



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

Mr. Roland M. Arsenault
Superintendent
Rumford-Mexico Sewerage District
228 River Road
Mexico, Maine 04257
e-mail: super@rmsewer.com

May 3, 2023

RE: Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit #ME0101486
Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) #W002685-6B-J-R
Final Permit - Rumford Point Facility

Dear Mr. Arsenault:

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. Compliance with this permit/license will protect water quality.

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

If you have any questions regarding the matter, please feel free to call me at 287-7693. or send me an e-mail at gregg.wood@maine.gov. Your Department compliance inspector copied below is also a resource that can assist you with compliance. Please do not hesitate to contact them with any questions.

Thank you for your efforts to protect and improve the waters of the great state of Maine!

Sincerely,

Gregg Wood
Division of Water Quality Management
Bureau of Water Quality

Enc.

cc: David Bowie, DEPCMRO Lori Mitchell, DEP/CMRO Irene Saumur, DEP/CMRO
Nathan Chien, USEPA Richard Carvalho, USEPA Sandy Mojica, USEPA

AUGUSTA
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DEP INFORMATION SHEET

Appealing a Department Licensing Decision

Dated: August 2021

Contact: (207) 314-1458

SUMMARY

This document provides information regarding a person's rights and obligations in filing an administrative or judicial appeal of a licensing decision made by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Commissioner.

Except as provided below, there are two methods available to an aggrieved person seeking to appeal a licensing decision made by the DEP Commissioner: (1) an administrative process before the Board of Environmental Protection (Board); or (2) a judicial process before Maine's Superior Court. An aggrieved person seeking review of a licensing decision over which the Board had original jurisdiction may seek judicial review in Maine's Superior Court.

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

I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TO THE BOARD

LEGAL REFERENCES

A person filing an appeal with the Board should review Organization and Powers, [38 M.R.S. §§ 341-D\(4\)](#) and [346](#); the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, 5 M.R.S. § [11001](#); and the DEP's [Rule Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters \(Chapter 2\)](#), 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 2.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD

Not more than 30 days following the filing of a license decision by the Commissioner with the Board, an aggrieved person may appeal to the Board for review of the Commissioner's decision. The filing of an appeal with the Board, in care of the Board Clerk, is complete when the Board receives the submission by the close of business on the due date (5:00 p.m. on the 30th calendar day from which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board, as determined by the received time stamp on the document or electronic mail). Appeals filed after 5:00 p.m. on the 30th calendar day from which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board will be dismissed as untimely, absent a showing of good cause.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD

An appeal to the Board may be submitted via postal mail or electronic mail and must contain all signatures and required appeal contents. An electronic filing must contain the scanned original signature of the appellant(s). The appeal documents must be sent to the following address.

Chair, Board of Environmental Protection
c/o Board Clerk
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017
ruth.a.burke@maine.gov

The DEP may also request the submittal of the original signed paper appeal documents when the appeal is filed electronically. The risk of material not being received in a timely manner is on the sender, regardless of the method used.

At the time an appeal is filed with the Board, the appellant must send a copy of the appeal to: (1) the Commissioner of the DEP (Maine Department of Environmental Protection, 17 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0017); (2) the licensee; and if a hearing was held on the application, (3) any intervenors in that hearing proceeding. **Please contact the DEP at 207-287-7688 with questions or for contact information regarding a specific licensing decision.**

REQUIRED APPEAL CONTENTS

A complete appeal must contain the following information at the time the appeal is submitted.

1. *Aggrieved status.* The appeal must explain how the appellant has standing to bring the appeal. This requires an explanation of how the appellant may suffer a particularized injury as a result of the Commissioner's decision.
2. *The findings, conclusions, or conditions objected to or believed to be in error.* The appeal must identify the specific findings of fact, conclusions of law, license conditions, or other aspects of the written license decision or of the license review process that the appellant objects to or believes to be in error.
3. *The basis of the objections or challenge.* For the objections identified in Item #2, the appeal must state why the appellant believes that the license decision is incorrect and should be modified or reversed. If possible, the appeal should cite specific evidence in the record or specific licensing criteria that the appellant believes were not properly considered or fully addressed.
4. *The remedy sought.* This can range from reversal of the Commissioner's decision on the license to changes in specific license conditions.
5. *All the matters to be contested.* The Board will limit its consideration to those matters specifically raised in the written notice of appeal.
6. *Request for hearing.* If the appellant wishes the Board to hold a public hearing on the appeal, a request for hearing must be filed as part of the notice of appeal, and it must include an offer of proof regarding the testimony and other evidence that would be presented at the hearing. The offer of proof must consist of a statement of the substance of the evidence, its relevance to the issues on appeal, and whether any witnesses would testify. The Board will hear the arguments in favor of and in opposition to a hearing on the appeal and the presentations on the merits of an appeal at a regularly scheduled meeting. If the Board decides to hold a public hearing on an appeal, that hearing will then be scheduled for a later date.
7. *New or additional evidence to be offered.* If an appellant wants to provide evidence not previously provided to DEP staff during the DEP's review of the application, the request and the proposed supplemental evidence must be submitted with the appeal. The Board may allow new or additional evidence to be considered in an appeal only under limited circumstances. The proposed supplemental evidence must be relevant and material, and (a) the person seeking to add information to the record must show due diligence in bringing the evidence to the DEP's attention at the earliest possible time in the licensing process; or (b) the evidence itself must be newly discovered and therefore unable to have been presented earlier in the process. Requirements for supplemental evidence are set forth in [Chapter 2 § 24](#).

