

Guidance for CAFOs  
Prepared by the Georgia Poultry Federation  
Edited by UGA Cooperative Extension  
January 20, 2009

This guidance applies to anyone who has an animal feeding operation large enough to require an NPDES permit (700 diary cows, 125,000 broilers, 82,000 layers (30,000 w/wet manure system) or 2500 swine over 55lb.) These operations MAY be required to comply, and the safest course of action is to comply now and determine later whether or not you are required to comply. Failure to comply can carry fines up to \$25,000/day.

To comply with the federal government's Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act, an Initial Notification must be made to the State Emergency Response Center (SERC) and to the Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC). The new regulation becomes effective January 20, 2009. CAFO owners are urged to make this notification immediately after receiving this notice.

Unfortunately, this requirement is effective immediately and there has been very little warning or advance guidance provided as to how to comply with the new regulation. This document is the Federation's best guidance based on what we know on 1/20/09. Updates will be provided if more information is provided by EPA or the situation changes in any significant way.

**Notifying the State (SERC)** – The state of Georgia prefers that the notification be made by email. Alternatively, poultry growers may call the state emergency operations center; however, there might be heavy traffic on this line. If you do not have access to email, the toll free line can be used, but please be patient. This is a 24 hour call center. Details about how to submit the email notification or make the phone call are provided below.

**Notifying local authorities** – The new regulation requires that an initial telephone notification be made to the LEPC.

Many areas of the state will not have a LEPC in their area. (Please see separate document listing the LEPCs in Georgia.) Our interpretation of the regulation is that the producer must make a good faith effort to contact the relevant local emergency responder in his/her area if no LEPC exists. This is a vague and potentially confusing requirement, but the local fire department is the most likely agency to contact. As of January 20, 2009, the Federation is working with state officials to establish a system that would allow growers to call the state SERC number listed above, and then the state would notify the appropriate LEPC or local emergency agency. We hope this system will work and satisfy the federal requirement to notify the local authorities; however, at this point, our best advice is to make a good faith effort to contact the LEPC or local emergency response personnel (such as fire department) if no LEPC exists in you area. An update will be sent if the local reporting requirement changes or becomes clearer.

**Email notification to the Georgia SERC – Method preferred by the State of Georgia:**

The Georgia State Emergency Response Commission will accept electronic mail notifications from CAFOs subject to the EPCRA reporting requirements for continuous emissions reporting. E-mail submissions should be made to: [Reporting.SARA.Title.III@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:Reporting.SARA.Title.III@dnr.state.ga.us) . (Note: there are "dots" i.e., periods [.] between all words. Also, use Roman Numeral 3 [III] after the word Title.)

The email should contain the following information:

1. Name of the individual making notification
2. Mailing Address of the individual making notification (street, city, state, ZIP code)
3. Telephone number (daytime and/or nighttime) of individual making notification
4. E-mail address of individual making notification
5. Name of farm or facility subject to reporting of continuous emission releases

6. Physical address of farm or facility (street, city, state, ZIP code)
7. Name of Authorized Representative (or Contact Person) of farm or facility
8. Telephone number of Authorized Representative of farm or facility
9. Facsimile (FAX) number of Authorized Representative of farm or facility
10. E-mail address of Authorized Representative
11. The following statement should be included in the email: This is a notification of a routine, continuous release of ammonia and/or hydrogen sulfide generated by the breakdown of animal waste at my facility. This release is routine in nature and does not require an emergency response. There is a possibility that my operation is emitting more than the 100 lbs./day reporting threshold for ammonia and hydrogen sulfide.

**Telephone Notification to the Georgia SERC (if email is not available or practical):**

Telephone notification can be made by calling 1-800-241-4113. The Georgia Emergency Management Agency, which operates the Emergency Operations Center for statewide emergencies, has operators available to receive a limited volume of calls. During business hours, calls regarding the administrative notification of continuous releases will be diverted to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's Emergency Response Program. Calls may be routed to a voice-mail system if the volume of calls exceeds the capacity for answering and recording the information in the notification.

***The following script can be used during the notification phone call:***

Hello, I am calling to give an initial notification of a routine, continuous release of ammonia and/or hydrogen sulfide generated by the breakdown of animal waste at my facility. This release is routine in nature and does not require an emergency response. There is a possibility that my operation is emitting more than the 100 lbs./day reporting threshold for ammonia and hydrogen sulfide.

The following information should be provided:

1. Name of the individual making notification
2. Mailing Address of the individual making notification (street, city, state, ZIP code)
3. Telephone number (daytime and/or nighttime) of individual making notification
4. E-mail address of individual making notification
5. Name of farm or facility subject to reporting of continuous emission releases
6. Physical address of farm or facility (street, city, state, ZIP code)
7. Name of Authorized Representative (or Contact Person) of farm or facility
8. Telephone number of Authorized Representative of farm or facility
9. Facsimile (FAX) number of Authorized Representative of farm or facility
10. E-mail address of Authorized Representative

Note: If you are not successful in contacting your SERC and LEPC, submit a notice to each which includes the information required above and send by certified mail to the SERC address below, and to the LEPC or relevant local emergency response personnel (such as fire department) if no LEPC exists in your area. Retain a copy for your records.

Georgia State Emergency Response Commission  
Georgia Environmental Protection Division  
Emergency Response Program  
7 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Room 643  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
Attn: CAFO Notification