



JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DAVID P. LITTELL  
COMMISSIONER

September 2, 2010

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Cintya Bailey  
Verso Bucksport LLC  
2 River Road  
Bucksport, ME 04415  
[cintya.bailey@versopaper.com](mailto:cintya.bailey@versopaper.com)

RE: Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit #ME0002160  
Maine Waste Discharge License #W000598-5N-K-M  
**Final Minor Revision-Verso Bucksport LLC**

Dear Ms Bailey:

Enclosed please find a copy of your **final** Maine MEPDES Permit/WDL minor revision which was approved by the Department of Environmental Protection. Please read the license and its attached conditions carefully. You must follow the conditions in the license 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 this matter, please feel free to contact me at (207) 287-7658 or at [phyllis.a.rand@maine.gov](mailto:phyllis.a.rand@maine.gov).

Sincerely,

Phyllis Arnold Rand  
Division of Water Quality Management  
Bureau of Land and Water Quality

Enclosure

cc: Tanya Hovell, DEP/EMRO David Webster, USEPA Sandy Mojica, USEPA Lori Mitchell, DMU

AUGUSTA  
17 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017  
(207) 287-7688 FAX: (207) 287-7826  
RAY BLDG., HOSPITAL ST.

BANGOR  
106 HOGAN ROAD  
BANGOR, MAINE 04401  
(207) 941-4570 FAX: (207) 941-4584

PORTLAND  
312 CANCO ROAD  
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103  
(207) 822-6300 FAX: (207) 822-6303

PRESQUE ISLE  
1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK  
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769-2094  
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STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
17 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, ME 04333

## DEPARTMENT ORDER

### IN THE MATTER OF

VERSO BUCKSPORT LLC	)	MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
BUCKSPORT, HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE	)	ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
INDUSTRIAL PROCESS WASTEWATER	)	AND
ME0002160	)	WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE
W000598-5N-K-M	)	MINOR REVISION
<b>APPROVAL</b>		

Pursuant to the provisions of the *Federal Water Pollution Control Act*, Title 33 USC, §1251, *Conditions of licenses*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 414-A, and applicable regulations, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (“Department”) is initiating a minor revision of the MEPDES Permit #ME0002160/WDL #W000598-5N-J-R for VERSO BUCKSPORT LLC, with its supportive data, agency review comments, and other related materials on file and FINDS THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

### MODIFICATION SUMMARY

This permitting action is establishing surveillance-level Whole Effluent Toxicity testing requirements and a numerical limitation for the sea urchin (*Arbacia punctulata*).

### CONCLUSIONS

BASED on the findings in the attached Fact Sheet dated August 26, 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.

**CONCLUSIONS (cont'd)**

3. The provisions of the State's antidegradation policy, 38 MRSA Section 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 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.

**ACTION**

THEREFORE, the Department APPROVES this minor revision of the VERSO BUCKSPORT LLC MEPDES Permit/WDL authorizing the incorporation of surveillance-level Whole Effluent Toxicity testing requirements and a numerical limitation for the sea urchin (*Arbacia punctulata*), 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. All terms and conditions in combination MEPDES permit #ME0002160/ WDL #W000598-5N-J-R, dated January 7, 2010, not modified by this permitting action remain in effect and enforceable.
4. This permit modification expires on January 7, 2015, concurrent with combination MEPDES permit #ME0002160 / WDL #W000598-5N-J-R issued by the Department on January 7, 2010.

PLEASE NOTE ATTACHED SHEET FOR GUIDANCE ON APPEAL PROCEDURES

Date of initiation      July 12, 2010  
Date of acceptance      July 12, 2010

This Order prepared by PHYLLIS A. RAND, BUREAU OF LAND & WATER QUALITY  
ME0002160 MR 2010

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

1. Whole effluent toxicity testing requirements for Outfall #001A and Outfall #001B. <sup>(1)</sup>

***SURVEILLANCE LEVEL*** – Beginning upon issuance of the permit and lasting through 12 months prior to permit expiration.

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations				Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Measurement Frequency</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
<b><u>Chronic – NOEL</u></b> <i>Arbacia punctulata</i> (Sea urchin) [TBH3A]	---	---	---	0.28 % [23]	1/Year [01/YR]	Composite [24]

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 Pages 5-6 of this permit for applicable footnotes.