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS IN APPEALING A DECISION TO THE BOARD

1. *Be familiar with all relevant material in the DEP record.* A license application file is public information, subject to any applicable statutory exceptions, and is made accessible by the DEP. Upon request, the DEP will make application materials available to review and photocopy during normal working hours. There may be 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 the appeal.* DEP staff will provide this information upon request and answer general questions regarding the appeal process.
3. *The filing of an appeal does not operate as a stay to any decision.* If a license has been granted and it has been appealed, the license normally remains in effect pending the processing of the appeal. Unless a stay of the decision is requested and granted, a licensee may proceed with a project pending the outcome of an appeal, but the licensee 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 acknowledge receipt of an appeal, and it will provide the name of the DEP project manager assigned to the specific appeal. The notice of appeal, any materials admitted by the Board as supplementary evidence, any materials admitted in response to the appeal, relevant excerpts from the DEP's administrative record for the application, and the DEP staff's recommendation, in the form of a proposed Board Order, will be provided to Board members. The appellant, the licensee, and parties of record are notified in advance of the date set for the Board's consideration of an appeal or request for a hearing. The appellant and the licensee will have an opportunity to address the Board at the Board meeting. The Board will decide whether to hold a hearing on appeal when one is requested before deciding the merits of the appeal. The Board's decision on appeal may be to affirm all or part, affirm with conditions, order a hearing to be held as expeditiously as possible, reverse all or part of the decision of the Commissioner, or remand the matter to the Commissioner for further proceedings. The Board will notify the appellant, the licensee, and parties of record of its decision on appeal.

II. JUDICIAL APPEALS

Maine law generally allows aggrieved persons to appeal final Commissioner or Board licensing decisions to Maine's Superior Court (see [38 M.R.S. § 346\(1\)](#); 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 2; [5 M.R.S. § 11001](#); and M.R. Civ. P. 80C). A party's appeal must be filed with the Superior Court within 30 days of receipt of notice of the Board's or the Commissioner's decision. For any other person, an appeal must be filed within 40 days of the date the decision was rendered. An appeal to court of a license decision regarding an expedited wind energy development, a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project, or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project may only be taken directly to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. See 38 M.R.S. § 346(4).

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions or need additional information on the appeal process, for administrative appeals contact the Board Clerk at 207-287-2811 or the Board Executive Analyst at 207-314-1458 bill.hinkel@maine.gov, or for judicial appeals contact the court clerk's office in which the appeal will be filed.

Note: This information sheet, in conjunction with a review of the statutory and regulatory provisions referred to herein, is provided to help a person to understand their rights and obligations in filing an administrative or judicial appeal. 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.



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

DEPARTMENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF

RUMFORD-MEXICO SEWERAGE DISTRICT)	MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
RUMFORD, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE)	ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS)	AND
RUMFORD POINT FACILITY)	WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE
ME0101486)	
W002685-6B-J-R)	
APPROVAL)	RENEWAL

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

APPLICATION SUMMARY

The District has submitted a timely and complete application to the Department for the renewal of combination Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit ME0101486/WDL W002685-6B-I-R (permit hereinafter), which was issued by the Department on November 2, 2015, for a five year term. The 11/2/2015 permit authorized the monthly average discharge of up to 19,000 gallons per day (gpd) or 0.019 million gallons per day (MGD) of secondary treated waste water to the Androscoggin River, Class C, in Rumford, Maine.

PERMIT SUMMARY

This permitting action is carrying forward all the terms and conditions of the 11/2/2015 permit except that this permit is

1. Expanding the *E. coli* bacteria monitoring season from May 15th – September 30th to April 15th – October 31st pursuant to 38 M.R.S. § 465(3)(B).
2. Establishing a more stringent monthly average (geometric mean) and daily maximum *E. coli* bacteria limitations based on revisions to 38 M.R.S. §465(3)(B).

CONCLUSIONS

BASED on the findings in the attached Fact Sheet dated March 31, 2023, and subject to the Conditions listed below, the Department makes the following CONCLUSIONS:

1. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any classified body of water below such classification.
2. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any unclassified body of water below the classification which the Department expects to adopt in accordance with state law.
3. The provisions of the State's antidegradation policy, 38 M.R.S. §464(4)(F), will be met, in that:
 - (a) Existing in-stream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect and maintain those existing uses will be maintained and protected;
 - (b) Where high quality waters of the State constitute an outstanding national resource, that water quality will be maintained and protected;
 - (c) 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 discharge will be subject to effluent limitations that require application of best practicable treatment as defined in Maine law, 38 M.R.S., §414-A(1)(D).

