



STATE OF MAINE
Department of Environmental Protection

John Elias Baldacci
GOVERNOR

Beth Nagusky
ACTING COMMISSIONER

October 4, 2010

Mr. Timothy Cobb
Director of Administrative Services
State of Maine, Department of Corrections
Downeast Correctional Facility
64 Base Road
Machiasport, ME. 04655

RE: Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit #ME0090000
Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) Application #W003242-5D-C-R
Final Permit

Dear Mr. Cobb:

Enclosed please find a copy of your **final** MEPDES permit and Maine WDL **renewal** which was approved by the Department of Environmental Protection. Please read the permit/license renewal and its attached conditions carefully. You must follow the conditions in the order to satisfy the requirements of law. Any discharge not receiving adequate treatment is in violation of State Law and is subject to enforcement action.

Any interested person aggrieved by a Department determination made pursuant to applicable regulations, may appeal the decision following the procedures described in the attached DEP FACT SHEET entitled "*Appealing a Commissioner's Licensing Decision.*"

If you have any questions regarding the matter, please feel free to call me at 287-7693.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Wood".

Gregg Wood
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Land and Water Quality
Division of Water Quality Management

Enc.

cc: William Johnson, DEP/CMRO Matt Young, DEP/EMRO
Sandy Mojica, USEPA



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
17 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333

DEPARTMENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF

STATE OF MAINE, DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS)	MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY)	ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
OVERBOARD DISCHARGE)	
MACHIASPORT, WASHINGTON COUNTY)	AND
ME0090000)	WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE
W003242-5D-C-R)	RENEWAL
APPROVAL	

Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Title 33 USC, §1251, *et seq.*, and Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A., §414-A *et seq.*, and applicable regulations, the Department of Environmental Protection (Department hereinafter) has considered the application of the STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (DOC/permittee hereinafter), with its supportive data, agency review comments, and other related materials on file and FINDS THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

APPLICATION SUMMARY

The DOC has applied to the Department for renewal of combination Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit #ME0090000/MaineWaste Discharge License (WDL) W003242-5D-B-R, (permit hereinafter) which was issued by the Department on November 30, 2005 and is due to expire on November 30, 2010. The permit authorized the daily maximum year-round discharge of up to 40,000 gallons per day (GPD) of secondary treated sanitary waste water from a State Correctional Facility to the Atlantic Ocean at Howard Cove in Machias Bay, Class SB, in Machiasport, Maine. It is noted the 11/30/05 permit was subsequently modified on June 2, 2008 to modify the dilution factors and associated water quality based limits for total residual chlorine.

PERMIT SUMMARY

This permitting action is carrying forward all the terms and conditions of the 11/30/05 permit and 6/2/08 modification except that this permit reduces the monitoring frequency for settleable solids from 5/Week to 1/Week.

CONCLUSIONS

BASED on the findings in the attached Fact Sheet dated August 5, 2010, and subject to the Conditions listed below, the Department makes the following CONCLUSIONS:

1. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any classified body of water below such classification.
2. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any unclassified body of water below the classification which the Department expects to adopt in accordance with State law.
3. The provisions of the State's antidegradation policy, 38 M.R.S.A. §464(4)(F), will be met, in that:
 - (a) Existing in-stream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect and maintain those existing uses will be maintained and protected;
 - (b) Where high quality waters of the State constitute an outstanding national resource, that water quality will be maintained and protected;
 - (c) The standards of classification of the receiving water body are met or, where the standards of classification of the receiving water body are not met, the discharge will not cause or contribute to the failure of the water body to meet the standards of classification;
 - (d) Where the actual quality of any classified receiving water body exceeds the minimum standards of the next highest classification that higher water quality will be maintained and protected; and
 - (e) Where a discharge will result in lowering the existing water quality of any water body, the Department has made the finding, following opportunity for public participation, that this action is necessary to achieve important economic or social benefits to the State.
4. The discharges will be subject to effluent limitations that require application of best practicable treatment as defined in Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A., §414-A(1)(D).
5. The overboard discharge system was in continuing existence for the 12 months preceding June 1, 1987.
6. A subsurface wastewater disposal system could not be installed in compliance with the Maine Subsurface Waste Water Disposal Rules at the time the renewal application was accepted by the Department.
7. A publicly owned sewer line is not located on or abutting land owned or controlled by the permittee or is not available for the permittee's use.
8. The discharge is not located within the boundaries of a sanitary district or sewer district.

ACTION

THEREFORE, the Department APPROVES the above noted application of the STATE OF MAINE to discharge a monthly average flow of up to 40,000 GPD of secondary treated sanitary waste water from the STATE OF MAINE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY to the Atlantic Ocean at Howard Cove in Machias Bay, Class SB, in Machiasport, Maine, SUBJECT TO THE ATTACHED CONDITIONS, and all applicable standards and regulations including:

1. *“Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Standard Conditions Applicable To All Permits,”* revised July 1, 2002, copy attached.
2. The attached Special Conditions, including any effluent limitations and monitoring requirements.
3. This permit becomes effective upon signature and expires at midnight five (5) years from the date of signature below.

PLEASE NOTE ATTACHED SHEET FOR GUIDANCE ON APPEAL PROCEDURES

Date of initial receipt of application: May 26, 2010

Date of application acceptance: May 26, 2010

This Order prepared by Gregg Wood, BUREAU OF LAND & WATER QUALITY
ME0090000 2010 9/24/10

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

- Beginning the effective date of this permit, the permittee is authorized to discharge secondary treated sanitary wastewater from **Outfall #001** to the Atlantic Ocean at Howard Cove in Machias Bay. Such discharges shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below⁽¹⁾:

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations						Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Weekly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Weekly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Measurement Frequency</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
	as specified	as specified	as specified	as specified	as specified	as specified	as specified	as specified
Flow [50050]	40,000 GPD [07]	--	Report GPD [07]	--	--	--	Continuous [99/99]	Metered [MT]
BOD₅ [00310]	10 lbs./day [26]	15 lbs./day [26]	17 lbs./day [26]	30 mg/L [19]	45 mg/L [19]	50 mg/L [19]	2/Month [02/30]	8-Hour Composite ⁽²⁾ [08]
BOD₅ Percent Removal ⁽³⁾ [81010]	---	---	---	85% [23]	---	---	1/Month [01/30]	Calculate [CA]
TSS [00530]	10 lbs./day [26]	15 lbs./day [26]	17 lbs./day [26]	30 mg/L [19]	45 mg/L [19]	50 mg/L [19]	2/Month [02/30]	8-Hour Composite ⁽²⁾ [08]
TSS Percent Removal ⁽³⁾ [81011]	---	---	---	85% [23]	---	---	1/Month [01/30]	Calculate [CA]
Settleable Solids [00545]	--	--	--	--	--	0.3 ml/L [25]	1/Week [01/07]	Grab [GR]
Fecal Coliform Bacteria ⁽⁴⁾ [31616] (May 15 – Sept. 30)	--	--	--	15/100 ml ⁽⁵⁾ [13]	--	50/100 ml [13]	2/Month [02/30]	Grab [GR]
Total Residual Chlorine ⁽⁶⁾ [50060]	--	--	--	---	--	0.79 mg/L [19]	5/Week [05/07]	Grab [GR]
pH [00400]	--	--	--	--	--	6.0 – 9.0 SU [12]	5/Week [05/07]	Grab [GR]

The italicized numeric values bracketed in the table and in subsequent text are code numbers that Department personnel utilize to code the monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports.

Footnotes: See Page 6 of this permit for applicable footnotes.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

Footnotes:

1. **Influent and Effluent Monitoring** – Influent monitoring shall be conducted at the **effluent end of the influent grinder**. Effluent monitoring shall be conducted at a location following the last treatment unit in the treatment process as to be representative of end-of-pipe effluent characteristics. The Department and DECF have determined that the **effluent end of the chlorine contact chamber following the point of dechlorination** is the appropriate and representative location from which to collect effluent samples.

Sampling and analysis must be conducted in accordance with; a) methods approved in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 136, b) alternative methods approved by the Department in accordance with the procedures in 40 CFR Part 136, or c) as otherwise specified by the Department. Samples that are sent out for analysis shall be analyzed by a laboratory certified by the State of Maine's Department of Human Services. Samples that are sent to another POTW licensed pursuant to *Waste discharge licenses*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 413 or laboratory facilities that analyze compliance samples in-house are subject to the provisions and restrictions of *Maine Comprehensive and Limited Environmental Laboratory Certification Rules*, 10-144 CMR 263 (last amended February 13, 2000).

All analytical test results shall be reported to the Department including results which are detected below the respective reporting limits (RLs) specified by the Department or as specified by other approved test methods. If a non-detect analytical test result is below the respective RL, the concentration result shall be reported as <Y where Y is the detection limit achieved by the laboratory for each respective parameter. Reporting a value of <Y that is greater than an established RL is not acceptable and will be rejected by the Department. For mass, if the analytical result is reported as <Y or if a detectable result is less than a RL, report a <X lbs/day, where X is the parameter specific limitation established in the permit.