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

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

#### **FOOTNOTES:**

**Sampling** – All 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. Any change in sampling location(s) must be reviewed and approved by the Department in writing.

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 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. See **Attachment A** of this permit for a list of the Department's RLs.

1. **Whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing** –Definitive WET testing is a multi-concentration testing event (a minimum of five dilutions bracketing the critical acute and chronic thresholds of 1.8% and 0.28%, respectively), which provides a point estimate of toxicity in terms of No Observed Effect Level, commonly referred to as NOEL or NOEC. A-NOEL is defined as the acute no observed effect level with survival as the end point. C-NOEL is defined as the chronic no observed effect level with survival, reproduction and growth as the end points. The critical acute and chronic thresholds were derived as the mathematical inverses of the applicable acute and chronic dilution factors of 54:1 and 354:1, respectively, for Outfalls #001A and 001B. See **Attachment B** of this permit for a copy of the Department's WET reporting form.
  - a. **Surveillance-level testing** – Beginning upon issuance of this permit and lasting through 12 months prior to permit expiration, the permittee shall conduct surveillance-level chronic WET testing at a frequency of once every year (1/Year) in different calendar quarters. Chronic tests shall be conducted on the sea urchin (*Arbacia punctulata*).

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

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

#### **FOOTNOTES:**

Toxicity tests must be conducted by an experienced laboratory approved by the Department. The laboratory must follow procedures as described in the following USEPA methods manuals.

1. Short Term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluent and Receiving Water to Marine and Estuarine Organisms, Third Edition, October 2002, EPA-821-R-02-014.

**The permittee is also required to analyze the effluent for the nine (9) parameters specified in the WET chemistry section, and the twelve (12) parameters specified in the analytical chemistry section of the form in Attachment A of this permit each time a WET test is performed.**

Test results must be submitted to the Department not later than the next Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) required by the permit, provided, however, that the permittee may review the toxicity reports for up to 10 business days of their availability before submitting them. The permittee shall evaluate test results being submitted and identify to the Department, possible exceedences of the acute, chronic or human health AWQC as established in *Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants*, 06-096 CMR 584 (effective October 9, 2005). For the purposes of DMR reporting, enter a "1" for yes, testing done this monitoring period or "NODI-9" monitoring not required this period.

# **ATTACHMENT A**



**Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
WET and Chemical Specific Data Report Form**

**This form is for reporting laboratory data and facility information. Official compliance reviews will be done by DEP.**

Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_

MEPDES # \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Representative Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Pipe # \_\_\_\_\_

To the best of my knowledge this information is true, accurate and complete.

Licensed Flow (MGD) \_\_\_\_\_

Acute dilution factor \_\_\_\_\_

Chronic dilution factor \_\_\_\_\_

Human health dilution factor \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria type: M(arine) or F(resh) \_\_\_\_\_

**M**Flow for Day (MGD)<sup>(1)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_Flow Avg. for Month (MGD)<sup>(2)</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Date Sample Collected \_\_\_\_\_

Date Sample Analyzed \_\_\_\_\_

Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Lab Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Lab ID # \_\_\_\_\_

**ERROR WARNING !** Essential facility  
information is missing. Please check  
required entries in bold above.

**MARINE AND ESTUARY VERSION**

Please see the footnotes on the last page.

Receiving  
Water or  
Ambient**Effluent Concentration**  
(ug/L or as noted)

WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY					Receiving Water or Ambient	Effluent Concentration (ug/L or as noted)	WET Result, % Do not enter % sign	Reporting Limit Check	Possible Exceedence <sup>(7)</sup>			
		Effluent Limits, %		Acute					Chronic	Acute	Chronic	
		Acute	Chronic									
	Mysid Shrimp											
	Sea Urchin											
<b>WET CHEMISTRY</b>												
	pH (S.U.) <sup>(9)</sup>					(8)						
	Total Organic Carbon (mg/L)					NA						
	Total Solids (mg/L)					NA						
	Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)					NA						
	Salinity (ppt.)											
<b>ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY <sup>(3)</sup></b>												
	Also do these tests on the effluent with WET. Testing on the receiving water is optional	Reporting Limit	Effluent Limits, ug/L					Reporting Limit Check	Possible Exceedence <sup>(7)</sup>			
			Acute <sup>(6)</sup>	Chronic <sup>(6)</sup>	Health <sup>(6)</sup>				Acute	Chronic	Health	
	TOTAL RESIDUAL CHLORINE (mg/L) <sup>(9)</sup>	0.05				NA						
	AMMONIA	NA				(8)						
M	ALUMINUM	NA				(8)						
M	ARSENIC	5				(8)						
M	CADMIUM	1				(8)						
M	CHROMIUM	10				(8)						
M	COPPER	3				(8)						
M	CYANIDE	5				(8)						
M	LEAD	3				(8)						
M	NICKEL	5				(8)						
M	SILVER	1				(8)						
M	ZINC	5				(8)						

**Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
WET and Chemical Specific Data Report Form**

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PRIORITY POLLUTANTS <sup>(4)</sup>		Effluent Limits				Reporting Limit Check	Possible Exceedence <sup>(7)</sup>		
	Reporting Limit	Acute <sup>(6)</sup>	Chronic <sup>(6)</sup>	Health <sup>(6)</sup>	Acute		Chronic	Health	
M	ANTIMONY	5							
M	BERYLLIUM	2							
M	MERCURY (5)	0.2							
M	SELENIUM	5							
M	THALLIUM	4							
A	2,4,6-TRICHLOROPHENOL	3							
A	2,4-DICHLOROPHENOL	5							
A	2,4-DIMETHYLPHENOL	5							
A	2,4-DINITROPHENOL	45							
A	2-CHLOROPHENOL	5							
A	2-NITROPHENOL	5							
A	4,6 DINITRO-O-CRESOL (2-Methyl-4,6-dinitrophenol)	25							
A	4-NITROPHENOL	20							
A	P-CHLORO-M-CRESOL (3-methyl-4-chlorophenol)+B80	5							
A	PENTACHLOROPHENOL	20							
A	PHENOL	5							
BN	1,2,4-TRICHLOROBENZENE	5							
BN	1,2-(O)DICHLOROBENZENE	5							
BN	1,2-DIPHENYLHYDRAZINE	10							
BN	1,3-(M)DICHLOROBENZENE	5							
BN	1,4-(P)DICHLOROBENZENE	5							
BN	2,4-DINITROTOLUENE	6							
BN	2,6-DINITROTOLUENE	5							
BN	2-CHLORONAPHTHALENE	5							
BN	3,3'-DICHLOROBENZIDINE	16.5							
BN	3,4-BENZO(B)FLUORANTHENE	5							
BN	4-BROMOPHENYLPHENYL ETHER	2							
BN	4-CHLOROPHENYL PHENYL ETHER	5							
BN	ACENAPHTHENE	5							
BN	ACENAPHTHYLENE	5							
BN	ANTHRACENE	5							
BN	BENZIDINE	45							
BN	BENZO(A)ANTHRACENE	8							
BN	BENZO(A)PYRENE	3							
BN	BENZO(G,H,I)PERYLENE	5							
BN	BENZO(K)FLUORANTHENE	3							
BN	BIS(2-CHLOROETHOXY)METHANE	5							
BN	BIS(2-CHLOROETHYL)ETHER	6							
BN	BIS(2-CHLOROISOPROPYL)ETHER	6							
BN	BIS(2-ETHYLHEXYL)PHTHALATE	3							
BN	BUTYLBENZYL PHTHALATE	5							
BN	CHRYSENE	3							
BN	DI-N-BUTYL PHTHALATE	5							
BN	DI-N-OCTYL PHTHALATE	5							
BN	DIBENZO(A,H)ANTHRACENE	5							
BN	DIETHYL PHTHALATE	5							
BN	DIMETHYL PHTHALATE	5							

**Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
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BN	FLUORANTHENE	5									
BN	FLUORENE	5									
BN	HEXACHLOROBENZENE	2									
BN	HEXACHLOROBUTADIENE	1									
BN	HEXACHLOROCYCLOPENTADIENE	10									
BN	HEXACHLOROETHANE	2									
BN	INDENO(1,2,3-CD)PYRENE	5									
BN	ISOPHORONE	5									
BN	N-NITROSODI-N-PROPYLAMINE	10									
BN	N-NITROSODIMETHYLAMINE	1									
BN	N-NITROSODIPHENYLAMINE	5									
BN	NAPHTHALENE	5									
BN	NITROBENZENE	5									
BN	PHENANTHRENE	5									
BN	PYRENE	5									
P	4,4'-DDD	0.05									
P	4,4'-DDE	0.05									
P	4,4'-DDT	0.05									
P	A-BHC	0.2									
P	A-ENDOSULFAN	0.05									
P	ALDRIN	0.15									
P	B-BHC	0.05									
P	B-ENDOSULFAN	0.05									
P	CHLORDANE	0.1									
P	D-BHC	0.05									
P	DIELDRIN	0.05									
P	ENDOSULFAN SULFATE	0.1									
P	ENDRIN	0.05									
P	ENDRIN ALDEHYDE	0.05									
P	G-BHC	0.15									
P	HEPTACHLOR	0.15									
P	HEPTACHLOR EPOXIDE	0.1									
P	PCB-1016	0.3									
P	PCB-1221	0.3									
P	PCB-1232	0.3									
P	PCB-1242	0.3									
P	PCB-1248	0.3									
P	PCB-1254	0.3									
P	PCB-1260	0.2									
P	TOXAPHENE	1									
V	1,1,1-TRICHLOROETHANE	5									
V	1,1,1,2-TETRACHLOROETHANE	7									
V	1,1,2-TRICHLOROETHANE	5									
V	1,1-DICHLOROETHANE	5									
V	1,1-DICHLOROETHYLENE (1,1-dichloroethene)	3									
V	1,2-DICHLOROETHANE	3									
V	1,2-DICHLOROPROPANE	6									
V	1,2-TRANS-DICHLOROETHYLENE (1,2-trans-dichloroethene)	5									
V	1,3-DICHLOROPROPYLENE (1,3-dichloropropene)	5									
V	2-CHLOROETHYL VINYL ETHER	20									

**Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
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V	ACROLEIN	NA									
V	ACRYLONITRILE	NA									
V	BENZENE	5									
V	BROMOFORM	5									
V	CARBON TETRACHLORIDE	5									
V	CHLOROBENZENE	6									
V	CHLORODIBROMOMETHANE	3									
V	CHLOROETHANE	5									
V	CHLOROFORM	5									
V	DICHLOROBROMOMETHANE	3									
V	ETHYLBENZENE	10									
V	METHYL BROMIDE (Bromomethane)	5									
V	METHYL CHLORIDE (Chloromethane)	5									
V	METHYLENE CHLORIDE	5									
	TETRACHLOROETHYLENE (Perchloroethylene or Tetrachloroethene)	5									
V	TOLUENE	5									
V	TRICHLOROETHYLENE (Trichloroethene)	3									
V	VINYL CHLORIDE	5									

**Notes:**

- (1) Flow average for day pertains to WET/PP composite sample day.
- (2) Flow average for month is for month in which WET/PP sample was taken.
- (3) Analytical chemistry parameters must be done as part of the WET test chemistry.
- (4) Priority Pollutants should be reported in micrograms per liter (ug/L).
- (5) Mercury is often reported in nanograms per liter (ng/L) by the contract laboratory, so be sure to convert to micrograms per liter on this spreadsheet.
- (6) Effluent Limits are calculated based on dilution factor, background allocation (10%) and water quality reserves (15% - to allow for new or changed discharges or non-point sources).
- (7) Possible Exceedence determinations are done for a single sample only on a mass basis using the actual pounds discharged. This analysis does not consider watershed wide allocations for fresh water discharges.
- (8) These tests are optional for the receiving water. However, where possible samples of the receiving water should be preserved and saved for the duration of the WET test. In the event of questions about the receiving water's possible effect on the WET results, chemistry tests should then be conducted.
- (9) pH and Total Residual Chlorine must be conducted at the time of sample collection. Tests for Total Residual Chlorine need be conducted only when an effluent has been chlorinated or residual chlorine is believed to be present for any other reason.

Comments:

## **ATTACHMENT B**

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY REPORT  
MARINE WATERS**

Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_ MEPDES Permit # \_\_\_\_\_  
Pipe # \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this form, I attest that to the best of my knowledge that the information provided is true, accurate, and complete.