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

- The permittee is authorized to discharge secondary treated sanitary wastewater from **Outfall #001** to the Androscoggin River. Such discharges shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below⁽¹⁾:

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations						Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Weekly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Weekly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Measurement Frequency</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
Flow [50050]	19,000 gpd [07]	---	Report gpd [07]	---	---	---	Continuous [99/99]	Recorder [RC]
BOD₅ [00310]	4.8 lbs./day [26]	7.1 lbs./day [26]	7.9 lbs./day [26]	30 mg/L [19]	45 mg/L [19]	50 mg/L [19]	2/Month [02/30]	Composite ⁽²⁾ [24]
BOD₅ Percent Removal⁽³⁾ [81010]	---	---	---	85% [23]	---	---	1/Month [01/30]	Calculate [CA]
TSS [00530]	4.8 lbs./day [26]	7.1 lbs./day [26]	7.9 lbs./day [26]	30 mg/L [19]	45 mg/L [19]	50 mg/L [19]	2/Month [02/30]	Composite ⁽²⁾ [24]
TSS Percent Removal⁽³⁾ [81011]	---	---	---	85% [23]	---	---	1/Month [01/30]	Calculate [CA]
Settleable Solids [00545]	---	---	---	---	---	0.3 ml/L [25]	2/Week [02/07]	Grab [GR]
<i>E. coli</i> Bacteria⁽⁴⁾ (April 15 th – October 31 st) [31633]	---	---	---	100/100 ml ⁽⁵⁾ [13]	---	236/100 ml [13]	2/Month [02/30]	Grab [GR]
Total Residual Chlorine⁽⁶⁾ [50060]	---	---	---	---	---	1.0 mg/L [19]	2/Week [02/07]	Grab [GR]
Mercury (Total)⁽⁷⁾ [71900]	---	---	---	4.5 ng/L [3M]	---	6.8 ng/L [3M]	1/Year [01/YR]	Grab [GR]
pH [00400]	---	---	---	---	---	6.0 – 9.0 SU [12]	2/Week [02/07]	Grab [GR]

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

FOOTNOTES: See Pages 5 and 6 of this permit for applicable footnotes.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

Footnotes:

1. **Monitoring** – All effluent monitoring shall be conducted at a location following the last treatment unit in the treatment process as to be representative of end-of-pipe effluent characteristics. Any change in sampling location must be approved by the Department in writing.

The permittee must conduct all effluent 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. Samples that are sent to another POTW licensed pursuant to *Waste discharge licenses*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 413 are subject to the provisions and restrictions of *Maine Comprehensive and Limited Environmental Laboratory Certification Rules*, 10-144 CMR 263 (last amended 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.

In accordance with 40 CFR § 122.44(i)(1)(iv), the permittee must monitor according to sufficiently sensitive test procedures (i.e., methods) approved under 40 CFR Part 136 or required under 40 CFR chapter I, subchapter N or O, for the analysis of pollutants or pollutant parameters (except WET). A method is "sufficiently sensitive" when: 1) The method minimum level (ML) is at or below the level of the effluent limitation established in the permit for the measured pollutant or pollutant parameter; or 2) The method has the lowest ML of the analytical methods approved under 40 CFR Part 136 or required under 40 CFR chapter I, subchapter N or O for the measured pollutant or pollutant parameter. The term "minimum level" refers either to the sample concentration equivalent to the lowest calibration point in a method or a multiple of the method detection limit (MDL), whichever is higher. Minimum levels may be obtained in the following ways: they may be published in a method; they may be based on the lowest acceptable calibration point used by a laboratory; or they may be calculated by multiplying the MDL in a method, or the MDL determined by a laboratory, by a factor.

2. **BOD and TSS Sample Type** – Composite sample based on time interval, not flow proportioned.
3. **Percent Removal** – The treatment facility must maintain a minimum of 85 percent removal of both biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids for all flows receiving secondary treatment. The percent removal must be calculated based on influent and effluent concentration values.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

Footnotes:

4. ***E. coli* bacteria** – *E. coli* bacteria limits and monitoring requirements are seasonal and apply between April 15th and October 31st of each year. The Department reserves the right to require year-round disinfection to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.
5. **Bacteria Reporting** – The monthly average *E. coli* bacteria limitation is a geometric mean limitation and sample results must be reported as such.
6. **Total residual chlorine (TRC)** – Limitations and monitoring requirements are applicable whenever elemental chlorine or chlorine based compounds are being used to disinfect the discharge. The permittee must utilize approved test methods that are capable of bracketing the limitations in this permit. For instances when a facility has not disinfected with chlorine-based compounds for an entire reporting period, the facility shall report “N9” for this parameter on the monthly DMR.
7. **Mercury** – The permittee must conduct all mercury monitoring required by this permit or required 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 in Water by Oxidation, Purge and Trap, and Cold Vapor Fluorescence Spectrometry*. For a mercury test results reporting form, select “Whole effluent Toxicity, Chemistry and Mercury Reporting forms” at https://www.maine.gov/dep/water/wd/municipal_industrial/index.html. Compliance with the monthly average limitation established in Special Condition A 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.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

B. NARRATIVE EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

1. The effluent shall not contain 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 effluent shall not contain 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 discharge shall not cause visible discoloration or turbidity in the receiving waters which would impair the uses designated for the classification of the receiving waters.
4. Notwithstanding specific conditions of this permit the effluent must not lower the quality of any classified body of water below such classification or lower the existing quality of any body of water if the existing quality is higher than the classification.

C. TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

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

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).

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 October 15, 2020; and 2) the terms and conditions of this permit; and 3) only from Outfall #001. Discharges of waste water from any other point source are not authorized under this permit, and must be reported in accordance with Standard Condition B(5)(*Bypass*) of this permit.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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 (increase or decrease) in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into the wastewater collection and treatment system by a source introducing pollutants into the system at the time of permit issuance. For the purposes of this section, notice regarding substantial change shall include information on:
 - (a) the quality and quantity of wastewater introduced to the wastewater collection and treatment system; and
 - (b) any anticipated impact caused by the change in the quantity or quality of the wastewater to be discharged from the treatment system.

G. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE (O&M) PLAN

The permittee must maintain a current written comprehensive Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Plan at 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.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

This permitting action waives surveillance and screening level testing for WET, analytical chemistry and priority pollutant testing. **On or before December 31st of each year** of the effective term of this permit [*ICIS Code 75305*], the permittee must provide the Department with statements 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.
- (d) Changes in storm water collection or inflow/infiltration affecting the facility that may increase the toxicity of the discharge.
- (e) Increases in the type or volume of hauled wastes accepted by the facility.

See **Attachment C** of the Fact Sheet attached to this permit for the Chapter 530 certification form. The Department may require that annual toxicity testing be re-instituted if it determines that there have been changes in the character of the discharge or if annual certifications described above are not submitted.

I. DISPOSAL OF TRANSPORTED WASTE INTO THE WASTE WATER TREATMENT FACILITY

The permittee is prohibited from accepting transported waste for disposal into any part or parts of the waste water disposal system. "Transported wastes" means any liquid non-hazardous waste delivered to a waste water treatment facility by a truck or other similar conveyance that has different chemical constituents or a greater strength than the influent described on the facility's application for a waste discharge license. Such wastes may include, but are not limited to septage, industrial wastes or other wastes to which chemicals in quantities potentially harmful to the treatment facility or receiving water have been added.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

J. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Electronic Reporting

NPDES Electronic Reporting, 40 C.F.R. 127, requires MEPDES permit holders to submit monitoring results obtained during the previous month on an electronic discharge monitoring report to the regulatory agency utilizing the USEPA electronic system.

Electronic Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) submitted using the USEPA NetDMR system, must be:

1. Submitted by a facility authorized signatory; and
2. Submitted no later than **midnight on the 15th day of the month** following the completed reporting period.

Documentation submitted in support of the electronic DMR may be attached to the electronic DMR. Toxics reporting must be done using the DEP Toxsheet reporting form. An electronic copy of the Toxsheet reporting document must be submitted to your Department compliance inspector as an attachment to an email. In addition, a hardcopy form of this sheet must be signed and submitted to your compliance inspector, or a copy attached to your NetDMR submittal will suffice.

Documentation submitted electronically to the Department in support of the electronic DMR must be submitted no later than midnight on the 15th day of the month following the completed reporting period.

K. REOPENING OF PERMIT FOR MODIFICATIONS

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

L. SEVERABILITY

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

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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

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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.

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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.

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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.

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STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

D. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Reporting requirements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Publicly owned treatment works.

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

E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Maximum daily discharge limitation means the highest allowable daily discharge.

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

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

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

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

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

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

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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.

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

FACT SHEET

DATE: March 31, 2023

PERMIT NUMBER: ME0101486
LICENSE NUMBER: W002685-6B-J-R

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

**RUMFORD MEXICO SEWERAGE DISTRICT
228 River Road
Mexico, Maine 04257**

COUNTY: Oxford

NAME AND ADDRESS WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

**Rumford-Mexico Sewerage District
US Route 2
Rumford (Point), Maine 04276
Outfall: N 44.4989, W 70.6715**

RECEIVING WATER/CLASSIFICATION: Androscoggin River/Class C

**COGNIZANT OFFICIAL AND TELEPHONE NUMBER: Mr. Roland M. Arsenault
Superintendent
(207) 364-7225
e-mail: super@rmsewer.com**

1. APPLICATION SUMMARY

- a. Application: The Rumford-Mexico Sewerage District (District/permittee) has submitted a timely and complete application to the Department for the renewal of combination Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit ME0101486/WDL W002685-6B-I-R (permit hereinafter), which was issued by the Department on November 2, 2015, for a five-year term. The 11/2/2015 permit authorized the monthly average discharge of up to 19,000 gallons per day (gpd) or 0.019 million gallons per day (MGD) of secondary treated waste water to the Androscoggin River, Class C, in Rumford, Maine. See **Attachment A** of this Fact Sheet for a location map.