2. **BOD₅ and TSS Sample Type** – Eight-hour composite samples for BOD₅ and TSS shall consist of four flow-proportioned grab samples collected at equally spaced intervals over an eight-hour period which are combined prior to analysis. It is noted that the permittee may, upon notification to the Department, initiate 24-hour composite sampling.
3. **Percent Removal** – The treatment facility shall maintain a minimum of 85 percent removal of both BOD₅ and TSS for all flows receiving secondary treatment. The percent removal shall be calculated based on influent and effluent concentration values. The percent removal shall be waived when the monthly average influent concentration is less than 200 mg/L, and the permittee shall report **“NODI-9”** for this parameter on the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR).

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

Footnotes:

4. **Bacteria Limits** – Fecal coliform bacteria limits and monitoring requirements are seasonal and apply between May 15 and September 30 of each year. The Department reserves the right to require disinfection on a year-round basis to protect the health and welfare of the public.
5. **Bacteria Reporting** – The monthly average fecal coliform bacteria limitation is a geometric mean limitation and sample results shall be reported as such.
6. **TRC Monitoring** – Limitations and monitoring requirements are applicable whenever elemental chlorine or chlorine based compounds are being used to disinfect the discharge. The permittee shall utilize approved test methods that are capable of bracketing the TRC limitation in this permit.

B. ANNUAL DISCHARGE FEES

Pursuant to Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A. §353-B, the permittee is required to pay an applicable annual fee for discharges authorized by this permit. Failure to pay an annual fee within 30 days of the anniversary date of a license/permit is sufficient grounds for revocation of the license, permit or privilege under Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A. §341-D, subsection 3.

C. NARRATIVE EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

1. The effluent shall not contain a visible oil sheen, foam or floating solids at any time which would impair the usages designated by the classification of the receiving waters.
2. The effluent shall not contain materials in concentrations or combinations which are hazardous or toxic to aquatic life, or which would impair the usages designated by the classification of the receiving waters.
3. The discharges shall not cause visible discoloration or turbidity in the receiving waters which would impair the usages designated by the classification of the receiving waters.
4. Notwithstanding specific conditions of this permit the effluent must not lower the quality of any classified body of water below such classification, or lower the existing quality of any body of water if the existing quality is higher than the classification.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

D. TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

The person who has the management responsibility over the treatment facility must hold a **Grade II** certificate (or higher) or must be a Maine Registered Professional Engineer pursuant to *Sewerage Treatment Operators*, Title 32 M.R.S.A., Sections 4171-4182 and *Regulations for Wastewater Operator Certification*, 06-096 CMR 531 (effective May 8, 2006). All proposed contracts for facility operation by any person must be approved by the Department before the permittee may engage the services of the contract operator.

E. AUTHORIZED DISCHARGES

The permittee is authorized to discharge only in accordance with: 1) the permittee's General Application for Waste Discharge Permit, accepted for processing on May 26, 2010; 2) the terms and conditions of this permit; and 3) only from Outfall #001. Discharges of waste water from any other point source are not authorized under this permit, and shall be reported in accordance with Standard Condition B(5)(*Bypass*) of this permit.

F. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

In accordance with Standard Condition D, the permittee shall notify the Department of the following.

1. Any introduction of pollutants into the wastewater collection and treatment system from an indirect discharger in a primary industrial category discharging process wastewater; and
2. Any substantial change or proposed change in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into the wastewater collection and treatment system by a source introducing pollutants into the system at the time of permit issuance. For the purposes of this section, notice regarding substantial change shall include information on:
 - (a) the quality and quantity of wastewater introduced to the wastewater collection and treatment system; and
 - (b) any anticipated impact caused by the change in the quantity or quality of the wastewater to be discharged from the treatment system.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

G. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE (O&M) PLAN

The permittee shall maintain a current written comprehensive Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Plan. The plan shall provide a systematic approach by which the permittee shall at all times, properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit.

By December 31 of each year, or within 90 days of any process changes or minor equipment upgrades, the permittee shall evaluate and modify the O&M Plan including site plan(s) and schematic(s) for the wastewater treatment facility to ensure that it is up-to-date. The O&M Plan shall be kept on-site at all times and made available to Department and USEPA personnel upon request.

Within 90 days of completion of new and or substantial upgrades of the wastewater treatment facility, the permittee shall submit the updated O&M Plan to their Department inspector for review and comment.

H. WET WEATHER FLOW MANAGEMENT PLAN

The permittee shall maintain a current written Wet Weather Flow Management Plan that conforms to Department guidelines for such plans. The plan shall include operating procedures for a range of intensities, address solids handling procedures (including septic waste and other high strength wastes if applicable) and provide written operating and maintenance procedures during the events.

The treatment facility staff shall develop and maintain a Wet Weather Management Plan to direct the staff on how to operate the facility effectively during periods of high flow. The Department acknowledges that the existing collection system may deliver flows in excess of the monthly average design capacity of the treatment plant during periods of high infiltration and rainfall.

The permittee shall review the plan at least annually and record any necessary changes to keep the plan up to date. Any changes to the plans must be submitted to the Department for review and approval.

I. SITE EVALUATION FOR TRANSFERRED AND RENEWED PERMITS

The Department may not grant approval for a **permit transfer** if a site evaluation concludes that a non-discharging wastewater disposal system designed in compliance with the Maine Subsurface Waste Water Disposal Rules administered by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Environmental Health can be installed as a replacement system for the overboard discharge.

The Department may not grant approval for a **permit renewal** if the site evaluation concludes that a non-discharging wastewater disposal system can be installed as a replacement system for the overboard discharge and the Department has offered the permittee funding for the removal of the discharge.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

J. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Monitoring results obtained during the previous month shall be summarized for each month and reported on separate Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) forms provided by the Department and postmarked on or before the thirteenth (13th) day of the month or hand-delivered to a Department Regional Office such that the DMR's are received by the Department on or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the month following the completed reporting period. A signed copy of the DMR and all other reports required herein shall be submitted to the following address:

Department of Environmental Protection
Eastern Maine Regional Office
Bureau of Land and Water Quality
Division of Water Quality Management
106 Hogan Road
Bangor, Maine 04401

Alternatively, if you are submitting an electronic DMR (eDMR), the completed eDMR must be electronically submitted to the Department by a facility authorized DMR Signatory not later than close of business on the 15th day of the month following the completed reporting period. Hard Copy documentation submitted in support of the eDMR must be postmarked on or before the thirteenth (13th) day of the month or hand-delivered to the Department's Regional Office such that it is received by the Department on or before the fifteenth (15th) day of the month following the completed reporting period. Electronic documentation in support of the eDMR must be submitted not later than close of business on the 15th day of the month following the completed reporting period.

K. REOPENING OF PERMIT FOR MODIFICATIONS

Upon evaluation of the tests results or monitoring requirements specified in Special Conditions of this permitting action, new site specific information, or any other pertinent test results or information obtained during the term of this permit, the Department may, at any time and with notice to the permittee, modify this permit to: (1) include effluent limits necessary to control specific pollutants or whole effluent toxicity where there is a reasonable potential that the effluent may cause water quality criteria to be exceeded; (2) require additional effluent or ambient water quality monitoring if results on file are inconclusive; or (3) change monitoring requirements or limitations based on new information.

L. SEVERABILITY

In the event that any provision, or part thereof, of this permit is declared to be unlawful by a reviewing court, the remainder of the permit shall remain in full force and effect, and shall be construed and enforced in all respects as if such unlawful provision, or part thereof, had been omitted, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

**MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
AND
WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE**

FACT SHEET

Date: **August 5, 2010**

MEPDES PERMIT: **ME0090000**
WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE: **W003242-5D-D-R**

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
64 BASE ROAD
MACHIASPORT, ME 04655**

COUNTY: **WASHINGTON**

NAME AND ADDRESS WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

**DOWNEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY
64 BASE ROAD
MACHIASPORT, ME 04655**

RECEIVING WATER / CLASSIFICATION: **ATLANTIC OCEAN AT HOWARD COVE / CLASS SB**

COGNIZANT OFFICIAL AND TELEPHONE NUMBER: **MR. TIMOTHY COBB
DIR. ADMIN. SERVICES
(207) 255-1121
e-mail: timothy.cobb@maine.gov**

1. APPLICATION SUMMARY

- a. Application: The Maine Department of Corrections (DOC) has applied to the Department for renewal of combination Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit #ME0090000/Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) W003242-5D-B-R, (permit hereinafter) which was issued by the Department on November 30, 2005 and is due to expire on November 30, 2010. The permit authorized the daily maximum, year-round discharge of up to 40,000 gallons per day (GPD) of secondary treated sanitary wastewater from the Downeast Correctional Facility (DECF) to the Atlantic Ocean at Howard Cove in Machias Bay, Class SB, in Machiasport, Maine. See **Attachment A** of this Fact Sheet for a location map. It is noted the 11/30/05 permit was subsequently modified on June 2, 2008 to modify the dilution factors and associated water quality based limits for total residual chlorine.

1. APPLICATION SUMMARY (cont'd)

- b. Source Description: The State of Maine Department of Corrections owns and operates the Downeast Correctional Facility (DECF) and its associated overboard discharge (OBD) wastewater treatment system. The correctional facility is located on State Route 92 (Machias Road) in Machiasport. DECF's treatment system receives sanitary waste water generated by approximately 150 inmates and 70 employees of the correctional facility and one (1) employee of a Federal Aviation Administration radar facility. There are no combined sewer overflow (CSO) points and no industrial users associated with the collection system, and the facility is not required to implement a formal pretreatment program or authorized to receive septage wastes. The DECF's sewer collection system consists of gravity sewer lines.
- c. Wastewater Treatment: The DECF provides a secondary level of wastewater treatment via a package-type activated sludge treatment system. The wastewater treatment system was installed in 1959 and has received several upgrades since that time.

