



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

PATRICIA W. AHO  
COMMISSIONER

September 3, 2015

Mr. Andre Gendreau  
Grand Isle WWTP  
P.O. Box 72  
Grand Isle, ME 04746  
[andre\\_h@0@yahoo.com](mailto:andre_h@0@yahoo.com)

*Sent via electronic mail  
Delivery confirmation requested*

**RE: Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit #ME0102318  
Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) Application # W007713-6B-F-R  
Finalized MEPDES Permit**

Dear Mr. Gendreau:

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 this 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.*"

Comments in writing should be submitted to my attention at the following address:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Water Quality  
Division of Water Quality Management  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0017  
[Aaron.A.Dumont@maine.gov](mailto:Aaron.A.Dumont@maine.gov)

AUGUSTA  
17 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017  
(207) 287-7688 FAX: (207) 287-7826

BANGOR  
106 HOGAN ROAD, SUITE 6  
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  
(207) 764-0477 FAX: (207) 760-3143

Grand Isle WWTP  
September 3, 2015  
Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Aaron Dumont".

Aaron Dumont  
Division of Water Quality Management  
Bureau of Water Quality

Enclosure

cc:

Sean Bernard, DEP/NMRO  
Lori Mitchell, DEP/CMRO  
Olga Vergara, EPA  
Sandy Mojica, EPA



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
17 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017

DEPARTMENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF

TOWN OF GRAND ISLE	)	MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
GRAND ISLE, AROOSTOOK COUNTY, MAINE	)	ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS	)	AND
ME0102318	)	WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE
W007713-6B-F-R	)	<b>RENEWAL</b>
<b>APPROVAL</b>	)	

In compliance with the provisions of the *Federal Water Pollution Control Act*, Title 33 U.S.C. § 1251, *Conditions of licenses*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 414-A, and applicable regulations, the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has considered the application of the TOWN OF GRAND ISLE (TOWN), with its supportive data, agency review comments, and other related materials on file and FINDS THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

**APPLICATION SUMMARY**

On March 17, 2015, the Department accepted as complete for processing an application from the Town for the renewal of combination Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit ME0102318/ Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) W007713-6B-D-R, which was issued by the Department on May 4, 2010 and expired on May 4, 2015. The permit approved the discharge of a monthly average flow of 0.08 million gallons per day (MGD) of secondary treated wastewater from a municipal wastewater treatment facility to the St. John River, Class C, in Grand Isle, Maine.

**PERMIT SUMMARY**

This permitting action is carrying forward all the terms and conditions of the May 4, 2010, permitting action except that it is:

- 1) Eliminating the waiver to achieve 85 percent removal of both biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids when the influent strength is less than 200 mg/L.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings summarized in the attached Fact Sheet dated August 26, 2015, and subject to the special and standard conditions that follow, 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, *Classification of Maine waters*, 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 natural 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 *Conditions of licenses* 38 M.R.S.A. § 414-A(1)(D).

**ACTION**

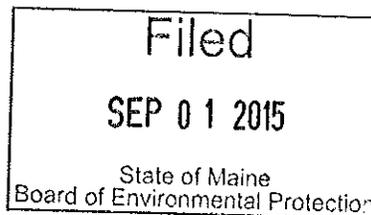
Based on the findings and conclusions as stated above, the Department APPROVES the above noted application of the TOWN OF GRAND ISLE to discharge a monthly average of 0.08 MGD of secondary treated municipal wastewater to the St. John River in Grand Isle, Maine, SUBJECT TO THE ATTACHED CONDITIONS, and 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 the date of signature below and expires at midnight five (5) years after that date. If a renewal application is timely submitted and accepted as complete for processing prior to the expiration of this permit, the terms and conditions of this permit and all subsequent modifications and minor revisions thereto remain in effect until a final Department decision on the renewal application becomes effective. *Maine Administrative Procedure Act*, 5 M.R.S.A. § 10002 and *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters*, 06-096 CMR 2(21)(A) (amended August 25, 2013).

DONE AND DATED AT AUGUSTA, MAINE, THIS 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF September 2015.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BY: Michael Kuhns  
for PATRICIA W. AHO, Commissioner



Date filed with Board of Environmental Protection \_\_\_\_\_

Date of initial receipt of application March 16, 2015

Date of application acceptance March 17, 2015

This Order prepared by Aaron Dumont, BUREAU OF WATER QUALITY

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

**A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

1. The permittee is authorized to discharge secondary treated sanitary wastewater from **Outfall #001** to the St. John River in Grand Isle. Such discharges are limited and must be monitored by the permittee as specified below<sup>(1)</sup>:

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations						Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Daily Maximum	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Daily Maximum	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Flow [50050]	0.08 MGD [03]	---	Report MGD [03]	---	---	---	Continuous [99/99]	Recorder [RC]
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD <sub>5</sub> ) [00310]	20 lbs/day [26]	30 lbs/day [26]	33 lbs/day [26]	30 mg/L [19]	45 mg/L [19]	50 mg/L [19]	1/Week [01/07]	Composite [24]
BOD <sub>5</sub> % Removal <sup>(2)</sup> [81010]	---	---	---	85% [23]	---	---	1/Month [01/30]	Calculate [CA]
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) [00530]	20 lbs/day [26]	30 lbs/day [26]	33 lbs/day [26]	30 mg/L [19]	45 mg/L [19]	50 mg/L [19]	1/Week [01/07]	Composite [24]
TSS % Removal <sup>(2)</sup> [81011]	---	---	---	85% [23]	---	---	1/Month [01/30]	Calculate [CA]
Settleable Solids [00545]	---	---	---	---	---	0.3 ml/L [25]	5/Week [05/07]	Grab [GR]
<i>E. coli</i> Bacteria <sup>(3,4)</sup> [31633] May 15 – September 30	---	---	---	126 col/100 ml <sup>(5)</sup> [13]	---	949 col/100 ml [13]	3/Week [03/07]	Grab [GR]
Total Residual Chlorine <sup>(5)</sup> [50060]	---	---	---	---	---	1.0 mg/L [19]	1/Day [01/01]	Grab [GR]
pH (Std. Unit) [00400]	---	---	---	---	---	6.0 – 9.0 SU [12]	5/Week [05/07]	Grab [GR]
Mercury (Total) <sup>(6)</sup> [71900]	---	---	---	---	4.5 ng/L [3M]	6.8 ng/L [3M]	1/Year [01/YR]	Grab [GR]