1. APPLICATION SUMMARY (cont'd)

- b. Source Description: The Rumford Point waste water treatment facility receives sanitary wastewater flows from 12-15 residential users in the Rumford Point area within the District's boundaries. The facility does not receive industrial flows and is not authorized to receive septage. The collection system is a 100% separated sewer system with no known combined sewer overflow (CSO) points. All flow into the treatment facility is by gravity and there are no pump stations.
- c. Wastewater Treatment: The Rumford Point wastewater treatment facility provides a secondary level of treatment via a package treatment plant system that includes a bar rack, an aeration basin with diffused aeration, one secondary clarifier, solids handling and a chlorine contact tank. The facility has been authorized to discontinue chlorination between October 1 and May 14 of each year. Waste sludge is removed and transported to the District's other treatment plant located in Mexico where it is utilized in the sludge compost process. See **Attachment B** of this Fact Sheet for a schematic of the treatment process.

Final effluent is conveyed for discharge to the Androscoggin River via a 6-inch diameter outfall pipe that terminates on the shore of the river.

2. PERMIT SUMMARY

- a. Terms and Conditions: This permitting action is carrying forward all the terms and conditions of the 11/2/2015 permit except that this permit is;
 - 1. Expanding the *E. coli* bacteria monitoring season from May 15th – September 30th to April 15th – October 31st pursuant to 38 M.R.S. § 465(3)(B).
 - 2. Establishing a more stringent monthly average (geometric mean) and daily maximum *E. coli* bacteria limitations based on revisions to 38 M.R.S. § 465(3)(B).
- b. History: The most recent licensing/permitting actions include the following:

April 20, 1994 – The Department issued WDL #W002685-58-C-R to the District for the monthly average discharge of up to 0.019 MGD of secondary treated wastewater to the Androscoggin River in Rumford. The 4/20/94 WDL superseded WDL #W002685-58-B-R issued on March 8, 1989, and previous WDLs issued on September 14, 1983, March 28, 1979 and August 13, 1974.

September 1, 1994 – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit #ME0101486 to the District for the discharge from the Rumford Point Facility.

2. PERMIT SUMMARY (cont'd)

February 15, 1995 – The Department issued a letter to the District exempting the Rumford Point Facility from toxics testing under Department rule Chapter 530.5, *Surface Water Toxics Control Program* on the basis that the discharge is less than 50,000 gallons per day of domestic sewage and that the facility is a USEPA minor facility of less than 1.0 MGD and has a chronic dilution factor of greater than 1000:1.

May 23, 2000 – Pursuant to Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A. §420 and §413 and Department rule, 06-096 CMR Chapter 519, *Interim Effluent Limitations and Controls for the Discharge of Mercury*, the Department issued a *Notice of Interim Limits for the Discharge of Mercury* to the permittee thereby administratively modifying WDL #W002685-58-C-R by establishing interim monthly 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 2 tests per year for mercury.

August 8, 2000 – The Department issued WDL #W002685-5L-D-R to the District for the monthly average discharge of up to 0.019 MGD of secondary treated wastewater to the Androscoggin River in Rumford. The 8/8/00 WDL superseded WDL #W002685-58-C-R issued on April 20, 1994 and is scheduled to expire on August 8, 2005.

January 12, 2001 – The Department received authorization from the USEPA to administer the National NPDES permit program in Maine, excluding areas of special interest to Maine Indian Tribes. From that point forward, the program has been referred to as the Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit program.

June 29, 2001 – The Department issued WDL Modification #W002685-5L-E-M / MEPDES permit #ME0101486 to the District for the monthly average discharge of up to 0.019 MGD of secondary treated wastewater to the Androscoggin River in Rumford. The 6/29/01 MEPDES permit is scheduled to expire on August 8, 2005.

July 18, 2005 – The USEPA approved a total maximum daily load (TMDL) entitled, May 2005 TMDL, Final for the Androscoggin River.

September 21, 2005 – The Department issued combination MEPDES permit ME0101486/WDL W002685-5L-F R for a five-year term.

August 5, 2010 – The Department issued combination MEPDES permit ME0101486/WDL W002685-6B-G-R for a five-year term.

February 6, 2012 - The Department issued minor revision MEPDES permit #ME0101486/WDL #W002685-6B-H-M that reduced the monitoring frequency for total mercury from 2/Year to 1/Year.

June 1, 2015 – The Rumford-Mexico Sewerage District submitted a timely and complete application to the Department to renew the MEPDES permit.

2. PERMIT SUMMARY (cont'd)

November 2, 2015 – The Department issued combination MEPDES permit ME0101486/WDL W002685-6B-I-R for a five-year term.

October 14, 2020 – The Rumford-Mexico Sewerage District submitted a timely and complete application to the Department to renew the MEPDES permit.

