

The County/environmental firm will maintain a dry weather water quality monitoring report form for each dry weather sampling. The dry weather report form will also contain the bacteriological results (if applicable) for the station. Copies of these report forms will be included with the annual report. Chain of custody copies, laboratory report copies, calibration records, quality control records, and water quality report forms will be maintained in the files of the person or position in overall control of the Watershed Protection Plan.

Monitoring

The County/environmental firm will evaluate the resulting samplings by monitoring data for the initial three (3) years of this program, to ascertain the level of pollutants of concern (POC) in the impaired waters and if it is likely to be originating in the County.

Proposed Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The County will continue to implement its Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) under its current NPDES Phase II MS4 permit. Because mercury in runoff is derived from atmospheric deposition, mercury in stormwater is accounted for in the calculation of the atmospheric load. Separate strategies for reducing nonpoint sources are not included in this plan because implementation of the strategies to reduce air deposition will ultimately reduce stormwater loading. Therefore, any efforts to reduce soil erosion will tend to reduce mercury entering a lake or river from nonpoint water sources. Many of these practices are already employed for control of sediment runoff and will result in reducing mercury loading to surface waters.

Public Outreach and Education

Lowndes County has a public outreach and education program that targets County offices and public facilities with flyers and brochures about stormwater and water quality of streams. Continued effort will be made to educate the public on fecal coliform and mercury for both urban and rural residents including:

- Reporting of sanitary sewer overflows.
- Septic tank upkeep and maintenance.
- Effects of fecal coliform transported to streams from pastures.
- Management of household hazardous waste to ensure proper product disposal.

Annual Evaluation:

Once the base year data is collected (i.e. the data from the first year of sampling), the County will evaluate each subsequent year's sampling data against the previous year/years data. The evaluation will be a comparative look at each year's data both at the individual outfalls and as an average of the outfall to each of the impaired basins. The intention is to identify trends that occur in the sampling data. If trends are found, the County will look for obvious factors that may account for the trending outside of the BMP's that have been implemented by the County. Unexplained trending may indicate the effectiveness of the BMPs' that are used.

Implementation Schedule

The County is prepared to implement this Monitoring and Implementation plan within a reasonable time after plan approval by the Georgia EPD.