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

#### FOOTNOTES

1. **Sampling** – Influent sampling must be conducted at the headworks building influent channel. Effluent sampling must be sampled at the end of the chlorine contact chamber but prior to the discharge pipe. Any change in sampling location must be approved by the Department in writing. The permittee must conduct sampling and analysis in accordance with; a) methods approved by 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 must be analyzed by a laboratory certified by the State of Maine's Department of Health and Human Services for wastewater. Samples that are sent to a 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 (effective April 1, 2010). 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 this permit, the results of this monitoring must be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the Discharge Monitoring Report.
2. **Percent Removal** - The permittee must achieve a minimum of 85 percent removal of both total suspended solids and biochemical oxygen demand for all flows receiving secondary treatment. The percent removal is calculated based on monthly average influent concentrations and the monthly average effluent concentrations.
3. **Bacteria Limits** – *E. coli* 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 year-round bacteria limits to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.
4. **Bacteria Reporting** – The monthly average *E. coli* bacteria limitation is a geometric mean limitation and sample results must be reported as such.
5. **TRC Monitoring** – Limitations and monitoring requirements are in effect any time elemental chlorine or chlorine-based compounds are utilized to disinfect the discharge(s). The permittee must utilize a USEPA-approved test method capable of bracketing the TRC limitations specified in this permitting action. Monitoring for TRC is only required when elemental chlorine or chlorine-based compounds are in use for effluent disinfection. For instances when a facility has not disinfected with chlorine-based compounds for an entire reporting period, the facility must report "NODI-9" for this parameter on the monthly DMR or "N9" if the submittal is an electronic DMR.
6. **Mercury** – The permittee must conduct all mercury sampling required by this permit to determine compliance with interim limitations established pursuant to 06-096 CMR 519 in accordance with the USEPA's "clean sampling techniques" found in USEPA Method 1669, *Sampling Ambient Water For Trace Metals At EPA Water Quality Criteria Levels*. All mercury analysis must be conducted in accordance with USEPA Method 1631, *Determination of Mercury*

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

*in Water by Oxidation, Purge and Trap, and Cold Vapor Fluorescence Spectrometry.* See Attachment A of this permit for the Department reporting form for mercury test results. Compliance with the monthly average limitation established in Special Condition A.1 of this permit will be based on the cumulative arithmetic mean of all mercury tests results that were conducted utilizing sampling Methods 1669 and analysis Method 1631E on file with the Department for this facility.

### B. NARRATIVE EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

1. The permittee must not discharge effluent that contains a visible oil sheen, foam or floating solids at any time which would impair the uses designated for the classification of the receiving waters.
2. The permittee must not discharge effluent that contains materials in concentrations or combinations which are hazardous or toxic to aquatic life, or which would impair the uses designated for the classification of the receiving waters.
3. The permittee must not discharge wastewater that causes visible discoloration or turbidity in the receiving waters that causes those waters to be unsuitable for the designated uses and characteristics ascribed to their class.
4. The permittee must not discharge effluent that lowers the quality of any classified body of water below such classification, or lowers the existing quality of any body of water if the existing quality is higher than the classification.

### C. TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

The treatment facility must be operated by a person holding a minimum of a **Grade II** certificate (or Registered Maine Professional Engineer) pursuant to *Sewerage Treatment Operators*, 32 M.R.S.A. §§ 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.

### D. LIMITATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL USERS

Pollutants introduced into the wastewater collection and treatment system by a non-domestic source (user) must not pass through or interfere with the operation of the treatment system. The permittee must conduct an Industrial Waste Survey (IWS) any time a new industrial user proposes to discharge within its jurisdiction; an existing user proposes to make a significant change in its discharge; or at an alternative minimum, once every permit cycle and submit the results to the Department. The IWS must identify, in terms of character and volume of pollutants, any Significant Industrial Users discharging into the POTW subject to Pretreatment Standards under section 307(b) of the federal Clean Water Act, 40 CFR Part 403 (general pretreatment regulations) or *Pretreatment Program*, 06-096 CMR 528 (last amended March 17, 2008).

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### 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 March 17, 2015; 2) the terms and conditions of this permit; and 3) only from Outfall #001. Discharges of wastewater from any other point source(s) are not authorized under this permit, and must be reported in accordance with Standard Condition B(5), *Bypasses*, of this permit.

### F. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

In accordance with Standard Condition D, the permittee must 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 in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into the wastewater collection and treatment system by a source introducing pollutants to the system at the time of permit issuance. For the purposes of this section, notice regarding substantial change must 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.

### G. WET WEATHER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The treatment facility staff must have a current written Wet Weather Flow 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 plan must conform to Department guidelines for such plans and 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 permittee must review their plan at least annually and record any necessary changes to keep the plan up to date.** The Department may require review and update of the plan as it is determined to be necessary.

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### H. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE (O&M) PLAN

The permittee must maintain a current written comprehensive Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Plan for the facility. The plan must provide a systematic approach by which the permittee must 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 must 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 must 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 must submit the updated O&M Plan to their Department inspector for review and comment.

### I. 06-096 CMR 530(2)(D)(4) STATEMENT FOR REDUCED/WAIVED TOXICS TESTING

**By December 31 of each calendar year,** the permittee must provide the Department with a certification describing any of the following that have occurred since the effective date of this permit [ICIS Code 75305]. See Attachment B of the permit for an acceptable certification form to satisfy this Special Condition.

- a. Changes in the number or types of non-domestic wastes contributed directly or indirectly to the wastewater treatment works that may increase the toxicity of the discharge;
- b. Changes in the operation of the treatment works that may increase the toxicity of the discharge;
- c. Changes in industrial manufacturing processes contributing wastewater to the treatment works that may increase the toxicity of the discharge;

In addition, in the comments section of the certification form, the permittee must provide the Department with statements describing;

- d. Changes in stormwater collection or inflow/infiltration affecting the facility that may increase the toxicity of the discharge; and
- e. Increases in the type or volume of transported (hauled) wastes accepted by the facility.