Raw wastewater is conveyed by gravity to an influent structure containing an influent grinder. Return activated sludge is introduced at the effluent end of the influent grinder. The mixed liquor enters a 42,000-gallon capacity (approximately 19 feet wide by 27 feet long by 12 feet deep) reinforced concrete aeration tank fitted with coarse bubble diffusers. Decant from the sludge storage tank is periodically drained to the aeration tank for additional treatment. From the aeration tank, waste water is conveyed to a 6,729-gallon capacity (approximately 16 feet long by 6 feet wide by 11 feet deep) reinforced concrete secondary clarifier. Settled sludge is mechanically raked into an approximately 463-gallon sludge hopper at one end of the clarifier and pumped to an aerated sludge holding tank for additional settling and decant of supernatant. Clarifier supernatant is conveyed to a chlorine contact chamber for disinfection using aqueous sodium hypochlorite and subsequent dechlorination using aqueous sodium bisulfite. The chemical dosing system is regulated using ultrasonic flow meters installed at the head end (chlorine injection point) and tail end (bisulfite injection point) of the contact chamber.

Final effluent is conveyed for discharge to the Atlantic Ocean at Machiasport (Howard Cove in Machias Bay) via an 10-inch diameter high density polyethylene (HDPE) outfall pipe that extends out into the receiving water approximately 400 feet from shore. The end of the outfall pipe has approximately 10 feet of water over the crown of the pipe at mean low water.

See **Attachment B** of this Fact Sheet for a schematic of the wastewater treatment process.

2. PERMIT SUMMARY

- a. Terms and Conditions: This permitting action is carrying forward all the terms and conditions of the 11/30/05 permit and 6/2/08 modification except that this permit reduces the monitoring frequency for settleable solids from 5/Week to 1/Week.

2. PERMIT SUMMARY (cont'd)

- b. Facility History: This section provides a summary of significant licensing/permitting actions, as well as other significant milestones that have been completed for the DECF.

May 14, 1975 – The USEPA issued NPDES permit #ME0090000 to the United States Air Force 907th Radar Squadron (now DECF) for the monthly average discharge of up to 40,000 GPD of secondary treated sanitary wastewater to the tidewaters of Machiasport in Machiasport, Maine.

May 30, 1985 – The Department issued WDL #W003242-45-A-R to the DECF for the daily maximum discharge of up to 40,000 GPD of secondary treated sanitary wastewater to the tidewaters of Machiasport in Machiasport, Maine. The 5/30/85 WDL superseded WDL #3242 issued to the U.S. Air Force on August 14, 1980.

August 8, 1990 – The Board of Environmental Protection ratified an Administrative Consent Agreement and Enforcement Order for the DECF. The Consent Agreement and Enforcement Order resolved violations of effluent limitations established for TRC, fecal coliform bacteria, BOD, TSS, and settleable solids. The Enforcement Order required several corrective actions to be completed to ensure future compliance.

1995 – The DEFC completed several upgrades of the existing wastewater treatment facility, including, but not limited to, the construction of a new chlorine contact chamber and installation of a new influent grinder.

March 30, 1998 – The DECF submitted a General Application to the Department for renewal of WDL #W003242-45-A-R. The application was accepted for processing on May 12, 1998, and assigned WDL #W003242-5D-B-R/MEPDES permit #ME0090000.

May 2, 2000 – Consulting engineer firm, Olver Associates, Inc., provided the DEFC with a report summarizing an evaluation of the DECF's wastewater collection system and treatment infrastructure. Problems of particular interest that were identified in the report include hydraulic overloading due to excessive inflow and infiltration (I/I), sludge wasting practices were arbitrary and fundamentally flawed, size of the secondary clarifier was inadequate for the volume of wastewater received, the sludge return recycle rate was too high, outdated and inefficient equipment/practices (aeration basin, coarse bubble diffuser, chemical dosing system, and operation and maintenance of the sludge storage tank).

November 7, 2001 – The Department provided written authorization to the DEFC to shut down and redirect flows originating from the housing complex collection system. Wastewater flows from the housing complex collection system have since been eliminated in an effort to reduce I/I to the treatment facility.

March 18, 2002 – The Department issued a letter to the DEFC advising that their request to revise year-round disinfection to seasonal (May 15 – September 30 of each year) disinfection had been granted. It is noted that this authorization effectively changed applicable bacteria limits to seasonal limits rather than year-round TRC limits to seasonal limits. TRC monitoring is required any time the facility utilized chlorine-based compounds for effluent disinfection.

2. PERMIT SUMMARY (cont'd)

November 30, 2005 – The Department issued combination MEPDES permit #ME0090000/WDL #W003242-5C-B-R for a five-year term.

June 2, 2008 – The Department issued a modification (ME0090000/W003242-5C-C-M) of the 11/30/10 permit by modifying the dilution factors and associated water quality based limits for total residual chlorine.

May 26, 2010 – The permittee submitted a timely and complete application to the Department to renew the 11/30/05 permit and 6/2/08 modification.

3. CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A. §414-A, requires that the effluent limitations prescribed for discharges, including, but not limited to, effluent toxicity, require application of best practicable treatment (BPT), be consistent with the U.S. Clean Water Act, and ensure that the receiving waters attain the State water quality standards as described in Maine's Surface Water Classification System. In addition, 38 M.R.S.A. §420 and Department rule 06-096 CMR Chapter 530, *Surface Water Toxics Control Program*, require the regulation of toxic substances not to exceed levels set forth in Department rule 06-096 CMR Chapter 584, *Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants*, and that ensure safe levels for the discharge of toxic pollutants such that existing and designated uses of surface waters are maintained and protected.

4. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A. §469 classifies all estuarine and marine waters lying within the boundaries of the State and which are not otherwise classified, which includes the tidewaters of Machiasport and Howard Cove in Machias Bay at the point of discharge, as Class SB waters. Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A. §465-B(2) describes the standards for Class SB waters. The standards for Class SB waters are as follows;

Class SB waters must be of such quality that they are suitable for the designated uses of recreation in and on the water, fishing, aquaculture, propagation and harvesting of shellfish, industrial process and cooling water supply, hydroelectric power generation, navigation and as habitat for fish and other estuarine and marine life. The habitat must be characterized as unimpaired.

The dissolved oxygen content of Class SB waters must be not less than 85% of saturation. Between May 15th and September 30th, the numbers of enterococcus bacteria of human and domestic animal origin in these waters may not exceed a geometric mean of 8 per 100 milliliters or an instantaneous level of 54 per 100 milliliters. In determining human and domestic animal origin, the department shall assess licensed and unlicensed sources using available diagnostic procedures. The numbers of total coliform bacteria or other specified indicator organisms in samples representative of the waters in shellfish harvesting areas may not exceed the criteria recommended under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program, United States Food and Drug Administration.

2. PERMIT SUMMARY (cont'd)

Discharges to Class SB waters may not cause adverse impact to estuarine and marine life in that the receiving waters must be of sufficient quality to support all estuarine and marine species indigenous to the receiving water without detrimental changes in the resident biological community. There may be no new discharge to Class SB waters that would cause closure of open shellfish areas by the Department of Marine Resources. For the purpose of allowing the discharge of aquatic pesticides approved by the department for the control of mosquito-borne diseases in the interest of public health and safety, the department may find that the discharged effluent will not cause adverse impact to estuarine and marine life as long as the materials and methods used provide protection for nontarget species. When the department issues a license for the discharge of aquatic pesticides authorized under this paragraph, the department shall notify the municipality in which the application is licensed to occur and post the notice on the department's publicly accessible website.

5. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS

The State of Maine 2008 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, prepared by the Department pursuant to Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, lists Howard Cove (Waterbody # 709-2) as, “Category 2: Estuarine and Marine Waters Attaining Some Designated Uses – Insufficient Information for Other Uses.” “Insufficient information for other uses” in this context refers to the designated use of shellfish harvesting.

The Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) assesses information on shellfish growing areas to ensure that shellfish harvested are safe for consumption. The DMR has authority to close shellfish harvesting areas wherever there is a pollution source, a potential pollution threat, or poor water quality. The DMR traditionally closes shellfish harvesting areas if there are known sources of discharges with unacceptable bacteria levels (instream thresholds established in the National Shellfish Sanitation Program) or maintains shellfish harvesting closure areas due to lack of updated information regarding ambient water quality conditions. In addition, the DMR prohibits shellfish harvesting in the immediate vicinity of all waste water treatment outfall pipes as a precautionary measure in the event of a failure in the treatment plant’s disinfection system. Thus, shellfish harvesting Area #55-A(4) is closed to the harvesting of shellfish due to insufficient or limited ambient water quality data to determine that the area meets the standards in the National Shellfish Sanitation Program. The shellfish closure area is identified on the map included as Fact Sheet **Attachment A**. The Department is making the determination that compliance with the fecal coliform bacteria and other secondary wastewater treatment limits established in this permitting action ensure that the discharge of secondary treated wastewater from the DECF will not cause or contribute to the failure of the receiving waters to meet the standards of its designated classification.