Facility Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Collected \_\_\_\_\_ Date Tested \_\_\_\_\_  
mm/dd/yy mm/dd/yy

Chlorinated? \_\_\_\_\_ Dechlorinated? \_\_\_\_\_

Results		% effluent	Effluent Limitations	
		mysis shrimp	sea urchin	
A-NOEL				A-NOEL
C-NOEL				C-NOEL

Data summary		mysis shrimp	sea urchin	Salinity Adjustment
		% survival	% fertilized	
QC standard		>90	>70	
lab control				brine
receiving water control				sea salt
conc. 1 ( %)				other
conc. 2 ( %)				
conc. 3 ( %)				
conc. 4 ( %)				
conc. 5 ( %)				
conc. 6 ( %)				
stat test used				

place \* next to values statistically different from controls

Reference toxicant	mysis shrimp	sea urchin
	A-NOEL	C-NOEL
toxicant / date		
limits (mg/L)		
results (mg/L)		

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

**Laboratory conducting test**

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company Rep. Name (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ Company Rep. Signature \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Company Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Report WET chemistry on DEP Form "ToxSheet (Marine Version), March 2007."

**MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT**

**AND**

**MAINE WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE**

**FACT SHEET**

**August 26, 2010**

PERMIT NUMBER: **ME0002160**

LICENSE NUMBER: **W000598-5N-K-M**

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT

**VERSO BUCKSPORT LLC  
2 River Road  
Bucksport, Maine 04415**

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

**BUCKSPORT MILL  
River Road  
Bucksport, Maine 04416**

COUNTY: **Hancock**

RECEIVING WATERS/CLASSIFICATIONS: **Penobscot River / Class SC**

COGNIZANT OFFICIAL AND TELEPHONE NUMBER:

**Cintya Bailey  
(207)469-1679**

**[cintya.bailey@versopaper.com](mailto:cintya.bailey@versopaper.com)**

**1. MODIFICATION SUMMARY**

This permitting action is establishing surveillance-level Whole Effluent Toxicity testing requirements and a numerical limitation for the sea urchin (*Arbacia punctulata*).

**2. SOURCE DESCRIPTION**

The permittee is engaged in the manufacturing of approximately 1,937 machine finished tons of lightweight coated fine papers per day.

### 3. PERMIT EFFLUENT LIMITS

#### Current effluent limits

Special Condition A(1), *Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements*, waived the permittee's Level III surveillance-level WET testing requirements for the sea urchin in accordance with 06-096 CMR 530 (2)(D)(3)(b).

#### Revised effluent limits

The Department's re-evaluation of the permittee's WET data indicates that samples analyzed on 6/21/09 (0.28%) and 11/17/09 (0.28%) demonstrate a reasonable potential to exceed the Chronic No Observed Effect Level (C-NOEL) for the sea urchin. Therefore, in accordance with Special Condition J, *Reopening of Permit for Modifications*, this permitting action is establishing a C-NOEL numerical limit of 0.28% for the sea urchin and a surveillance-level monitoring frequency of 1 per year (1/YR) in accordance with 06-096 CMR 530(2)(D)(1). A summary of the permittee's WET results are included as **Attachment A** of this Fact Sheet. It is noted in the summary that C-NOEL results for the sea urchin indicate the permittee exceeded the chronic AWQC of 0.282%; however, this is an artifact of rounding-off the reported test results to two significant figures (0.28%) instead of three.

The permittee is required to analyze the effluent for the nine (9) parameters specified in the WET chemistry section and the twelve (12) parameters specified in the analytical chemistry section on the "WET and Chemical Specific Data Report Form" included as **Attachment A** of this permit each time a WET test is performed.

A summary of the permittee's WET surveillance-level testing requirements is below:

Surveillance-level testing – Beginning upon issuance of the permit and lasting through 12 months prior to permit expiration:

Level	Sea Urchin
III	1/Year

### 4. CONDITIONS OF PERMITS

*Conditions of licenses*, 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, *Certain deposits and discharges prohibited*, 38 M.R.S.A., § 420 and 06-096 CMR 530 require the regulation of toxic substances not to exceed levels set forth in *Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants*, 06-096 CMR 584 (effective October 9, 2005), and that ensure safe levels for the discharge of toxic pollutants such that existing and designated uses of surface waters are maintained and protected.