The Department may require that annual testing be re-instated if it determines that there have been changes in the character of the discharge or if annual certifications described above are not submitted.

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### J. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Monitoring results obtained during the previous month must 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 (13<sup>th</sup>) day of the month or hand-delivered to the Department's Regional Office such that the DMRs are received by the Department on or before the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of the month** following the completed reporting period. A signed copy of the DMR and all other reports required herein must be submitted to the Department assigned inspector (unless otherwise specified by the Department) at the following address:

Department of Environmental Protection  
Northern Maine Regional Office  
Bureau of Water Quality  
Division of Water Quality Management  
1235 Skyway Park  
Presque Isle, Maine 04769

Alternatively, if the permittee submits 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 **15<sup>th</sup> 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 (13<sup>th</sup>) 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 (15<sup>th</sup>) 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the completed reporting period.

### K. SEVERABILITY

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

### L. REOPENING OF PERMIT FOR MODIFICATION

In accordance with 38 M.R.S.A. § 414-A(5) and 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 monitoring if results on file are inconclusive; or (3) change monitoring requirements or limitations based on new information.

# ATTACHMENT A



**ATTACHMENT B**



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

CHAPTER 530.2(D)(4) CERTIFICATION

PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

PATRICIA W. AHO  
Commissioner

MEPDES# \_\_\_\_\_ Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_

Since the effective date of your permit, have there been;		NO	YES Describe in comments section
1	Increases in the number, types, and flows of industrial, commercial, or domestic discharges to the facility that in the judgment of the Department may cause the receiving water to become toxic?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Changes in the condition or operations of the facility that may increase the toxicity of the discharge?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Changes in storm water collection or inflow/infiltration affecting the facility that may increase the toxicity of the discharge?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Increases in the type or volume of hauled wastes accepted by the facility?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

COMMENTS:

Name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**This document must be signed by the permittee or their legal representative.**

This form may be used to meet the requirements of Chapter 530.2(D)(4). This Chapter requires all dischargers having waived or reduced toxic testing to file a statement with the Department describing changes to the waste being contributed to their system as outlined above. As an alternative, the discharger may submit a signed letter containing the same information.

Scheduled Toxicity Testing for the next calendar year

Test Conducted	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter
WET Testing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Priority Pollutant Testing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Analytical Chemistry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other toxic parameters <sup>1</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

*Please place an "X" in each of the boxes that apply to when you will be conducting any one of the three test types during the next calendar year.*

<sup>1</sup> This only applies to parameters where testing is required at a rate less frequently than quarterly.

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

BANGOR  
106 HOGAN ROAD, SUITE 6  
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  
(207) 764-0477 FAX: (207) 760-3143

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

**FACT SHEET**

DATE: August 26, 2015  
PERMIT NUMBER: ME0102318  
WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE: W007718-6C-F-R

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

**TOWN OF GRAND ISLE  
P.O. Box 197  
GRAND ISLE, MAINE 04746**

COUNTY: AROOSTOOK

NAME AND ADDRESS WHERE DISCHARGE(S) OCCUR(S):

**TOWN OF GRAND ISLE  
U.S. ROUTE 1-826 MAIN STREET  
GRAND ISLE, MAINE 04746**

RECEIVING WATER CLASSIFICATION: ST. JOHN RIVER/CLASS C

COGNIZANT OFFICIAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

**MR. ANDRE GENDREAU  
(207) 895-9506  
andre\_h2o@yahoo.com**

**1. APPLICATION SUMMARY**

On March 17, 2015, the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) accepted as complete for processing an application from the Town of Grand Isle (Town) for the renewal of combination Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit ME0102318/ Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) W007713-6B-D-R, which was issued by the Department on May 4, 2010, and expired on May 4, 2015. The permit approved the discharge of a monthly average flow of 0.08 million gallons per day (MGD) of secondary treated wastewater from a municipal wastewater treatment facility to the St. John River, Class C, in Grand Isle, Maine.

## 2. PERMIT SUMMARY

a. Terms and Conditions:

This permitting action is carrying forward all the terms and conditions of the May 4, 2010 permitting action except that it is:

- 1) Eliminating the waiver to achieve 85 percent removal of both biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids when the influent strength is less than 200 mg/L.

b. History: This section provides a summary of recent/significant licensing and permitting actions and other significant regulatory actions completed for the Town's wastewater treatment facility.:

*March 24, 1993* – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit #ME0102318 for a 5-year term.

*July 18, 1996* – The Department issued a new WDL for the Town's wastewater treatment facility with a license number of W007718-58-A-N and a 5-year term.

*September 12, 2000* – Pursuant *Certain deposits and discharges prohibited*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 420, *Waste discharge licenses*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 413 and *Interim Effluent Limitations and Controls for the Discharge of Mercury*, 06-096 CMR 519 (last amended October 6, 2001), the Department issued a *Notice of Interim Limits for the Discharge of Mercury* to the permittee thereby administratively modifying WDL #W007718-58-A-N by establishing interim monthly average of 4.5 parts per trillion (ppt), and a daily maximum effluent concentration limits of and 6.8 ppt, respectively, and a minimum monitoring frequency requirement of 2 tests per year for mercury.

*December 8, 2000* – The Department issued WDL W007718-5L-B-R for a five-year term.

*January 12, 2001* – The State of Maine received authorization from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program in Maine. From this date forward the program has been referred to as the Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEDES) permit program and ME0102318 remains the primary reference number for the Grand Isle facility.

*June 2, 2005* – The Department issued combination MEPDES permit ME0102318/WDL W007713-5L-C-R for a five-year term.

*April 10, 2006* – The Department initiated a permit modification that modified the monitoring requirements for whole effluent toxicity (WET) and chemical specific test requirements to coincide with the monitoring requirements specified in Department rule 06-096 CMR, Chapter 530, *Surface Water Ambient Toxics Control Program*, promulgated on October 12, 2005.