3. CONDITIONS OF PERMITS

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

4. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Maine law, 38 M.R.S., §467(1)(A)(2) classifies the Androscoggin River at the point of discharge as a Class C waterway. Maine law, 38 M.R.S., §465(4), describes the standards for Class C waters as follows;

- A. Class C waters must be of such quality that they are suitable for the designated uses of drinking water supply after treatment; fishing; agriculture; recreation in and on the water; industrial process and cooling water supply; hydroelectric power generation, except as prohibited under Title 12, section 403; navigation; and as a habitat for fish and other aquatic life.*
- B. Class C waters must be of sufficient quality to support all species of fish indigenous to those waters and to maintain the structure and function of the resident biological community. The dissolved oxygen content of Class C water may not be less than 5 parts per million or 60% of saturation, whichever is higher, except that in identified salmonid spawning areas where water quality is sufficient to ensure spawning, egg incubation and survival of early life stages, that water quality sufficient for these purposes must be maintained. In order to provide additional protection for the growth of indigenous fish, the following standards apply.*
 - (1) The 30-day average dissolved oxygen criterion of a Class C water is 6.5 parts per million using a temperature of 22 degrees centigrade or the ambient temperature of the water body, whichever is less, if:*
 - (a) A license or water quality certificate other than a general permit was issued prior to March 16, 2004 for the Class C water and was not based on a 6.5 parts per million 30-day average dissolved oxygen criterion; or*

4. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS (cont'd)

(b) A discharge or a hydropower project was in existence on March 16, 2005 and required but did not have a license or water quality certificate other than a general permit for the Class C water.

This criterion for the water body applies to licenses and water quality certificates issued on or after March 16, 2004.

(2) In Class C waters not governed by subparagraph (1), dissolved oxygen may not be less than 6.5 parts per million as a 30-day average based upon a temperature of 24 degrees centigrade or the ambient temperature of the water body, whichever is less. This criterion for the water body applies to licenses and water quality certificates issued on or after March 16, 2004.

The department may negotiate and enter into agreements with licensees and water quality certificate holders in order to provide further protection for the growth of indigenous fish. Agreements entered into under this paragraph are enforceable as department orders according to the provisions of sections 347-A to 349.

Between April 15th and October 31st, the number of Escherichia coli bacteria in Class C waters may not exceed a geometric mean of 100 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters over a 90-day interval or 236 CFU or MPN per 100 milliliters in more than 10% of the samples in any 90-day interval. The board shall adopt rules governing the procedure for designation of spawning areas. Those rules must include provision for periodic review of designated spawning areas and consultation with affected persons prior to designation of a stretch of water as a spawning area.

C. Discharges to Class C waters may cause some changes to aquatic life, except that the receiving waters must be of sufficient quality to support all species of fish indigenous to the receiving waters and maintain the structure and function of the resident biological community. For the purpose of allowing the discharge of aquatic pesticides or chemicals approved by the department and conducted by the department, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or an agent of either agency to restore biological communities affected by an invasive species, the department may find that the discharged effluent will not cause unacceptable changes to aquatic life as long as the materials and methods used will ensure the support of all species of indigenous fish and the structure and function of the resident biological community and will allow restoration of nontarget species.

5. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS

The State of Maine 2018/2020/2022 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, lists a 10.97 mile segment (ADB Assessment Unit ID # ME0104000204_421R) of the Androscoggin River main stem from Rumford Point to the Virginia Bridge in Rumford in *Category 5-D: Rivers and Streams Impaired by Legacy Pollutants*. The designated use of fish consumption is impaired due to the historic presence of the legacy pollutants including polychlorinated biphenyls. The report states “This legacy pollutant cannot be addressed with a TMDL or permit. Pollutant effects will continue to diminish naturally over time. Fish tissue monitoring revealed legacy PCBs.”

The State of Maine 2018/2020/2022 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, lists a 10.97 mile segment (Integrated Report ID # ME0104000204_421R) of the Androscoggin River main stem from Rumford Point to the Virginia Bridge in Rumford in *Category 4-B: Rivers and Streams Impaired By Pollutants – Pollution Control Requirements Reasonably Expected to Result in Attainment*. The impairment is related to historic elevated levels of dioxin in fish tissue. Pollution control requirements reasonably expected to result in attainment refers to establishment of dioxin limits on internal waste streams at the two kraft mills as well as a requirement fish tissue samples collected below mill discharges cannot be higher than level upstream of the mill discharges.

The State of Maine 2018/2020/2022 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, lists all fresh waters in *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 tissues. The report states “All freshwaters are listed in Category 4-A (total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Completed due to the USEPA approval of a regional TMDL. Maine has a fish consumption advisory for all fish taken from all freshwaters due to mercury.”

The report states “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 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 Maine law, 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 for this facility and the facility has been in compliance with said interim discharge limits 100% of the time. See Section 6(j) of this Fact Sheet.