The 2008 305(b) report also lists all estuarine and marine waters in a category entitled, *Category 5-D: Estuarine and Marine Waters Impaired by Legacy Pollutants*. The waters are listed as partially supporting fishing (shellfish consumption) due to elevated levels of PCBs and other persistent, bioaccumulating substances in lobster tomally. Department rule Chapter 519, *Interim Effluent Limitations and Controls for the Discharge of Mercury*, establishes controls on the discharge of mercury to the surface waters of the State through interim effluent limits and implementation of pollution prevention plans. However, Section 1(A)(1) of the Chapter 519 rule states in part:

5. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS (cont'd)

“This rule applies to all persons licensed or permitted pursuant to 38 MRSA §413 to discharge pollutants to the surface waters of the State except as described below. For the purposes of this rule, the term licensee also means permittee.

Categorical exclusions. This rule does not apply to the following categories of licensees: combined sewer overflows, snow dumps, pesticide applications, and over board discharges licensed pursuant to 38 MRSA §413.[emphasis added] Except, however, specific members of these categories may be required by the department to comply with this rule on a case by case basis...”

6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS & MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

- a. Flow: The previous permitting action established a monthly average discharge flow limitation of 40,000 GPD based on the dry weather design capacity of the treatment system along with a daily maximum reporting requirement. This permitting action is carrying forward the requirement that effluent flow shall be measured continuously to ensure that representative discharge flow data are obtained.

A review of the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data for the period January 2006-May 2010 indicates the permittee has been in substantial compliance with said limit as values have been reported as follows:

Flow (DMRs=49)

Value	Limit (gpd)	Range (gpd)	Mean (gpd)
Monthly Average	40,000	12,000 – 54,000	27,500
Daily Maximum	Report	23,000 – 132,000	62,900

- b. Dilution Factors: Department rule, 06-096 CMR Chapter 530 Section 4.A.2.a, *Surface Water Toxics Control Program*, states that, “*For discharges to the ocean, dilution must be calculated as near-field or initial dilution, or that dilution available as the effluent plume rises from the point of discharge to its trapping level, at mean low water level and slack tide for the acute exposure analysis, and at mean tide for the chronic exposure analysis using appropriate models determined by the Department such as MERGE, CORMIX or another predictive model.*”

With the outfall extension of 400 feet out into the receiving water in calendar year 2008, the dilution factors associated with the discharge from the DECF are as follows:

Acute:61:1

Chronic: 522:1

Harmonic Mean: 1,567:1

- c. Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD₅) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS): The previous permitting action established monthly average and weekly average concentration limits of 30 mg/L and 45 mg/L, respectively, for BOD and TSS, which are based on secondary treatment requirements of Department rule, 06-096 CMR Chapter 525(3)(III). The previous permitting action also established a daily maximum BOD₅ and TSS concentration limits of 50 mg/L based on a Department best professional judgement (BPJ) of best practicable treatment (BPT). This permitting action is carrying forward all three concentration limits for BOD₅ and TSS respectively.

6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS & MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

Department rule 06-096 CMR Chapter 523 Section 6.f. states that all pollutants limited in permits shall have limitations, standards or prohibitions expressed in terms of mass. With a monthly average discharge flow limit of 40,000 GPD (0.040 million gallons per day, MGD), this permitting action is carrying forward monthly average, weekly average and daily maximum technology-based mass limits for BOD₅ and TSS, which were derived as follows:

Monthly Average Mass Limit: $(30 \text{ mg/L})(8.34 \text{ lbs./gallon})(0.040 \text{ MGD}) = 10 \text{ lbs./day}$

Weekly Average Mass Limit: $(45 \text{ mg/L})(8.34 \text{ lbs./day})(0.040 \text{ MGD}) = 15 \text{ lbs./day}$

Daily Maximum Mass Limit: $(50 \text{ mg/L})(8.34 \text{ lbs./day})(0.040 \text{ MGD}) = 17 \text{ lbs./day}$

This permitting action is also carrying forward the requirement for a minimum of 85% removal of BOD₅ and TSS pursuant to Chapter 525 Section 3.III.a.3. and b.3. of the Department's rules.

A review of the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data for the period January 2006 – May 2010 indicates the permittee has been in compliance with said limit(s) as values have been reported as follows:

BOD Mass (DMRs=49)

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Average (lbs/day)
Monthly Average	10	0.3 – 1.8	0.68
Weekly Average	15	0.3 – 8.0	0.68
Daily Maximum	17	0.3 – 3.3	0.89

BOD Concentration (DMRs=49)

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Average (mg/L)
Monthly Average	30	<2 – 12	2.9
Weekly Average	45	<2 – 21	3.5
Daily Maximum	50	<2 – 21	3.5

TSS mass (DMRs=49)

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Average (lbs/day)
Monthly Average	10	0.2 – 5.2	1.7
Weekly Average	15	0.5 – 8.0	2.2
Daily Maximum	17	0.5 – 8.0	2.2

TSS concentration (DMRs=49)

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Average (mg/L)
Monthly Average	30	0.5 – 8.0	2.2
Weekly Average	45	2 – 31	9.5
Daily Maximum	50	2 – 31	9.5

6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS & MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

BOD % removal (DMRs=49)

Value	Limit (%)	Range (%)	Average (%)
Monthly Average	85	92 – 99	99

TSS % removal (DMRs=49)

Value	Limit (%)	Range (%)	Average (%)
Monthly Average	85	89 – 99	99

- d. Settleable Solids: The previous permitting action established a daily maximum technology-based concentration limit of 0.3 ml/L for settleable solids along with a minimum monitoring frequency five times per week (5/Week) based on Department guidance for overboard discharge facilities licensed to discharge between 20,000 and 49,999 GPD.

A review of the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data for the period January 2006 – May 2010 indicates the permittee has been in compliance with said limit(s) 100% of the time as values have been reported as follows:

SS Concentration (DMRs=49)

Value	Limit (ml/L)	Range (ml/L)	Average (ml/L)
Daily Maximum	0.3	<0.1 - <0.1	<0.1

Given the excellent compliance history, this permitting action is reducing the monitoring frequency for settleable solids from 5/Week to 1/Week.

- e. Fecal Coliform Bacteria: The previous permitting action established a year-round monthly average limit from 15 colonies/100 ml to 50 colonies/100 ml (instantaneous level) which are consistent with the National Shellfish Sanitation Program. The Fact Sheet of the permit also stated, “Upon completion of the outfall extension project, the permittee may request that the Department administratively modify this permit to revise bacteria limits to be in effect on a seasonal basis between May 15 and September 30 of each year.” The outfall extension was completed in calendar year 2008 and the Department granted the seasonal status in the 6/2/08 permit modification.

A review of the monthly DMR data for the period January 2008 – May 2010 indicates the permittee has been in compliance with the bacteria limits 100% of the time as values have been reported as follows:

Fecal coliform bacteria (DMRs=15)

Value	Limit (col/100 ml)	Range (col/100 ml)	Mean (col/100 ml)
Monthly Average	15	<1 - 2	1
Daily Maximum	50	<1 - 4	1.4

6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS & MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

- f. Total Residual Chlorine (TRC): The previous permitting action established a water quality based daily maximum concentration limit of 0.79 mg/L for TRC. Limitations on TRC are specified to ensure that ambient water quality standards are maintained and that BPT technology is being applied to the discharge. Department permitting actions impose the more stringent of either a water quality-based or BPT-based limit. With dilution factors as determined above, end-of-pipe (EOP) water quality-based concentration thresholds for TRC may be calculated as follows:

Acute (A) Criterion	Chronic (C) Criterion	A & C Dilution Factors	Calculated	
			Acute Threshold	Chronic Threshold
0.013 mg/L	0.0075 mg/L	61:1 (A) 522:1 (C)	0.79 mg/L	3.9 mg/L

The Department has established a daily maximum BPT limitation of 1.0 mg/L for facilities that disinfect their effluent with elemental chlorine or chlorine-based compounds. For facilities that dechlorinate the discharge in order to meet water quality based thresholds, the Department has established daily maximum and monthly average BPT limits of 0.3 mg/L and 0.1 mg/L, respectively.

The calculated acute water quality-based threshold of 0.79 mg/L is more stringent than the technology-based standard and therefore being carried forward in this permitting action. TRC monitoring is required any time chlorine-based compounds are in use for effluent disinfection. For instances when the permittee has not utilized chlorine-based compounds for effluent disinfection for an entire reporting period, the permittee shall report "NODI-9" for this parameter on the monthly discharge monitoring report (DMR).

- g. pH: The previous permitting action established a pH range limit of 6.0 – 9.0 standard units (SU), which was based on a Department rule found at Chapter 525(3)(III)(c) and is being carried forward in this permitting action. A review of the DMR data for the period January 2006 – May 2010 indicates the facility has been in compliance with said limit range 100% of the time.
- h. Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) & Chemical Specific Testing: Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A., §414-A and §420, prohibit the discharge of effluents containing substances in amounts that would cause the surface waters of the State to contain toxic substances above levels set forth in Federal Water Quality Criteria as established by the USEPA. Department rule, 06-096 CMR Chapter 530, *Surface Water Toxics Control Program* (toxics rule) sets forth effluent monitoring requirements and procedures to establish safe levels for the discharge of toxic pollutants such that existing and designated uses of surface waters are maintained and protected and narrative and numeric water quality criteria are met. Department rule 06-096 CMR Chapter 584, *Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants*, sets forth ambient water quality criteria (AWQC) for toxic pollutants and procedures necessary to control levels of toxic pollutants in surface waters.