*March 16, 2015* – The Town submitted a timely and complete General Application to the Department for renewal of the May 4, 2010 permit (including subsequent minor permit revisions and permit modifications). The application was accepted for processing on March 17, 2010 and was assigned WDL #W007713-6B-F-R / MEPDES # ME0102318.

## 2. PERMIT SUMMARY (cont'd)

- c. Source Description: The Town of Grand Isle Wastewater Treatment Facility receives sanitary wastewater flows from residential users in the Town of Grand Isle. The facility does not receive industrial flows and is not authorized to receive septage. A map showing the location of the facility and receiving water is included as Fact Sheet **Attachment A**.
- d. Wastewater Treatment: The Town's treatment facility commenced operation in July of 1991. The wastewater treatment facility provides a secondary level of via an extended aeration activated sludge package treatment plant. The effluent is seasonally disinfected with sodium hypo-chlorite and discharged to the St. John River via a 10-inch diameter outfall pipe located on the bottom and extending out into the river.

## 3. CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

*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 *Surface Water Toxics Control Program*, 06-096 CMR 530 (effective March 21, 2012) require the regulation of toxic substances not to exceed levels set forth in *Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants*, 06-096 CMR 584 (last amended July 29, 2012), 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

*Classification of major river basins*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 467(15)(A)(4) classifies the St. John River main stem, which includes the river at the point of discharge, as Class C waters. *Standards for classification of fresh surface waters*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 465(4) describes the standards for Class C waters.

## 5. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS

*The State of Maine 2012 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 the main stem segment of the St. John River from Madawaska to La Grande Isle (Assessment Unit ID ME0101000116\_117R) as, "Category 2: Rivers and Streams Attaining Some Designated Uses – Insufficient Information for Other Uses."

The Report lists all of Maine's fresh waters as, "Category 4-A: Waters Impaired by Atmospheric Deposition of Mercury." Impairment in this context refers to a statewide fish consumption advisory due to elevated levels of mercury in some fish tissues. The Report states, "All freshwaters are listed in Category 4-A (TMDL Completed) due to USEPA approval of a Regional Mercury TMDL."

**5. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS (cont'd)**

Maine has a fish consumption advisory for fish taken from all freshwaters due to mercury. Many waters, and many fish from any given water, do not exceed the action level for mercury. However, because it is impossible for someone consuming a fish to know whether the mercury level exceeds the action level, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services decided to establish a statewide advisory for all freshwater fish that recommends limits on consumption. Maine has already instituted statewide programs for removal and reduction of mercury sources." Pursuant to 38 M.R.S.A. § 420(1-B)(B), "a facility is not in violation of the ambient criteria for mercury if the facility is in compliance with an interim discharge limit established by the Department pursuant to section 413 subsection 11." The Department has established interim monthly average and daily maximum mercury concentration limits and reporting requirements for this facility pursuant to 06-096 CMR 519.

The Department has no information at this time that the discharge from the Town of Grand Isle, as permitted, will cause or contribute to the failure of the receiving water to meet the designated uses of its ascribed classification.

**6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

- a. **Flow:** The previous permitting action established, and this permitting action is carrying forward, a monthly average discharge flow limit of 0.08 MGD based on the design capacity for the treatment facility, and a daily maximum discharge flow reporting requirement.

The Department reviewed 52 Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) that were submitted for the period of December 31 – May 30 for calendar years 2010-2015. A review of data indicates the following:

**Flow (DMR=52)**

<b>Value</b>	<b>Limit (MGD)</b>	<b>Range (MGD)</b>	<b>Mean (MGD)</b>
Monthly Average	0.08	0.01 – 0.03	0.012
Daily Maximum	Report	0.01 – 0.06	0.012

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

- b. Dilution Factors: The Department established applicable dilution factors for the discharge in accordance with freshwater protocols established in *Surface Water Toxics Control Program*, 06-096 CMR 530 (last amended March 21, 2012). This permitting action is calculating dilution factors associated with the discharge flow limit of 0.08 MGD as follows.

$$\text{Mod. Acute: } \frac{1}{4} \text{ Q10} = 224 \text{ cfs} \Rightarrow \frac{(266 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.08 \text{ MGD}}{0.08 \text{ MGD}} = 1,811:1$$

$$\text{Acute: } 1\text{Q10} = 895 \text{ cfs} \Rightarrow \frac{(895 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.08 \text{ MGD}}{0.08 \text{ MGD}} = 7,232:1$$

$$\text{Chronic: } 7\text{Q10} = 912 \text{ cfs} \Rightarrow \frac{(912 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.08 \text{ MGD}}{0.08 \text{ MGD}} = 7,369:1$$

$$\text{Harmonic Mean} = 4,686 \text{ cfs}^1 \Rightarrow \frac{(4686 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.08 \text{ MGD}}{0.08 \text{ MGD}} = 37,863:1$$

06-096 CMR 530(4)(B)(1) states that analyses using numeric acute criteria for aquatic life must be based on  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the 1Q10 stream design flow to prevent substantial acute toxicity within any mixing zone. The regulation goes on to say that where it can be demonstrated that a discharge achieves rapid and complete mixing with the receiving water by way of an efficient diffuser or other effective method, analyses may use a greater proportion of the stream design, up to including all of it. Therefore the default stream flow of 1Q10 is applicable in acute statistical evaluations pursuant to *Surface Water Toxics Control Program*, 06-096 CMR 530.

It is noted that the Department has obtained new, more accurate receiving water flow data since issuance of the previous permit. The previous permitting action utilized 1Q10, 7Q10 and harmonic mean flows of 1,062 cfs, 1,250 cfs, and 3,750 cfs, respectively, for the St. John River at the point of discharge. The updated river flow data results in revised dilution factors.

- c. Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD<sub>5</sub>) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS): The previous permitting action established, and this permitting action is carrying forward, monthly average and weekly average technology-based effluent limits of 30 mg/L and 45 mg/L, respectively, for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS pursuant to the secondary treatment regulation at 40 CFR 133.102 and 06-096 CMR 525(3)(III). The previous permit also established daily maximum technology-based effluent limit of 50 mg/L for both BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS based on a Department best professional judgment of best practicable treatment for secondary treated wastewater.