## 5. DISCHARGE IMPACT ON RECEIVING WATER QUALITY

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

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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 *Application Processing Procedures for Waste Discharge Licenses*, 06-096 CMR 522 (effective January 12, 2001).

## 7. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

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

Phyllis A. Rand  
Division of Water Quality Management  
Bureau of Land & Water Quality  
Department of Environmental Protection  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017 Telephone: (207) 287-7658 Fax: (207) 287-3435  
e-mail: [phyllis.a.rand@maine.gov](mailto:phyllis.a.rand@maine.gov)

## 8. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

During the period of July 15, 2010, through the issuance date of the permit/license, the Department solicited comments on the proposed draft Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit to be issued to the permittee for the proposed discharges. The Department received one significant comment on the draft permit from the permittee in correspondence to the Department dated July 20, 2010. The significant comment and Department response is as follows:

**Comment:** Verso Paper does not have an issue with the WET surveillance level testing frequency; however, we would like to discuss with [the] department the statistical analysis method being used for the Chronic Toxicity test for Sea Urchin (NOEL/NOEC). It is our understanding that the use of this specific statistical method (Hypothesis Test) can lead to misleading test results, and it is not the preferred method recommended by the EPA or NCASI. The hypothesis test highlights statistical differences in response among various concentrations, but it does not necessarily translate into biologically significant differences with effluent exposure.

## **8. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS (cont'd)**

**Department Response:** The Department is not prepared to accept an IC25 for an endpoint for WET tests. The Department agrees that a sea urchin test whose result is significantly different than that of the controls but at an effects level of <10% is probably not biologically significant, and would agree the Department should not use such a result to justify any increased monitoring or permit limit. Further, it is the Department's understanding that the Environmental Protection Agency is providing statistics packages for both the traditional Technical Support Document and the newer Test of Significant Toxicity approach. The Department (Division of Environmental Assessment) may convene a group of WET test labs and other interested parties to discuss a change in the Department's current hypothesis testing approach upon receiving the statistical packages from the EPA.

# **ATTACHMENT A**



## FACILITY WET EVALUATION REPORT

**Facility:** INTERNATIONAL PAPER - BUCKSPORT

**Permit Number:** ME0002160

**Report Date:** 6/25/2010

**Receiving Water:** PENOBSCOT RIVER

**Rapidmix:** ?

**Dilution Factors:** 1/4 Acute: 54.000

Acute: 54.000

Chronic: 354

**Effluent Limits:** Acute (%): 7.407

Chronic (%): 0.282

**Date range for Evaluation:** From 25/Jun/2005 To: 25/Jun/2010

**Test Type:** A\_NOEL

**Test Species:** MYSID SHRIMP

**Test Date**

11/17/2008

06/21/2009

**Result (%)**

50.000

50.000

**Status**

OK

OK

**Species Summary:**

**Test Number:** 2

**RP:** 3.800

**Min Result (%):** 50.000

**RP factor (%):** 13.158

**Status:** OK

**Test Type:** C\_NOEL

**Test Species:** SEA URCHIN

**Test Date**

11/17/2008

06/21/2009

**Result (%)**

0.280

0.280

**Status**

EXC

EXC

**Species Summary:**

**Test Number:** 2

**RP:** 3.800

**Min Result (%):** 0.280

**RP factor (%):** 0.074

**Status:** EXC

**Test Type:** A\_NOEL

**Test Species:** WATER FLEA

**Test Date**

10/16/2005

**Result (%)**

100.000

**Status**

OK

**Species Summary:**

**Test Number:** 1

**RP:** 6.200

**Min Result (%):** 100.000

**RP factor (%):** 16.129

**Status:** OK

**Test Type:** C\_NOEL

**Test Species:** WATER FLEA

**Test Date**

10/16/2005

**Result (%)**

10.000

**Status**

OK

**Species Summary:**

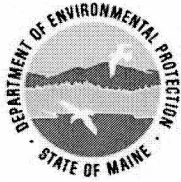
**Test Number:** 1

**RP:** 6.200

**Min Result (%):** 10.000

**RP factor (%):** 1.613

**Status:** OK



# 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.

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**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.**

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