6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS & MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

- a. Flow: The previous permitting action established a monthly average discharge flow limit of 19,000 gallons per day based on the dry weather design capacity of the treatment facility and a daily maximum discharge flow reporting requirement which are being carried forward in this permitting action. This permitting action is also carrying forward the continuous recorder monitoring requirement for discharge flow.

A review of the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data for the period January 2017 – January 2023 indicates the permittee has been in compliance with said limit(s) as values have been reported as follows:

Flow (DMRs=73)

Value	Limit (gpd)	Range (gpd)	Mean (gpd)
Monthly Average	19,000	269 – 5,259	1,082
Daily Maximum	Report	442 – 7,495	2,169

- b. Dilution Factors: Dilution factors associated with the discharge from the Rumford Point facility were derived in accordance with freshwater protocols established in Department Regulation Chapter 530, *Surface Water Toxics Control Program*, October 2005. With a monthly average plant design flow of 0.019 MGD, dilution calculations are as follows:

$$\text{Acute: } 1Q10 = 1,663 \text{ cfs} \Rightarrow \frac{(1,663 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.019 \text{ MGD}}{0.019 \text{ MGD}} = 56,578:1$$

$$\text{Modified Acute: } \frac{1}{4} 1Q10 = 416 \text{ cfs} \Rightarrow \frac{(416 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.019 \text{ MGD}}{0.019 \text{ MGD}} = 14,154:1$$

$$\text{Chronic: } 7Q10 = 1,663 \text{ cfs} \Rightarrow \frac{(1,663 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.019 \text{ MGD}}{0.019 \text{ MGD}} = 56,578:1$$

$$\text{Harmonic Mean} = 2,795 \text{ cfs} \Rightarrow \frac{(2,795 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.019 \text{ MGD}}{0.019 \text{ MGD}} = 95,094:1$$

Department rule Chapter 530 states:

Analysis using numerical acute criteria for aquatic life must be based on 1/4 of the 1Q10 stream design flow to prevent substantial acute toxicity within any mixing zone, according to EPA's Mixing Zone Policy and to ensure a Zone of Passage of at least 3/4 of the cross-sectional area of any stream as required by Department rule. Where it can be demonstrated that a discharge achieves complete and rapid 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 flow, up to and including all of it, as long as the required Zone of Passage is maintained.

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

The outfall pipe associated with the discharge from the District's Rumford Point Facility terminates on the shoreline of the Androscoggin River. Therefore, this permitting action is utilizing the default stream flow of ¼ 1Q10 in acute evaluations in accordance with Chapter 530.

- c. Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD₅) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS): The previous permitting action established monthly average and weekly average BOD₅ & TSS concentration limits of 30 mg/L and 45 mg/L, respectively, which were based on secondary treatment requirements of Department rule 06-096 CMR Chapter 525(3)(III). The previous permitting action also established daily maximum BOD₅ & TSS concentration limits of 50 mg/L based on a Department best professional judgment (BPJ) of best practicable treatment (BPT). All three technology-based concentration limits are being carried forward in this permitting action.

Department rule 06-096 CMR Chapter 523(6)(f) states that all pollutants limited in permits shall have limitations, standards or prohibitions expressed in terms of mass. The previous permitting action established monthly average, weekly average and daily maximum technology-based mass limits of 4.8 lbs./day, 7.1 lbs./day, and 7.9 lbs./day, respectively, for BOD₅ & TSS, which are being carried forward in this permitting action and were derived as follows:

Monthly Average Mass Limit: (30 mg/L)(8.34 lbs./gallon)(0.019 MGD) = 4.8 lbs./day

Weekly Average Mass Limit: (45 mg/L)(8.34 lbs./gallon)(0.019 MGD) = 7.1 lbs./day

Daily Maximum Mass Limit: (50 mg/L)(8.34 lbs./gallon)(0.019 MGD) = 7.9 lbs./day

The previous permitting action established, and this permitting action is carrying forward, a requirement for a minimum of 85% removal of BOD₅ & TSS pursuant to Department rule 06-096 CMR Chapter 525(3)(III)(a)(3) and (b)(3).

This permitting action is carrying forward the minimum monitoring frequency requirement of twice per month (2/Month) based on Department guidance for POTWs permitted to discharge up to 0.1 MGD.

A review of the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data for the period January 2017 – January 2023 indicates the permittee has been in compliance with said limit(s) as values have been reported as follows:

BOD Mass (DMRs=73)

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Average (lbs/day)
Monthly Average	4.8	0.0 – 0.42	0.08
Daily Maximum	7.9	0.01 – 0.72	0.11

6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS & MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (cont'd)**BOD Concentration (DMRs=73)**

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Average (mg/L)
Monthly Average	30	2.4 - 24	9.1
Daily Maximum	50	2.5 - 37	11.5

TSS mass (DMRs=73)

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Average (lbs/day)
Monthly Average	4.8	0.0 – 0.18	0.043
Daily Maximum	7.9	0.0 – 0.33	0.057

TSS concentration (DMRs=73)

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Average (mg/L)
Monthly Average	30	0.9 - 12	5.3
Daily Maximum	50	1.4 - 17	6.4

BOD % removal (DMRs = 73)

Value	Limit (%)	Range (%)	Average (%)
Monthly Average	85	86 - 99	97

TSS % removal(DMRs = 73)

Value	Limit (%)	Range (%)	Average (%)
Monthly Average	85	86 - 99	97

- d. Settleable Solids: The previous permitting action established a daily maximum technology-based concentration limit of 0.3 ml/L for settleable solids and a minimum monitoring frequency requirement of two times per week (2/Week). The daily maximum concentration limit of 0.3 ml/L is based on a Department BPJ determination and provides sufficient information to assess whether the treatment facility is providing BPT and is being carried forward in this permitting action.