The mass-based limits were calculated as follows:

$$\text{Monthly Average Mass Limit: } (30 \text{ mg/L})(8.34 \text{ lbs./gallon})(0.08 \text{ MGD}) = 20 \text{ lbs./day}$$

$$\text{Weekly Average Mass Limit: } (45 \text{ mg/L})(8.34 \text{ lbs./gallon})(0.08 \text{ MGD}) = 30 \text{ lbs./day}$$

$$\text{Daily Maximum Mass Limit: } (50 \text{ mg/L})(8.34 \text{ lbs./gallon})(0.08 \text{ MGD}) = 33 \text{ lbs./day}$$

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

This permitting action is carrying forward a requirement for a minimum of 85% removal of BOD<sub>5</sub> & TSS pursuant to 06-096 CMR 525(3)(III)(a&b)(3). The permittee has not demonstrated that it qualifies for special considerations pursuant to 06-096 CMR 525(3)(IV) to maintain a waiver from the 85% removal requirement when influent concentration is less than 200 mg/L, which was established in the previous permit. Therefore, this permitting action is eliminating the waiver from the 85% removal requirement provided in the previous permitting action when influent concentration is less than 200 mg/L.

The Department reviewed 52 DMRs that were submitted for the period December 2010 – May 2015 for BOD. A review of data indicates the following:

**BOD<sub>5</sub> Mass (DMRs=52)**

Value	Limit (lbs./day)	Range (lbs./day)	Mean (lbs./day)
Monthly Average	20	1.00 – 2.00	1.10
Weekly Average	30	1.35 – 4.00	1.35
Daily Maximum	33	1.00 – 4.00	1.34

**BOD<sub>5</sub> Concentration (DMRs=52)**

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Monthly Average	30	6.00 – 11.00	8.67
Weekly Average	45	7.00 – 12.00	9.48
Daily Maximum	50	7.00 – 12.00	9.48

The Department reviewed 52 DMRs that were submitted for the period December 2010 – May 2015 for TSS. A review of data indicates the following:

**TSS Mass (DMR=52)**

Value	Limit (lbs./day)	Range (lbs./day)	Mean (lbs./day)
Monthly Average	20	1.00 – 2.00	1.07
Weekly Average	30	1.00 – 3.00	1.23
Daily Maximum	33	1.00 – 3.00	1.23

**TSS Concentration (DMR=52)**

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Monthly Average	30	6.00 – 11.00	7.96
Weekly Average	45	6.00 – 12.00	9.15
Daily Maximum	50	6.00 – 12.00	9.15

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

Minimum monitoring frequency requirements in MEPDES permits are prescribed by 06-096 CMR 523(5)(i). The USEPA has published guidance entitled, *Interim Guidance for Performance Based Reductions of NPDES Permit Monitoring Frequencies* (USEPA Guidance April 1996). In addition, the Department has supplemented the EPA guidance with its own guidance entitled, *Performance Based Reduction of Monitoring Frequencies - Modification of EPA Guidance Released April 1996* (Maine DEP May 22, 2014). Both documents are being utilized to evaluate the compliance history for each parameter regulated by the previous permit to determine if a reduction in the monitoring frequencies is justified.

Although EPA's 1996 Guidance recommends evaluation of the most current two-years of effluent data for a parameter, the Department is considering 52 months of data (December 2010 – May 2015). A review of the monitoring data for BOD & TSS indicates the ratios (expressed in percent) of the long term effluent average to the monthly average limits can be calculated as 5.5% and 5.3%, respectively. According to Table I of the EPA Guidance, a 1/Week monitoring requirement can be reduced to once every two months. However, the Department has determined that a reduction in the minimum monitoring frequency to once every two months for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS is not sufficient to assess compliance with the effluent limitations and is therefore carrying forward the monitoring frequency of once per week for BOD and TSS.

- d Settleable Solids: The previous permitting action established a daily maximum technology based concentration limit of 0.3 ml/L and a minimum monitoring frequency requirement of 5/Week for settleable solids. This permitting action is carrying forward the technology based daily maximum concentration limit of 0.3 ml/L as it is considered by the Department to be BPT for secondary treated sanitary wastewater. A review of the monitoring data for settleable solids indicates the ratio (expressed in percent) of the long term effluent average to the daily maximum limits can be calculated as 3.3%. According to Table I of the EPA Guidance, a 5/Week monitoring requirement can be reduced to 1/Week. However, the Department has determined that a reduction in the minimum monitoring frequency to 1/Week for settleable solids is not sufficient to assess compliance with the effluent limitations and is therefore carrying forward the monitoring frequency of 5/Week.

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

**Settleable Solids Concentration (DMRs=52)**

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

- e. Escherichia coli Bacteria: The previous permitting action established, and this permitting action carrying forward, seasonal (May 15-September 30 of each year) monthly average and daily maximum *E. coli* bacteria concentration limits of 126 colonies/100 ml and 949 colonies/100 ml, respectively. The monthly average concentration limit is based on 38 M.R.S.A. § 465(4) which requires that the *E. coli* bacteria of human and domestic animal origin in Class C waters may not exceed a geometric mean of 126 colonies/100 ml or an instantaneous level of 236 colonies/100 ml.

The Department reviewed 20 DMRs that were submitted for the period May 2010 – September 2014. A review of data indicates the following:

***E. coli* Bacteria**

Value	Limit (col/100 ml)	Range (col/100 ml)	Mean (col/100 ml)
Monthly Average	126	15 – 56	34
Daily Maximum	949	27 – 91	50

Although EPA’s 1996 Guidance recommends evaluation of the most current two-years of effluent data for a parameter, the Department is considering 4 years of data (May 2010 – September 2014). A review of the monitoring data for *E. coli* bacteria indicates the ratio (expressed in percent) of the long term effluent average to the monthly average limit can be calculated as 27%. According to Table I of the EPA Guidance, a 1/Week monitoring requirement can be reduced to once every two months. However, the Department has determined that a reduction in the minimum monitoring frequency to once every two months for *E. coli* bacteria is not sufficient to assess compliance with the effluent limitations and is therefore carrying forward the monitoring frequency of once per week.