6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS & MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)

WET monitoring is required to assess and protect against impacts upon water quality and designated uses caused by the aggregate effect of the discharge on specific aquatic organisms. Acute WET tests are performed on invertebrate species mysid shrimp (*Mysidopsis bahia*); chronic WET tests are performed on sea urchin (*Arbacia punctulata*). Priority pollutant monitoring is required to assess the levels of individual toxic pollutants in the discharge, comparing each pollutant to acute, chronic, and human health water quality criteria. Priority pollutant testing refers to the analysis for levels of priority pollutants listed in Department rule 06-096 CMR Chapter 525 Section 4.VI. Analytical chemistry refers to a suite of chemical tests for ammonia-nitrogen, total aluminum, total cadmium, total chromium, total copper, total hardness (fresh water only), total lead, total nickel, total silver, total zinc, total arsenic, total cyanide and total residual chlorine.

Chapter 530 Section 2.A specifies the criteria for exemption of certain discharges from toxics testing as follows:

- (1) Discharges from individual discharge points licensed to discharge less than 50,000 gallons per day of solely domestic wastewater and with a chronic dilution factor of at least 50 to 1, provided no holding tank wastes containing chemicals are accepted by the facility;*
- (2) Discharges from residential overboard discharge systems; or*
- (3) Discharges from combined sewer overflow discharge points, provided the owner of the sewerage system is conducting or participating in a discharge abatement program.*

The DECF is permitted to discharge a flow of less than 50,000 gallons per day, and has a chronic dilution factor of at least 50:1. Therefore, the facility is categorically exempt from the Chapter 530 testing requirements.

7. DISCHARGE IMPACT ON RECEIVING WATER QUALITY

As permitted, the Department has determined the existing water uses will be maintained and protected, and that the discharge as permitted will not cause or contribute to the failure of the water body to meet standards for Class SB waters.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public notice of this application was made in the Bangor Daily New newspaper on or about May 14, 2010. The Department receives public comments on an application until the date a final agency action is taken on the application. Those persons receiving copies of draft permits shall have at least 30 days in which to submit comments on the draft or to request a public hearing, pursuant to Chapter 522 of the Department's rules.

9. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Additional information concerning this permitting action may be obtained from, and written comments sent to:

Gregg Wood
Division of Water Quality Management
Bureau of Land & Water Quality
Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017 Telephone: (207) 287-7693
e-mail: gregg.wood@maine.gov

10. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

During the period of August 5, 2010, through the issuance date of the permit/license, the Department solicited comments on the proposed draft permit/license to be issued for the discharge(s) from the permittee's facility. The Department did not receive comments from the permittee, state or federal agencies or interested parties that resulted in any substantive change(s) in the terms and conditions of the permit. Therefore, the Department has not prepared a Response to Comments.

ATTACHMENT A



© DeLorme

67°30'00"
67.5000°

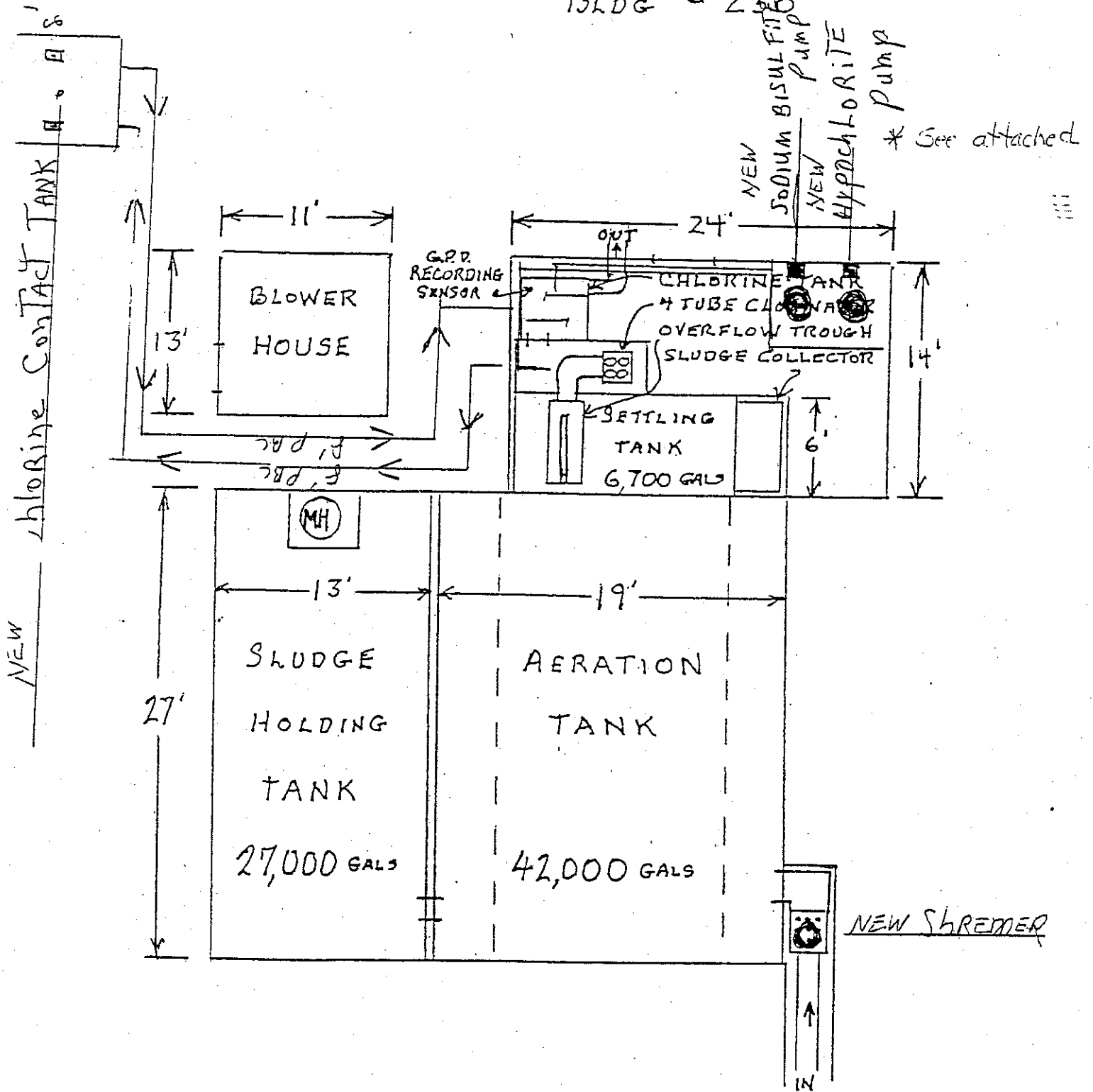
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1 1/2 2 3 4 5 Miles

