

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS – SEPTEMBER 19, 2007
REISSUANCE OF NPDES PERMIT NO. NH0100161
TOWN OF MERRIMACK WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY
MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA-New England) and the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Water Division (NHDES-WD) solicited public comments from August 14, 2007 through September 12, 2007 on the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to be reissued to the Town of Merrimack Wastewater Treatment Facility. This permit is for the discharge of treated domestic, commercial, and industrial wastewater.

EPA-New England received one set of comments during the public notice (comment) period from the Town of Merrimack dated August 20, 2007. The following is a list of the responses to those comments and any changes made to the public noticed permit as a result of those comments. A copy of the final permit may be obtained by writing or calling Dan Arsenault, United States Environmental Protection Agency, 1 Congress Street, Suite 1100 (CMP), Boston, Massachusetts, 02114-2023; Telephone (617) 918-1562. Copies may also be obtained from <http://www.epa.gov/region1/npdes/index.html>.

Comments from the Town of Merrimack

COMMENT NO. 1:

“We request that the annual Pretreatment Report submittal due date remain the same as our current permit which is September 1 of each year rather than February 15th as stated in this draft NPDES permit (see page 8 of 13).”

RESPONSE NO.1:

EPA agrees with this request. The due date for the annual Pretreatment Report submittal has been changed to September 1 of each year.

COMMENT NO. 2:

“In accordance with NPDES policy, the Merrimack Wastewater Treatment Facility conducted a pH study of our facility’s final effluent to demonstrate that the naturally occurring receiving water pH in the Merrimack River is not significantly altered by the Merrimack POTW effluent discharge with a pH of up to 9.0 S.U. I have included a copy of the letter sent to Ms. Susan Willoughby (NHDES) requesting this pH limit adjustment. Upon State DES approval, we shall submit the State’s approval letter to the EPA Office of Ecosystem Protection for your final approval.”

RESPONSE NO. 2:

On August 21, 2007, the Town of Merrimack submitted a pH study to the NHDES-WD to support raising the upper boundary of the pH limit to 9.0 S.U. On September 12, 2007, EPA received a letter from NHDES-WD stating that an upper pH limit of 9.0 S.U. would not have a deleterious impact to the Merrimack River. Therefore, the pH range in the permit has been changed from 6.5 – 8.0 S.U. to 6.5 – 9.0 S.U.