- f. Total Residual Chlorine (TRC): The previous permitting action established a technology-based daily maximum concentration limit of 1.0mg/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 best practicable treatment-based limit. With modified acute (1/4 1Q10) and chronic dilution factors associated with the discharge water quality-based concentration thresholds the discharge may be calculated as follows:

Acute (A) Criterion	Chronic (C) Criterion	Modified A & C Dilution Factors	Calculated	
			Acute Threshold	Chronic Threshold
0.019 mg/L	0.011 mg/L	1,811:1 (Mod A) 7,369:1 (C)	34 mg/L	81 mg/L

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

The Department has established a daily maximum best practicable treatment limitation of 1.0 mg/L for facilities that disinfect their effluent with elemental chlorine or chlorine-based compounds. The daily maximum technology-based standard of 1.0 mg/L is more stringent than the modified acute water quality-based threshold calculated above, and is therefore being carried forward in this permitting action. Although bacteria limitations are seasonal and apply between May 15 and September 30 of each year, TRC monitoring must be conducted during any periods that chlorine-based compounds are in use at the facility.

The Department reviewed 30 DMRs that were submitted for the period December 2010 – May 2015. A review of data indicates the following:

**Total Residual Chlorine (DMRs=30)**

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Daily Maximum	1.0	0.10 – 0.60	0.33

Although EPA’s 1996 Guidance recommends evaluation of the most current two-years of effluent data for a parameter, the Department is considering 20 months of data (May 2011 – September 2014). A review of the monitoring data for TRC indicates the ratio (expressed in percent) of the long term effluent average to the monthly average limit can be calculated as 20%. According to EPA and Department Guidance, a 1/Day monitoring requirement can be reduced to 3/Week.. Therefore, this permitting action is reducing the monitoring frequency for *E. coli* bacteria to 3/Week.

- g. **pH:** The previous permitting action established, and this permitting action is carrying forward, a technology-based pH limit of 6.0 – 9.0 standard units (SU), which is based on 06-096 CMR 25(3)(III)(c), and a minimum monitoring frequency requirement of 5/week. This permitting action is carrying forward the limitation and the minimum monitoring frequency requirement of 5/Week based on Department guidance for POTWs permitted to discharge between 0.0 and 0.10 MGD.

The Department reviewed 52 DMRs that were submitted for the period December 2010 – May 2015. A review of data indicates the following:

**pH (DMRs=52)**

Value	Limit (SU)	Range (SU)	Maximum (SU)
Range	6.0 – 9.0	6.30 – 6.60	6.46

- h. **Mercury:** Pursuant to *Certain deposits and discharges prohibited*, Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A. § 420 and *Waste Discharge Licenses*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 413 and *Interim Effluent Limitations and Controls for the Discharge of Mercury*, 06-096 CMR 519 (last amended October 6, 2001), the Department issued a Notice of Interim Limits for the Discharge of Mercury to the permittee on August 28, 2000, thereby administratively modifying MEPDES ME0102318/WDL W007713-5L-E-R by establishing interim average and daily maximum effluent concentration limits of 4.5 parts per trillion (ppt) and 6.8 ppt, respectively, and a minimum monitoring frequency requirement of two (2) tests per year for mercury. 38 M.R.S.A. § 420(1-B)(B)(1) provides that a facility is not in violation of the AWQC for mercury if the facility is in compliance with an interim discharge limit

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

established by the Department. A review of the Department's data base for the period June 2009 through April 2013 indicates the permittee has been in compliance with the interim limits for mercury as results have been reported as follows:

**Mercury (DMRs=6)**

Value	Limit (ng/L)	Range (ng/L)	Mean (ng/L)
Average	4.5	0.78 – 3.36	1.90
Daily Maximum	6.8		

Pursuant to 38 M.R.S.A. § 420(1-B)(F), the Department issued a minor revision on February 6, 2012 to the September 14, 2009 permit thereby revising the minimum monitoring frequency requirement from twice per year to once per year given the permittee has maintained at least 5 years of mercury testing data. In fact, the permittee has been monitoring mercury at a frequency of 2/Year since April 1, 2000 or 11 years.

Pursuant to 38 M.R.S.A. § 420(1-B)(F), this permitting action is carrying forward the 1/Year monitoring frequency established in the February 6, 2012 permit modification.

- i. Total Phosphorus: *Waste Discharge License Conditions*, 06-096 CMR 523 (effective January 12, 2001) specifies that water quality based limits are necessary when it has been determined that a discharge has a reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an excursion above any State water quality standard including State narrative criteria. In addition, 06-096 CMR 523 specifies that water quality based limits may be based upon criterion derived from a proposed State criterion, or an explicit State policy or regulation interpreting its narrative water quality criterion, supplemented with other relevant information which may include: EPA's Water Quality Standards Handbook, October 1983, risk assessment data, exposure data, information about the pollutant from the Food and Drug Administration, and current EPA criteria documents.

USEPA's Quality Criteria for Water 1986 (Gold Book) puts forth an in-stream phosphorus concentration goal of less than 0.1 mg/L in streams or other flowing waters not discharging directly to lakes or impoundments, to prevent nuisance algal growth. The use of the 0.1 mg/L Gold Book value is consistent with the requirements of 06-096 CMR Chapter 523 noted above for use in a reasonable potential (RP) calculation.

Based on the above rationale, the Department has chosen to utilize the Gold Book value of 0.1 mg/L. It is the Department's intent to continue to make determinations of actual attainment or impairment based upon environmental response indicators from specific water bodies. The use of the Gold Book value of 0.1 mg/L for use in the RP calculation will enable the Department to establish water quality based limits in a manner that is reasonable and that appropriately establishes the potential for impairment, while providing an opportunity to acquire environmental response indicator data, numeric nutrient indicator data, and facility data as needed to refine the establishment of site specific water quality based limits for phosphorus. This permit may be reopened during the term of the permit to modify any reasonable potential calculations, phosphorus limits, or monitoring requirements based on new site-specific data.