ATTACHMENT B

SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT

BLDG # 2



Rev 1/22/96

ATTACHMENT C

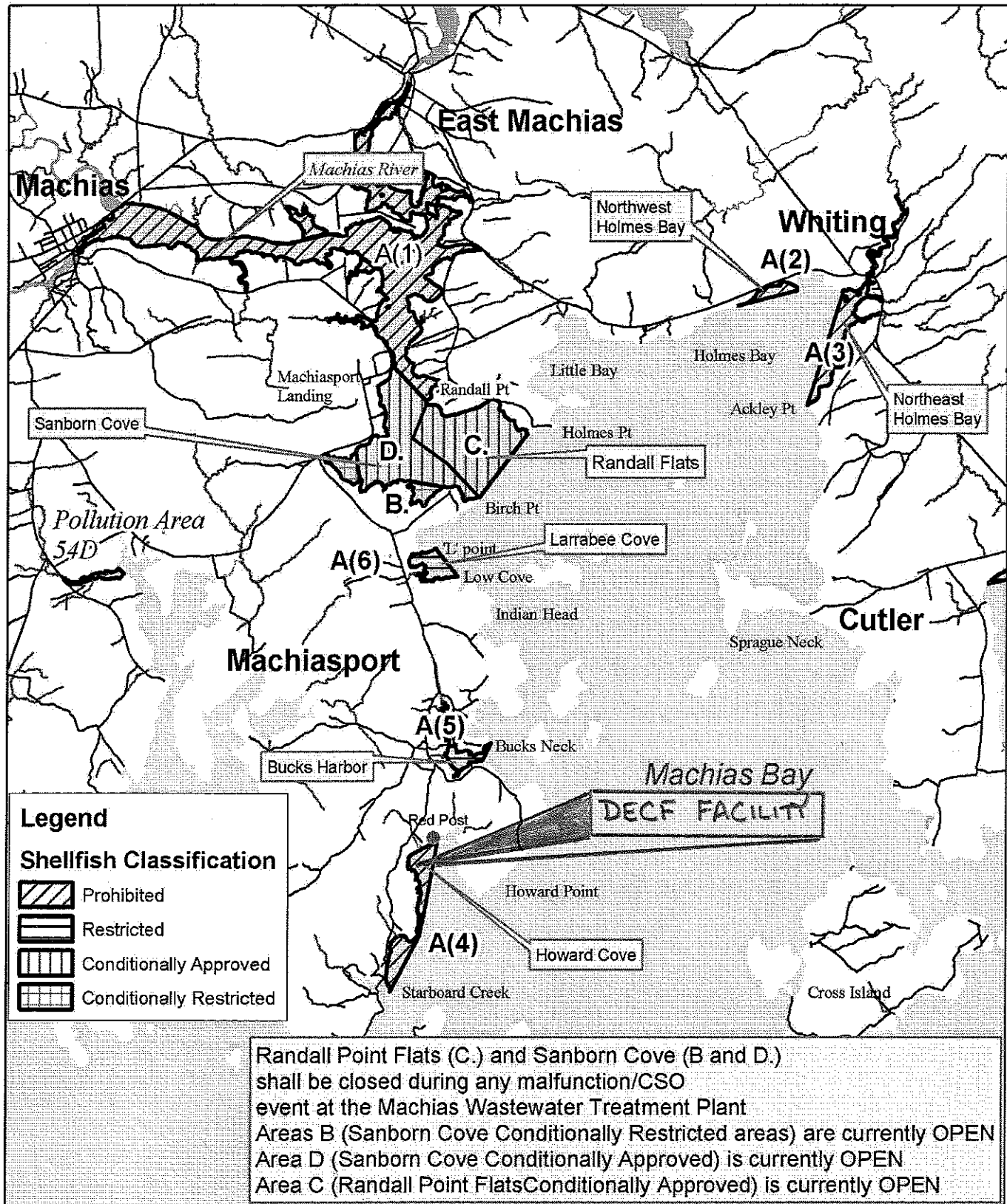


Maine Department of Marine Resources

Pollution Area No. 55



Machias and East Machias Rivers and Machias Bay
(Machias, East Machias, Machiasport, Whiting, Cutler) July 1, 2010
All existing bacterial and red tide/PSP closures in this area remain in effect.



0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

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A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. General compliance. All discharges shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of this permit; any changes in production capacity or process modifications which result in changes in the quantity or the characteristics of the discharge must be authorized by an additional license or by modifications of this permit; it shall be a violation of the terms and conditions of this permit to discharge any pollutant not identified and authorized herein or to discharge in excess of the rates or quantities authorized herein or to violate any other conditions of this permit.

2. Other materials. Other materials ordinarily produced or used in the operation of this facility, which have been specifically identified in the application, may be discharged at the maximum frequency and maximum level identified in the application, provided:

- (a) They are not
 - (i) Designated as toxic or hazardous under the provisions of Sections 307 and 311, respectively, of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; Title 38, Section 420, Maine Revised Statutes; or other applicable State Law; or
 - (ii) Known to be hazardous or toxic by the licensee.
- (b) The discharge of such materials will not violate applicable water quality standards.

3. Duty to comply. The permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of State law and the Clean Water Act and is grounds for enforcement action; for permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or denial of a permit renewal application.

- (a) The permittee shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established under section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act, and 38 MRSA, §420 or Chapter 530.5 for toxic pollutants within the time provided in the regulations that establish these standards or prohibitions, even if the permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement.
- (b) Any person who violates any provision of the laws administered by the Department, including without limitation, a violation of the terms of any order, rule license, permit, approval or decision of the Board or Commissioner is subject to the penalties set forth in 38 MRSA, §349.

4. Duty to provide information. The permittee shall furnish to the Department, within a reasonable time, any information which the Department may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this permit or to determine compliance with this permit. The permittee shall also furnish to the Department upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this permit.

5. Permit actions. This permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. 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.

6. Reopener clause. The Department reserves the right to make appropriate revisions to this permit in order to establish any appropriate effluent limitations, schedule of compliance or other provisions which may be authorized under 38 MRSA, §414-A(5).

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7. Oil and hazardous substances. Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities or penalties to which the permittee is or may be subject under section 311 of the Federal Clean Water Act; section 106 of the Federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980; or 38 MRSA §§ 1301, et. seq.

8. Property rights. This permit does not convey any property rights of any sort, or any exclusive privilege.

9. Confidentiality of records. 38 MRSA §414(6) reads as follows. "Any records, reports or information obtained under this subchapter is available to the public, except that upon a showing satisfactory to the department by any person that any records, reports or information, or particular part or any record, report or information, other than the names and addresses of applicants, license applications, licenses, and effluent data, to which the department has access under this subchapter would, if made public, divulge methods or processes that are entitled to protection as trade secrets, these records, reports or information must be confidential and not available for public inspection or examination. Any records, reports or information may be disclosed to employees or authorized representatives of the State or the United States concerned with carrying out this subchapter or any applicable federal law, and to any party to a hearing held under this section on terms the commissioner may prescribe in order to protect these confidential records, reports and information, as long as this disclosure is material and relevant to any issue under consideration by the department."

10. Duty to reapply. If the permittee wishes to continue an activity regulated by this permit after the expiration date of this permit, the permittee must apply for and obtain a new permit.

11. Other laws. The issuance of this permit does not authorize any injury to persons or property or invasion of other property rights, nor does it relieve the permittee of its obligation to comply with other applicable Federal, State or local laws and regulations.

12. Inspection and entry. The permittee shall allow the Department, or an authorized representative (including an authorized contractor acting as a representative of the EPA Administrator), upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:

- (a) Enter upon the permittee's premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records must be kept under the conditions of this permit;
- (b) Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this permit;
- (c) Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this permit; and
- (d) Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by the Clean Water Act, any substances or parameters at any location.

B. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES

1. General facility requirements.

- (a) The permittee shall collect all waste flows designated by the Department as requiring treatment and discharge them into an approved waste treatment facility in such a manner as to

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

maximize removal of pollutants unless authorization to the contrary is obtained from the Department.

- (b) The permittee shall at all times maintain in good working order and operate at maximum efficiency all waste water collection, treatment and/or control facilities.
- (c) All necessary waste treatment facilities will be installed and operational prior to the discharge of any wastewaters.
- (d) Final plans and specifications must be submitted to the Department for review prior to the construction or modification of any treatment facilities.
- (e) The permittee shall install flow measuring facilities of a design approved by the Department.
- (f) The permittee must provide an outfall of a design approved by the Department which is placed in the receiving waters in such a manner that the maximum mixing and dispersion of the wastewaters will be achieved as rapidly as possible.

2. Proper operation and maintenance. The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems which are installed by a permittee only when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit.

3. Need to halt or reduce activity not a defense. It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

4. Duty to mitigate. The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge or sludge use or disposal in violation of this permit which has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.

5. Bypasses.

(a) Definitions.

- (i) Bypass means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.
- (ii) Severe property damage means substantial physical damage to property, damage to the treatment facilities which causes them to become inoperable, or substantial and permanent loss of natural resources which can reasonably be expected to occur in the absence of a bypass. Severe property damage does not mean economic loss caused by delays in production.

(b) Bypass not exceeding limitations. The permittee may allow any bypass to occur which does not cause effluent limitations to be exceeded, but only if it also is for essential maintenance to assure efficient operation. These bypasses are not subject to the provisions of paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section.

(c) Notice.

- (i) Anticipated bypass. If the permittee knows in advance of the need for a bypass, it shall submit prior notice, if possible at least ten days before the date of the bypass.

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STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

- (ii) Unanticipated bypass. The permittee shall submit notice of an unanticipated bypass as required in paragraph D(1)(f), below. (24-hour notice).
- (d) Prohibition of bypass.
 - (i) Bypass is prohibited, and the Department may take enforcement action against a permittee for bypass, unless:
 - (A) Bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;
 - (B) There were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary treatment facilities, retention of untreated wastes, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime. 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
 - (C) The permittee submitted notices as required under paragraph (c) of this section.
 - (ii) The Department may approve an anticipated bypass, after considering its adverse effects, if the Department determines that it will meet the three conditions listed above in paragraph (d)(i) of this section.

6. Upsets.

- (a) Definition. Upset means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology based permit effluent limitations because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the permittee. An upset does not include noncompliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, inadequate treatment facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless or improper operation.
- (b) Effect of an upset. An upset constitutes an affirmative defense to an action brought for noncompliance with such technology based permit effluent limitations if the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section are met. No determination made during administrative review of claims that noncompliance was caused by upset, and before an action for noncompliance, is final administrative action subject to judicial review.
- (c) Conditions necessary for a demonstration of upset. A permittee who wishes to establish the affirmative defense of upset shall demonstrate, through properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs, or other relevant evidence that:
 - (i) An upset occurred and that the permittee can identify the cause(s) of the upset;
 - (ii) The permitted facility was at the time being properly operated; and
 - (iii) The permittee submitted notice of the upset as required in paragraph D(1)(f), below. (24 hour notice).
 - (iv) The permittee complied with any remedial measures required under paragraph B(4).
- (d) Burden of proof. In any enforcement proceeding the permittee seeking to establish the occurrence of an upset has the burden of proof.

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

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C. MONITORING AND RECORDS

1. General Requirements. This permit shall be subject to such monitoring requirements as may be reasonably required by the Department including the installation, use and maintenance of monitoring equipment or methods (including, where appropriate, biological monitoring methods). The permittee shall provide the Department with periodic reports on the proper Department reporting form of monitoring results obtained pursuant to the monitoring requirements contained herein.

