piers, boat launches, parks, swimming waterbodies, etc.; posting information on websites and/or social media; and notifying local print or radio and broadcast media;
  - c) Information to be provided in public notifications (e.g., identification that an SSO has occurred, date, duration if known, estimated volume if known, location of the SSO by street address or other appropriate method, initial destination of the SSO).
- 6. The Department is utilizing the Alabama Environmental Permitting and Compliance System (AEPACS) for notification and submittal of SSO reports. The Permittee must utilize the system for notification and submittal of all SSO reports unless otherwise allowed by this permit. The Permittee shall include in the SSO reports the information requested by the ADEM Form 415. In addition, the Permittee shall include the latitude and longitude of the SSO in the report except when the SSO is a result of an extreme weather event (e.g., hurricane). If the system is down (i.e., electronic submittal of SSO data cannot be completed due to technical problems originating with the Department's system), the Permittee is not

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relieved of its obligation to notify the Department or submit SSO reports to the Department by the required submittal date, and the Permittee shall submit the data in an alternate manner and format acceptable to the Department. Within five calendar days of the system resuming operation, the Permittee shall enter the data into the system, unless an alternate timeframe is approved by the Department. For any alternate notification, records of the date, time, notification method, and person submitting the notification should be maintained by the Permittee. If a Permittee is allowed to submit SSO reports via an alternate method, the SSO report must be in a format approved by the Department and must be legible.

7. **Within 30 days upon the effective date of this permit the permittee must enroll and participate in the Department's Alabama Environmental and Permitting Compliance System (AEPACS) (<https://adem.alabama.gov/aepacs>).** Once the permittee is enrolled in the system, the permittee must utilize the system for the submittal of DMRs. If the system is down due to technical problems originating with the Department's system, the permittee is not relieved of the obligation to submit DMR data by the required submittal date via faxing, e-mailing, mailing, or hand-delivery of data such that they are received by the required reporting date.
8. Studies, engineering reports, plans and specifications, plugging and abandonment plans, logging reports, and other technical documents submitted to comply with this permit shall be prepared by or under the supervision of qualified persons defined by the underground injection control (UIC) regulations of the ADEM.

**PART V            Plugging and Abandonment**

The permittee shall perform any abandonment and closure actions that may be required by the ADEM to remove a threat to groundwater quality or to the health of persons.

**PART VI           Permit Modification, Revocation, Suspension, and Termination**

- A. The ADEM may impose emergency additional conditions to this permit when necessary to protect waters of the state from pollution. These conditions may include suspension of the permit to inject. Any such condition shall remain in effect until the permit is modified, revoked, suspended, or terminated in accordance with the UIC regulations of the ADEM.
- B. Non-emergency permit modification, revocation, suspension, and termination actions shall be accomplished in accordance with the ADEM Administrative Rule 335-6-8.

**PART VII          General Provisions**

- A. The permittee shall comply with all provisions of the UIC regulations of the ADEM and shall comply with all provisions of this permit and shall reduce or halt injection if needed to maintain compliance with the permit and regulations.
- B. The permittee shall comply with all applicable Federal and State hazardous waste management regulations.