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

The Town of Grand Isle has conducted total phosphorus testing during the summer of 2014. Based upon the most recent test results from the August and September 2014 sampling events, the arithmetic mean concentration discharged for the period is 2.8 mg/L (2,800 ug/L) and is considered representative of the discharge from the facility owned and operated by the Town of Grand Isle which discharges to the St. John River. For the background concentration in St. John River, the permittee conducted upstream sampling of its discharge in the summer of 2014. The results from the August and September 2014 sampling events indicate the background total phosphorus concentration is 0.041 mg/L.

Using the following calculation and criteria, the Town does not exhibit a reasonable potential to exceed the EPA's Gold Book ambient water quality criteria of 0.1 mg/L (100 µg/L) for phosphorus or the Department's 06-096 CMR 583 draft criteria of 33 ug/L.

$$Cr = \frac{QeCe + QsCs}{Qr}$$

Qe = effluent flow i.e. facility design flow	=	0.08 MGD
Ce = effluent pollutant concentration	=	2.8 mg/L
Qs = 7Q10 flow of receiving water	=	912 MGD
Cs = upstream concentration	=	0.041 mg/L
Qr = receiving water flow	=	912 MGD
Cr = receiving water concentration		

$$Cr = \frac{(0.08 \text{ MGD} \times 2.8 \text{ mg/L}) + (912 \text{ MGD} \times 0.041 \text{ mg/L})}{912 \text{ MGD}} = 0.041 \text{ mg/L}$$

Cr = 0.041 mg/L < 0.1 mg/L ⇒ No Reasonable Potential

Cr = 0.041 mg/L > 0.033 mg/L ⇒ Yes, Reasonable Potential

The Department is making a best professional judgment determination that the discharge from the Town will not result in a measurable increase in the receiving water concentration of phosphorous and is therefore not establishing effluent limitations or monitoring requirements.

***Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET), Priority Pollutant, and Analytical Chemistry Testing***

- j. 38 M.R.S.A. § 414-A and 38 M.R.S.A. § 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. 06-096 CMR 530 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. 06-096 CMR 584 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 AND 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 and chronic WET tests are performed on invertebrate and vertebrate species. Priority pollutant and analytical chemistry testing is required to assess the levels of individual toxic pollutants in the discharge, comparing each pollutant to acute, chronic, and human health AWQC as established in Chapter 584. 06-096 CMR 530(2)(B) categorizes dischargers subject to the toxics rule into one of four levels the categories are as follows:

- 1) Level I – chronic dilution factor of  $<20:1$ .
- 2) Level II – chronic dilution factor of  $>20:1$  but  $<100:1$ .
- 3) Level III – chronic dilution factor  $>100:1$  but  $<500:1$  or  $>500:1$  and  $Q >1.0$  MGD
- 4) Level IV – chronic dilution  $>500:1$  and  $Q <1.0$  MGD

- (a) *The discharger's permit application or information available to the Department indicate that toxic compounds may be present in toxic amounts; or,*
- (b) *Previous testing conducted by the discharger or similar dischargers indicates that toxic compounds may be present in toxic amounts."*

Therefore, this permitting action is carrying forward the toxics testing waiver pursuant to 06-096 CMR 530 and Department best professional judgment.

06-096 CMR 530(2)(D)(4) states, "*all dischargers having waived or reduced testing must file statements with the Department on or before December 31 of each year describing the following:*

- (a) *Changes in the number or types of non-domestic wastes contributed directly or indirectly to the wastewater treatment works that may increase the toxicity of the discharge;*
- (b) *Changes in the operation of the treatment works that may increase the toxicity of the discharge; and*
- (c) *Changes in industrial manufacturing processes contributing wastewater to the treatment works that may increase the toxicity of the discharge."*

In addition, in the comments section of the certification form, the permittee shall provide the Department with statements describing;

- (d) *Changes in storm water collection or inflow/infiltration affecting the facility that may increase the toxicity of the discharge; and*
- (e) *Increases in the type or volume of transported (hailed) wastes accepted by the facility.*

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

The Department may require that annual testing be instituted if it determines that there have been changes in the character of the discharge or if annual certifications described above are not submitted. This permitting action carries forward Special Condition I *06-096 CMR 530(2)(D)(4) Statement for Reduced/Waived Toxics Testing*, pursuant to 06-096 CMR 530(2)(D)(4).

## 7. 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 C classification.

## 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public notice of this application was made in the *St. John Valley Times* newspaper on or about March 18, 2015. 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 must 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).