2. Representative sampling. Samples and measurements taken as required herein shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge. If effluent limitations are based wholly or partially on quantities of a product processed, the permittee shall ensure samples are representative of times when production is taking place. Where discharge monitoring is required when production is less than 50%, the resulting data shall be reported as a daily measurement but not included in computation of averages, unless specifically authorized by the Department.

3. Monitoring and records.

- (a) Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the monitored activity.
- (b) Except for records of monitoring information required by this permit related to the permittee's sewage sludge use and disposal activities, which shall be retained for a period of at least five years, the permittee shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for this permit, for a period of at least 3 years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. This period may be extended by request of the Department at any time.
- (c) Records of monitoring information shall include:
 - (i) The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;
 - (ii) The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;
 - (iii) The date(s) analyses were performed;
 - (iv) The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
 - (v) The analytical techniques or methods used; and
 - (vi) The results of such analyses.
- (d) Monitoring results must be conducted according to test procedures approved under 40 CFR part 136, unless other test procedures have been specified in the permit.
- (e) State law provides that any person who tampers with or renders inaccurate any monitoring devices or method required by any provision of law, or any order, rule license, permit approval or decision is subject to the penalties set forth in 38 MRSA, §349.

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

D. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Reporting requirements.

- (a) Planned changes. The permittee shall give notice to the Department as soon as possible of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility. Notice is required only when:
 - (i) The alteration or addition to a permitted facility may meet one of the criteria for determining whether a facility is a new source in 40 CFR 122.29(b); or
 - (ii) The alteration or addition could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged. This notification applies to pollutants which are subject neither to effluent limitations in the permit, nor to notification requirements under Section D(4).
 - (iii) The alteration or addition results in a significant change in the permittee's sludge use or disposal practices, and such alteration, addition, or change may justify the application of permit conditions that are different from or absent in the existing permit, including notification of additional use or disposal sites not reported during the permit application process or not reported pursuant to an approved land application plan;
- (b) Anticipated noncompliance. The permittee shall give advance notice to the Department of any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity which may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.
- (c) Transfers. This permit is not transferable to any person except upon application to and approval of the Department pursuant to 38 MRSA, § 344 and Chapters 2 and 522.
- (d) Monitoring reports. Monitoring results shall be reported at the intervals specified elsewhere in this permit.
 - (i) Monitoring results must be reported on a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) or forms provided or specified by the Department for reporting results of monitoring of sludge use or disposal practices.
 - (ii) If the permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by the permit using test procedures approved under 40 CFR part 136 or as specified in the permit, the results of this monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the DMR or sludge reporting form specified by the Department.
 - (iii) Calculations for all limitations which require averaging of measurements shall utilize an arithmetic mean unless otherwise specified by the Department in the permit.
- (e) Compliance schedules. Reports of compliance or noncompliance with, or any progress reports on, interim and final requirements contained in any compliance schedule of this permit shall be submitted no later than 14 days following each schedule date.
- (f) Twenty-four hour reporting.
 - (i) The permittee shall report any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment. Any information shall be provided orally within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. A written submission shall also be provided within 5 days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance

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has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.

- (ii) The following shall be included as information which must be reported within 24 hours under this paragraph.

- (A) Any unanticipated bypass which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit.

- (B) Any upset which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit.

- (C) Violation of a maximum daily discharge limitation for any of the pollutants listed by the Department in the permit to be reported within 24 hours.

- (iii) The Department may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis for reports under paragraph (f)(ii) of this section if the oral report has been received within 24 hours.

- (g) Other noncompliance. The permittee shall report all instances of noncompliance not reported under paragraphs (d), (e), and (f) of this section, at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed in paragraph (f) of this section.

- (h) Other information. Where the permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the Department, it shall promptly submit such facts or information.

2. Signatory requirement. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Department shall be signed and certified as required by Chapter 521, Section 5 of the Department's rules. State law provides that any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation or certification in any application, record, report, plan or other document filed or required to be maintained by any order, rule, permit, approval or decision of the Board or Commissioner is subject to the penalties set forth in 38 MRSA, §349.

3. Availability of reports. Except for data determined to be confidential under A(9), above, all reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Department. As required by State law, effluent data shall not be considered confidential. Knowingly making any false statement on any such report may result in the imposition of criminal sanctions as provided by law.

4. Existing manufacturing, commercial, mining, and silvicultural dischargers. In addition to the reporting requirements under this Section, all existing manufacturing, commercial, mining, and silvicultural dischargers must notify the Department as soon as they know or have reason to believe:

- (a) That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in the discharge, on a routine or frequent basis, of any toxic pollutant which is not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following "notification levels":

- (i) One hundred micrograms per liter (100 ug/l);

- (ii) Two hundred micrograms per liter (200 ug/l) for acrolein and acrylonitrile; five hundred micrograms per liter (500 ug/l) for 2,4-dinitrophenol and for 2-methyl-4,6-dinitrophenol; and one milligram per liter (1 mg/l) for antimony;

- (iii) Five (5) times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application in accordance with Chapter 521 Section 4(g)(7); or

- (iv) The level established by the Department in accordance with Chapter 523 Section 5(f).

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- (b) That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in any discharge, on a non-routine or infrequent basis, of a toxic pollutant which is not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following "notification levels":
 - (i) Five hundred micrograms per liter (500 ug/l);
 - (ii) One milligram per liter (1 mg/l) for antimony;
 - (iii) Ten (10) times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application in accordance with Chapter 521 Section 4(g)(7); or
 - (iv) The level established by the Department in accordance with Chapter 523 Section 5(f).

5. Publicly owned treatment works.

- (a) All POTWs must provide adequate notice to the Department of the following:
 - (i) Any new introduction of pollutants into the POTW from an indirect discharger which would be subject to section 301 or 306 of CWA or Chapter 528 if it were directly discharging those pollutants.
 - (ii) Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into that POTW by a source introducing pollutants into the POTW at the time of issuance of the permit.
 - (iii) For purposes of this paragraph, adequate notice shall include information on (A) the quality and quantity of effluent introduced into the POTW, and (B) any anticipated impact of the change on the quantity or quality of effluent to be discharged from the POTW.
- (b) When the effluent discharged by a POTW for a period of three consecutive months exceeds 80 percent of the permitted flow, the permittee shall submit to the Department a projection of loadings up to the time when the design capacity of the treatment facility will be reached, and a program for maintaining satisfactory treatment levels consistent with approved water quality management plans.

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

1. Emergency action - power failure. Within thirty days after the effective date of this permit, the permittee shall notify the Department of facilities and plans to be used in the event the primary source of power to its wastewater pumping and treatment facilities fails as follows.

- (a) For municipal sources. During power failure, all wastewaters which are normally treated shall receive a minimum of primary treatment and disinfection. Unless otherwise approved, alternate power supplies shall be provided for pumping stations and treatment facilities. Alternate power supplies shall be on-site generating units or an outside power source which is separate and independent from sources used for normal operation of the wastewater facilities.
- (b) For industrial and commercial sources. The permittee shall either maintain an alternative power source sufficient to operate the wastewater pumping and treatment facilities or halt, reduce or otherwise control production and or all discharges upon reduction or loss of power to the wastewater pumping or treatment facilities.

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2. Spill prevention. (applicable only to industrial sources) Within six months of the effective date of this permit, the permittee shall submit to the Department for review and approval, with or without conditions, a spill prevention plan. The plan shall delineate methods and measures to be taken to prevent and or contain any spills of pulp, chemicals, oils or other contaminants and shall specify means of disposal and or treatment to be used.

3. Removed substances. Solids, sludges trash rack cleanings, filter backwash, or other pollutants removed from or resulting from the treatment or control of waste waters shall be disposed of in a manner approved by the Department.

4. Connection to municipal sewer. (applicable only to industrial and commercial sources) All wastewaters designated by the Department as treatable in a municipal treatment system will be cosigned to that system when it is available. This permit will expire 90 days after the municipal treatment facility becomes available, unless this time is extended by the Department in writing.

F. DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this permit, the following definitions shall apply. Other definitions applicable to this permit may be found in Chapters 520 through 529 of the Department's rules

Average means the arithmetic mean of values taken at the frequency required for each parameter over the specified period. For bacteria, the average shall be the geometric mean.

Average monthly discharge limitation means the highest allowable average of daily discharges over a calendar month, calculated as the sum of all daily discharges measured during a calendar month divided by the number of daily discharges measured during that month. Except, however, bacteriological tests may be calculated as a geometric mean.

Average weekly discharge limitation means the highest allowable average of daily discharges over a calendar week, calculated as the sum of all daily discharges measured during a calendar week divided by the number of daily discharges measured during that week.

Best management practices ("BMPs") means schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of waters of the State. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.

Composite sample means a sample consisting of a minimum of eight grab samples collected at equal intervals during a 24 hour period (or a lesser period as specified in the section on monitoring and reporting) and combined proportional to the flow over that same time period.

Continuous discharge means a discharge which occurs without interruption throughout the operating hours of the facility, except for infrequent shutdowns for maintenance, process changes, or other similar activities.

Daily discharge means the discharge of a pollutant measured during a calendar day or any 24-hour period that reasonably represents the calendar day for purposes of sampling. For pollutants with limitations expressed in units of mass, the daily discharge is calculated as the total mass of the pollutant discharged over the day. For pollutants with limitations expressed in other units of measurement, the daily discharge is calculated as the average measurement of the pollutant over the day.