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Town of Geraldine WWTP**

- C.     The permittee shall allow members of the ADEM staff to:
  - 1.       Access property and records of the permittee for purposes of inspection.
  - 2.       Collect samples of the injected fluids, process and wastewater streams associated with the permitted injection wells.
  - 3.       Collect samples from monitoring wells.
  - 4.       Obtain copies of records upon request.
- D.     The permittee shall immediately take all reasonable steps to minimize or correct any adverse environmental impact resulting from the operation of the permitted injection wells.
- E.     This permit does not convey any property rights of any sort, or any exclusive privilege.
- F.     The filing of a request by the permittee for a permit modification, revocation, and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any permit condition.
- G.     Any noncompliance with this permit constitutes a violation of the Alabama Water Pollution Control Act (AWPCA) and/or the UIC regulations and is grounds for enforcement action such as permit termination, revocation, modification; or denial of a permit renewal application.
- H.     All provisions of the ADEM Admin. Code Rule 335-6-8-.12 are incorporated as terms and conditions of this permit by reference.
- I.     Injection into waters of the state, which in this case is groundwater, in accordance with this permit shall not result in the exceedance of any primary or secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) in groundwater as established by the Environmental Protection Agency. Injection into groundwater, in accordance with this permit shall not result in a violation of a surface water quality standard.
- J.     The permittee authorized to discharge under this permit, who wishes to continue to discharge upon the expiration of this permit, shall apply for reissuance, using the Department's Alabama Environmental Permitting and Compliance System (AEPACS), unless the Permittee submits in writing valid justification as to why the electronic submittal process cannot be utilized and the Department approves in writing the utilization of hard copy submittals. The AEPACS can be accessed at <http://adem.alabama.gov/AEPACS>. Such application shall be submitted at least 180 days prior to the expiration date of this permit. Permit requests for initial issuance and modifications of the existing permit should all be submitted through the AEPACS system.

## APPENDIX A

Influent Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5) is required to be sampled and reported monthly.

Effluent from the treatment system shall be limited and monitored prior to flowing into the effluent disposal system by the permittee as specified below:

<u>EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTICS</u>	<u>DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS</u>	<u>MONITORING REQUIREMENTS</u>		
	Monthly (mg/L)	FREQUENCY	SAMPLE TYPE	LOCATION
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5)	30	Monthly	Grab	Effluent
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	30	Monthly	Grab	Effluent
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)	Monitor	Monthly	Grab	Effluent
MAXIMUM				
pH	Monitor	Monthly	Grab	Effluent
Flow (gallons per day)	240,000	Daily	Continuous	Effluent

## APPENDIX B

Groundwater monitoring wells MW-1, MW-2, MW-3, MW-4, MW-5, MW-6 and MW-7 shall be limited monitored by the permittee as specified below:

<u>GROUNDWATER CHARACTERISTICS</u>	<u>UNITS</u>	<u>DISCHARGE LIMITS</u>	<u>MONITORING REQUIREMENTS</u>	
			<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>SAMPLE TYPE</u>
Total Nitrate	mg/l	10	Quarterly	Grab
pH	Standard	Report	Quarterly	Grab

## ADEM Permit Rationale

Date: March 25, 2025

Prepared by: Jeff Aul

Responsible Official: Mr. Jerry Hammon

Permittee Name: The Waterworks Sewer & Gas Board of the Town of Section  
P.O. Box 1159  
Rainsville, AL 35986

Facility Name: Town of Geraldine WWTP

Location: North of Lebanon Road and East Shadow Ridge Lane  
Geraldine, DeKalb County, Alabama  
Lat: N 34.35886/Long: W -85.992308

UIC Permit Number: ALSI9925001

Draft Permit is: Modification

Injection Description: Injection of treated domestic sanitary effluent from a waste water treatment facility

Discussion: Standard permit drafted.

1. Modification for additional flow
2. No hazardous injection
3. Sampling point required
4. Monitoring well must be installed and sampled
5. Discharge must be sampled in accordance with Appendix A and B
6. Influent must be sampled in accordance with Appendix A
7. Results must be submitted in a timely manner
8. BMPs included in permit
9. The effluent disposal area must be maintained to prevent the occurrence of standing water resulting from precipitation or injection of treated wastewater
10. The permittee shall maintain a thriving vegetated cover throughout the year and must overseed the disposal area when necessary to maintain a cover crop.
11. All subsurface effluent disposal system components and equipment must be installed, monitored, and maintained in accordance with manufactures' directions
12. The loading rate of treated wastewater shall not exceed the design loading rate
13. AEPACS DMR Requirement included in permit
14. AEPACS SSO Requirement included in permit
15. AEPACS required to be utilized for permit reissuances/modifications/transfers