## 9. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

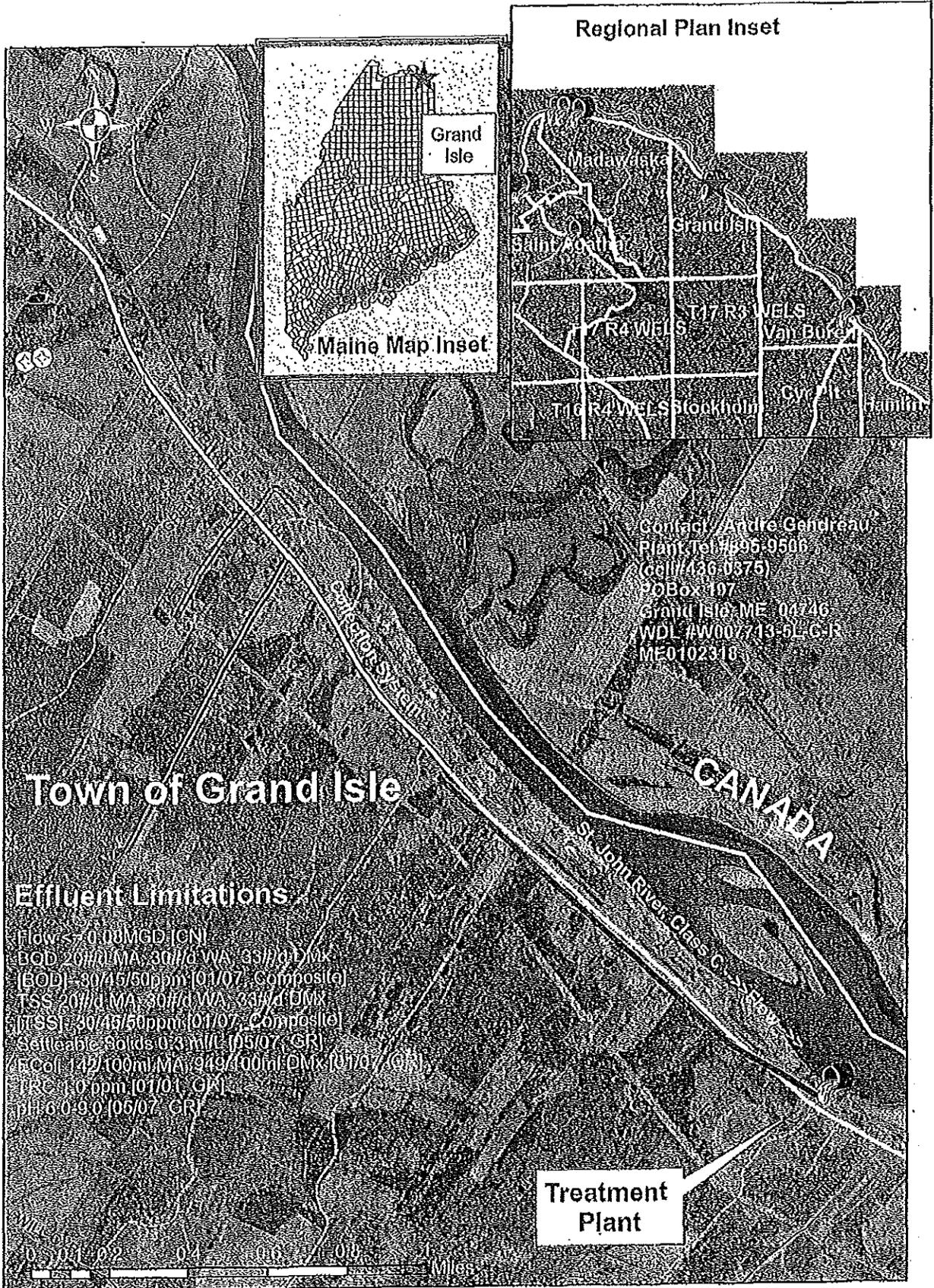
Additional information concerning this permitting action may be obtained from, and written comments sent to:

Aaron Dumont  
Division of Water Quality Management  
Bureau of Water Quality  
Department of Environmental Protection  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017 Telephone: (207) 215-7161  
e-mail: [Aaron.A.Dumont@maine.gov](mailto:Aaron.A.Dumont@maine.gov)

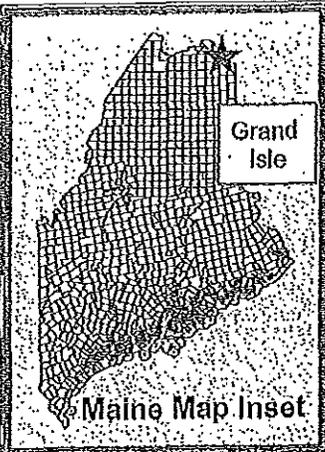
## 10. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

During the period of July 17, 2015 through the effective date of this final agency action, the Department solicited comments on the draft MEPDES permit. The Department did not receive any substantive comment on the draft permit. It is noted that minor typographical and grammatical errors identified in comments were not summarized in this section, but were corrected, where necessary, in the final permit.

# ATTACHMENT A



**Regional Plan Inset**



**Maine Map Inset**

Contact: Andre Gaudreau  
 Plant: Tel #895-9506  
 (cell) 436-0375  
 PO Box 197  
 Grand Isle, ME 04746  
 WDL #W007413-6L-G-R  
 ME0102316

**Town of Grand Isle**

**Effluent Limitations**

- Flow <= 0.08MGD (CN)
- BOD 20mg/L MA, 30mg/L WA, 33mg/L MX
- [BOD] 30/45/50ppm (01/07, Composite)
- TSS 20mg/L MA, 30mg/L WA, 33mg/L MX
- [TSS] 30/45/50ppm (01/07, Composite)
- Settleable Solids 0.3 mill (05/07, GR)
- FC col. 142/100ml MA, 949/100ml DMX (01/07, GR)
- TRE 1.0 ppm (01/01, GR)
- pH 6.0-9.0 (05/07, GR)

**Treatment Plant**



MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT  
STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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CONTENTS

SECTION	TOPIC	PAGE
A	GENERAL PROVISIONS	
	1 General compliance	2
	2 Other materials	2
	3 Duty to Comply	2
	4 Duty to provide information	2
	5 Permit actions	2
	6 Reopener clause	2
	7 Oil and hazardous substances	2
	8 Property rights	3
	9 Confidentiality	3
	10 Duty to reapply	3
	11 Other laws	3
	12 Inspection and entry	3
B	OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES	
	1 General facility requirements	3
	2 Proper operation and maintenance	4
	3 Need to halt reduce not a defense	4
	4 Duty to mitigate	4
	5 Bypasses	4
	6 Upsets	5
C	MONITORING AND RECORDS	
	1 General requirements	6
	2 Representative sampling	6
	3 Monitoring and records	6
D	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	
	1 Reporting requirements	7
	2 Signatory requirement	8
	3 Availability of reports	8
	4 Existing manufacturing, commercial, mining, and silvicultural dischargers	8
	5 Publicly owned treatment works	9
E	OTHER PROVISIONS	
	1 Emergency action - power failure	9
	2 Spill prevention	10
	3 Removed substances	10
	4 Connection to municipal sewer	10
F	DEFINITIONS	10

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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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).

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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

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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.

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT  
STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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- (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

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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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

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**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

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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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).

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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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.

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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.

## MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

### STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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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.

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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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.

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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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