



STATE OF MAINE
Department of Environmental Protection

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

Patricia W. Aho
COMMISSIONER

November 25, 2014

Ms. Cindi Eaton Heanssler
Environmental Engineer
Verso Paper
P. O. Box 1200, 2 River Rd.
Bucksport, ME 04416

RE: Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit #ME0002160
Maine Waste Discharge License W000598-5N-O-M
Minor Revision

Dear Ms. Heanssler:

Enclosed please find a copy of your **final MEPDES permit/WDL minor revision** which was approved by the Department of Environmental Protection. Please read the permit 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,

Gregg Wood
Division of Water Quality Management
Bureau of Land and Water Quality

Enc.

cc: Clarissa Trasko, DEP/EMRO
Sandy Mojica, USEPA

Matthew Young, DEP/EMRO
Olga Vergara, USEPA

Lori Mitchell, DEP/CMRO
Marelyn Vega, USEPA

AUGUSTA
17 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017
(207) 287-3901 FAX: (207) 287-3435
RAY BLDG., HOSPITAL ST.

BANGOR
106 HOGAN ROAD
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312 CANCO ROAD
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103
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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 PAPER)	MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
BUCKSPORT, HANCOCK COUNTY, MAINE)	ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
INDUSTRIAL PROCESS WASTEWATER)	AND
ME0002160)	WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE
W000598-5N-O-M)	MINOR REVISION
	APPROVAL	

Pursuant to the provisions of Maine Law 38 M.R.S.A., Section 414-A et seq., and applicable regulations, the Department of Environmental Protection (hereinafter Department) has considered a request by VERSO PAPER (hereinafter permittee) to modify Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit #ME0002160/WDL #W000598-5N-J-R which was issued by the Department on January 7, 2010. With its supportive data, agency review comments, and other related materials on file, the Department FINDS THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

MODIFICATIONS REQUESTED

The permittee has requested the Department modify the above referenced permit to reduce the monitoring frequency for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solid (TSS) from 5/week to 1/week during the post shutdown of pulp and paper production at the Bucksport mill beginning on or about December 2, 2014.

MODIFICATIONS GRANTED/DENIED

Given the pollutant loading to the waste water treatment facility will be negligible during the post shutdown period, the permittee's request to reduce the monitoring frequencies for BOD and TSS is acceptable to the Department.

CONCLUSIONS

BASED on the findings on page one of this minor revision, 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 MRSA § 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 natural resource, that water quality will be maintained and protected;
 - c. 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 MEPDES permit #ME0002160/WDL #W000598-5N-J-R which was issued to VERSO BUCKSPORT LLC by the Department on January 7, 2010, 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 to #ME0002160/WDL #W000598-5N-J-R dated January 7, 2010.
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, and any subsequent modifications thereto 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. It is noted Verso Paper has submitted a timely and complete application to the Department on August 21, 2014, to renew the permit. As a result, the terms and conditions of the permit dated January 7, 2010, and all subsequent modifications and minor revisions thereto remain in effect until a final Department decision on the renewal application becomes effective.

DONE AND DATED AT AUGUSTA, MAINE, THIS 25th DAY OF November 2014.

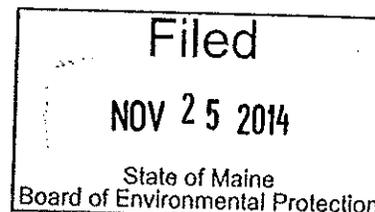
COMMISSIONER OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BY: Michael Kuhns
For Patricia W. Aho, Commissioner

PLEASE NOTE ATTACHED SHEET FOR GUIDANCE ON APPEAL PROCEDURES

Date of initiation: November 18, 2014

Date of acceptance November 18, 2014



Date filed with Board of Environmental Protection _____

This Order prepared by GREGG WOOD, BUREAU OF LAND & WATER QUALITY

ME0002160 2014 MR

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

1. Beginning the effective date of the minor revision, the permittee is authorized to discharge secondary treated wastewater to the Penobscot River via **Outfall #001A and Outfall #001B**. Such treated wastewater discharges shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below.