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Discharge Monitoring Report ("DMR") means the EPA uniform national form, including any subsequent additions, revisions, or modifications for the reporting of self-monitoring results by permittees. DMRs must be used by approved States as well as by EPA. EPA will supply DMRs to any approved State upon request. The EPA national forms may be modified to substitute the State Agency name, address, logo, and other similar information, as appropriate, in place of EPA's.

Flow weighted composite sample means a composite sample consisting of a mixture of aliquots collected at a constant time interval, where the volume of each aliquot is proportional to the flow rate of the discharge.

Grab sample means an individual sample collected in a period of less than 15 minutes.

Interference means a Discharge which, alone or in conjunction with a discharge or discharges from other sources, both:

- (1) Inhibits or disrupts the POTW, its treatment processes or operations, or its sludge processes, use or disposal; and
- (2) Therefore is a cause of a violation of any requirement of the POTW's NPDES permit (including an increase in the magnitude or duration of a violation) or of the prevention of sewage sludge use or disposal in compliance with the following statutory provisions and regulations or permits issued thereunder (or more stringent State or local regulations): Section 405 of the Clean Water Act, the Solid Waste Disposal Act (SWDA) (including title II, more commonly referred to as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and including State regulations contained in any State sludge management plan prepared pursuant to subtitle D of the SWDA), the Clean Air Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

Maximum daily discharge limitation means the highest allowable daily discharge.

New source means any building, structure, facility, or installation from which there is or may be a discharge of pollutants, the construction of which commenced:

- (a) After promulgation of standards of performance under section 306 of CWA which are applicable to such source, or
- (b) After proposal of standards of performance in accordance with section 306 of CWA which are applicable to such source, but only if the standards are promulgated in accordance with section 306 within 120 days of their proposal.

Pass through means a discharge which exits the POTW into waters of the State in quantities or concentrations which, alone or in conjunction with a discharge or discharges from other sources, is a cause of a violation of any requirement of the POTW's NPDES permit (including an increase in the magnitude or duration of a violation).

Permit means an authorization, license, or equivalent control document issued by EPA or an approved State to implement the requirements of 40 CFR parts 122, 123 and 124. Permit includes an NPDES general permit (Chapter 529). Permit does not include any permit which has not yet been the subject of final agency action, such as a draft permit or a proposed permit.

Person means an individual, firm, corporation, municipality, quasi-municipal corporation, state agency, federal agency or other legal entity.

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Point source means any discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including, but not limited to, any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged.

Pollutant means dredged spoil, solid waste, junk, incinerator residue, sewage, refuse, effluent, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemicals, biological or radiological materials, oil, petroleum products or byproducts, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, dirt and industrial, municipal, domestic, commercial or agricultural wastes of any kind.

Process wastewater means any water which, during manufacturing or processing, comes into direct contact with or results from the production or use of any raw material, intermediate product, finished product, byproduct, or waste product.

Publicly owned treatment works ("POTW") means any facility for the treatment of pollutants owned by the State or any political subdivision thereof, any municipality, district, quasi-municipal corporation or other public entity.

Septage means, for the purposes of this permit, any waste, refuse, effluent sludge or other material removed from a septic tank, cesspool, vault privy or similar source which concentrates wastes or to which chemicals have been added. Septage does not include wastes from a holding tank.

Time weighted composite means a composite sample consisting of a mixture of equal volume aliquots collected over a constant time interval.

Toxic pollutant includes any pollutant listed as toxic under section 307(a)(1) or, in the case of sludge use or disposal practices, any pollutant identified in regulations implementing section 405(d) of the CWA. Toxic pollutant also includes those substances or combination of substances, including disease causing agents, which after discharge or upon exposure, ingestion, inhalation or assimilation into any organism, including humans either directly through the environment or indirectly through ingestion through food chains, will, on the basis of information available to the board either alone or in combination with other substances already in the receiving waters or the discharge, cause death, disease, abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutations, physiological malfunctions, including malfunctions in reproduction, or physical deformations in such organism or their offspring.

Wetlands means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

Whole effluent toxicity means the aggregate toxic effect of an effluent measured directly by a toxicity test.



DEP INFORMATION SHEET

Appealing a Commissioner's Licensing Decision

Dated: May 2004

Contact: (207) 287-2811

SUMMARY

There are two methods available to an aggrieved person seeking to appeal a licensing decision made by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Commissioner: (1) in an administrative process before the Board of Environmental Protection (Board); or (2) in a judicial process before Maine's Superior Court. This INFORMATION SHEET, in conjunction with consulting statutory and regulatory provisions referred to herein, can help aggrieved persons with understanding their rights and obligations in filing an administrative or judicial appeal.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TO THE BOARD

LEGAL REFERENCES

DEP's *General Laws*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 341-D(4), and its *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters* (Chapter 2), 06-096 CMR 2.24 (April 1, 2003).

HOW LONG YOU HAVE TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD

The Board must receive a written notice of appeal within 30 calendar days of the date on which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board. Appeals filed after 30 calendar days will be rejected.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD

Signed original appeal documents must be sent to: Chair, Board of Environmental Protection, c/o Department of Environmental Protection, 17 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0017; faxes are acceptable for purposes of meeting the deadline when followed by receipt of mailed original documents within five (5) working days. Receipt on a particular day must be by 5:00 PM at DEP's offices in Augusta; materials received after 5:00 PM are not considered received until the following day. The person appealing a licensing decision must also send the DEP's Commissioner and the applicant a copy of the documents. All the information listed in the next section must be submitted at the time the appeal is filed. Only the extraordinary circumstances described at the end of that section will justify evidence not in the DEP's record at the time of decision being added to the record for consideration by the Board as part of an appeal.

WHAT YOUR APPEAL PAPERWORK MUST CONTAIN

The materials constituting an appeal must contain the following information at the time submitted:

1. *Aggrieved Status.* Standing to maintain an appeal requires the appellant to show they are particularly injured by the Commissioner's decision.
2. *The findings, conclusions or conditions objected to or believed to be in error.* Specific references and facts regarding the appellant's issues with the decision must be provided in the notice of appeal.
3. *The basis of the objections or challenge.* If possible, specific regulations, statutes or other facts should be referenced. This may include citing omissions of relevant requirements, and errors believed to have been made in interpretations, conclusions, and relevant requirements.
4. *The remedy sought.* This can range from reversal of the Commissioner's decision on the license or permit to changes in specific permit conditions.

5. *All the matters to be contested.* The Board will limit its consideration to those arguments specifically raised in the written notice of appeal.
6. *Request for hearing.* The Board will hear presentations on appeals at its regularly scheduled meetings, unless a public hearing is requested and granted. A request for public hearing on an appeal must be filed as part of the notice of appeal.
7. *New or additional evidence to be offered.* The Board may allow new or additional evidence as part of an appeal only when the person seeking to add information to the record can show due diligence in bringing the evidence to the DEP's attention at the earliest possible time in the licensing process or show that the evidence itself is newly discovered and could not have been presented earlier in the process. Specific requirements for additional evidence are found in Chapter 2, Section 24(B)(5).

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS IN APPEALING A DECISION TO THE BOARD

1. *Be familiar with all relevant material in the DEP record.* A license file is public information made easily accessible by DEP. Upon request, the DEP will make the material available during normal working hours, provide space to review the file, and provide opportunity for photocopying materials. There is a charge for copies or copying services.
2. *Be familiar with the regulations and laws under which the application was processed, and the procedural rules governing your appeal.* DEP staff will provide this information on request and answer questions regarding applicable requirements.
3. *The filing of an appeal does not operate as a stay to any decision.* An applicant proceeding with a project pending the outcome of an appeal runs the risk of the decision being reversed or modified as a result of the appeal.

WHAT TO EXPECT ONCE YOU FILE A TIMELY APPEAL WITH THE BOARD

The Board will formally acknowledge initiation of the appeals procedure, including the name of the DEP project manager assigned to the specific appeal, within 15 days of receiving a timely filing. The notice of appeal, all materials accepted by the Board Chair as additional evidence, and any materials submitted in response to the appeal will be sent to Board members along with a briefing and recommendation from DEP staff. Parties filing appeals and interested persons are notified in advance of the final date set for Board consideration of an appeal or request for public hearing. With or without holding a public hearing, the Board may affirm, amend, or reverse a Commissioner decision. The Board will notify parties to an appeal and interested persons of its decision.

II. APPEALS TO MAINE SUPERIOR COURT

Maine law allows aggrieved persons to appeal final Commissioner licensing decisions to Maine's Superior Court, see 38 M.R.S.A. § 346(1); 06-096 CMR 2.26; 5 M.R.S.A. § 11001; & MRCivP 80C. Parties to the licensing decision must file a petition for review within 30 days after receipt of notice of the Commissioner's written decision. A petition for review by any other person aggrieved must be filed within 40-days from the date the written decision is rendered. The laws cited in this paragraph and other legal procedures govern the contents and processing of a Superior Court appeal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions or need additional information on the appeal process, contact the DEP's Director of Procedures and Enforcement at (207) 287-2811.

Note: The DEP provides this INFORMATION SHEET for general guidance only; it is not intended for use as a legal reference. Maine law governs an appellant's rights.