Outfall #001A and Outfall #001B

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations						Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average as specified	Weekly Average as specified	Daily Maximum as specified	Monthly Average as specified	Weekly Average as specified	Daily Maximum as specified	Measurement Frequency as specified	Sample Type as specified
Flow [50050]	18.0 MGD [03]	---	---	---	---	---	Continuous [99/99]	Recorder [RC]
BOD ₅ ⁽¹⁾ <i>June 1 – October 31</i>	3,100 lbs/day [26]	---	10,000 lbs/day [26]	Report mg/L [19]	---	Report mg/L [19]	1/Week [01/07]	Composite [24]
<i>November 1 – May 31</i> [00310]	6,160 lbs/day [26]	---	14,800 lbs/day [26]	Report mg/L [19]	---	Report mg/L [19]	1/Week [01/07]	Composite [24]
TSS ⁽¹⁾ [00530]	9,300 lbs/day [26]	---	26,000 lbs/day [26]	Report mg/L [19]	---	Report mg/L [19]	1/Week [01/07]	Composite [24]
pH ⁽²⁾ [00400]	---	---	---	---	---	5.0 – 9.0 SU [12]	Continuous [99/99]	Recorder [RC]

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

FOOTNOTES: See Pages 8-10 of for the applicable footnotes MEPDES permit #ME0002160/WDL #W000598-5N-J-R dated January 7, 2010.



DEP INFORMATION SHEET

Appealing a Department Licensing Decision

Dated: March 2012

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. An aggrieved person seeking review of a licensing decision over which the Board had original jurisdiction may seek judicial review in Maine's Superior Court.

A judicial appeal of final action by the Commissioner or the Board regarding an application for an expedited wind energy development (35-A M.R.S.A. § 3451(4)) or a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project (38 M.R.S.A. § 480-HH(1)) or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project (38 M.R.S.A. § 636-A) must be taken to the Supreme Judicial Court sitting as the Law Court.

This INFORMATION SHEET, in conjunction with a review of the statutory and regulatory provisions referred to herein, can help a person to understand his or her rights and obligations in filing an administrative or judicial appeal.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TO THE BOARD

LEGAL REFERENCES

The laws concerning the DEP's *Organization and Powers*, 38 M.R.S.A. §§ 341-D(4) & 346, the *Maine Administrative Procedure Act*, 5 M.R.S.A. § 11001, and the DEP's *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters* ("Chapter 2"), 06-096 CMR 2 (April 1, 2003).

HOW LONG YOU HAVE TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD

The Board must receive a written appeal within 30 days of the date on which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board. Appeals filed after 30 calendar days of the date on which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board 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 the Board's 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 a copy of the appeal documents and if the person appealing is not the applicant in the license proceeding at issue the applicant must also be sent a copy of the appeal documents. All of 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

Appeal materials must contain the following information at the time submitted:

1. *Aggrieved Status.* The appeal must explain how the person filing the appeal has standing to maintain an appeal. This requires an explanation of how the person filing the appeal may suffer a particularized injury as a result of 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 on the appeal 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, referred to as supplemental evidence, to be considered by the Board in an appeal only when the evidence is relevant and material and that 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 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.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS IN APPEALING A DECISION TO THE BOARD

1. *Be familiar with all relevant material in the DEP record.* A license application file is public information, subject to any applicable statutory exceptions, 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.* If a license has been granted and it has been appealed the license normally remains in effect pending the processing of the appeal. A license holder may proceed with a project pending the outcome of an appeal but the license holder 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 receipt of an appeal, including the name of the DEP project manager assigned to the specific appeal. The notice of appeal, any materials accepted by the Board Chair as supplementary evidence, and any materials submitted in response to the appeal will be sent to Board members with a recommendation from DEP staff. Persons filing appeals and interested persons are notified in advance of the 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 or remand the matter to the Commissioner for further proceedings. The Board will notify the appellant, a license holder, and interested persons of its decision.

II. JUDICIAL APPEALS

Maine law generally allows aggrieved persons to appeal final Commissioner or Board licensing decisions to Maine's Superior Court, see 38 M.R.S.A. § 346(1); 06-096 CMR 2; 5 M.R.S.A. § 11001; & M.R. Civ. P 80C. A party's appeal must be filed with the Superior Court within 30 days of receipt of notice of the Board's or the Commissioner's decision. For any other person, an appeal must be filed within 40 days of the date the decision was rendered. Failure to file a timely appeal will result in the Board's or the Commissioner's decision becoming final.

An appeal to court of a license decision regarding an expedited wind energy development, a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project, or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project may only be taken directly to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. See 38 M.R.S.A. § 346(4).

Maine's Administrative Procedure Act, DEP statutes governing a particular matter, and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure must be consulted for the substantive and procedural details applicable to judicial appeals.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions or need additional information on the appeal process, for administrative appeals contact the Board's Executive Analyst at (207) 287-2452 or for judicial appeals contact the court clerk's office in which your appeal will be filed.

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.