A review of the monthly DMR data for the period January 2017 – January 2023 indicates the following:

Settleable solids (n=73)

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

- e. E. coli Bacteria The previous permitting action established seasonal (May 15 – September 30) monthly average and daily maximum *E. coli* bacteria limits of 126 colonies/100 ml and 949 colonies/100 ml respectively, based on the State of Maine Water Classification Program criteria for Class C waters found at Maine law, 38 MRS, §465(4).

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

During calendar year 2005, Maine's Legislature approved a new monthly average (geometric mean) and daily maximum water quality standards of 100 colonies/100 ml and 236 colonies/100 ml respectively for water bodies designated as Class C. Therefore, this permit is reducing both the monthly average and daily maximum limitations for *E.coli* bacteria to be consistent with the limitations in 38 MRS, §465(4).

Current EPA guidance recommends that Maine extend the monitoring season within which bacteria criteria apply to reflect a longer time-period for potential human recreational contact than the current period. Pursuant to 38 M.R.S. § 465(3)(B) (amended February 16, 2018), this permitting action is expanding the *E. coli* bacteria monitoring season from May 15th – September 30th to April 15th – October 31st. The Department reserves the right to impose year-round bacteria limits, if necessary, to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

A review of the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data for the seasonal period May 2017 – September 2022 indicates the permittee has reported values as follows:

***E. coli* bacteria (DMRs=30)**

Value	Limit (col/100 ml)	Range (col/100 ml)	Mean (col/100 ml)
Monthly Average	126	1 – 88	13
Daily Maximum	949	1 – 2,420*	197**

*Two excursions (May and August 2019)

** Mean without the two excursions (n=28) is 39 col/100 ml.

- f. Total Residual Chlorine (TRC): The previous permitting action established a daily maximum technology-based concentration limit of 1.0 mg/L for TRC and a minimum monitoring frequency requirement of two times per week (2/Week). 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 licensing/permitting actions impose the more stringent of either a water quality-based or BPT based limit. End-of-pipe acute and chronic water quality based concentration thresholds 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	14,154:1 (Mod. A) 56,578:1 (C)	269 mg/L	622 mg/L

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

The Department has established a daily maximum BPT limitation of 1.0 mg/L for facilities that disinfect their effluent with elemental chlorine or chlorine-based compounds. The BPT-based limit of 1.0 mg/L is more stringent than the calculated acute water quality-based threshold of 269 mg/L and is therefore being carried forward in this permitting action along with the 2/Week monitoring frequency.

TRC monitoring must be performed during any period in which chlorine-based compounds are utilized to disinfect the effluent. For instances when chlorine based compounds are not used for disinfection during an entire reporting period, the facility shall report “N-9” for this parameter on the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR).

A review of the monthly DMR data for the period January 2017 – January 2023 indicates the permittee has been in compliance with said limit(s) as values have been reported as follows:

Total residual chlorine (DMRs=36)

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Daily Maximum	1.0	0.09 – 0.99	0.75

- g. Total Phosphorus (Total-P) and Orthophosphate (Ortho-P): In the previous permit, the Department made the determination that the discharge of total phosphorus and orthophosphate from the Rumford Point facility were insignificant compared to other dischargers on the river and was not causing or contributing to impairments cited in TMDL completed for the Androscoggin River in 2005.

Waste Discharge License Conditions, 06-096 CMR 523 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.¹ 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.²

¹ *Waste Discharge License Conditions*, 06-096 CMR 523(5)(d)(1)(i) (effective date January 12, 2001)

² 06-096 CMR 523(5)(d)(1)(vi)(A)

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

USEPA's Quality Criteria for Water 1986 (Gold Book) puts forth an in-stream phosphorus concentration goal of less than 0.100 mg/L in streams or other flowing waters not discharging directly to lakes or impoundments, to prevent nuisance algal growth. The use of the 0.100 mg/L Gold Book goal is consistent with the requirements of 06-096 CMR 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 goal of 0.100 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 goal of 0.100 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. Therefore, this permit may be reopened during the term of the permit to modify any reasonable potential calculation, phosphorus limits, or monitoring requirements based on site-specific data.

For the background concentration in the Androscoggin River just upstream of the Rumford Point discharge, the Department collected three test results during summer of 2014 and the highest result was 0.018 mg/L which is being utilized in reasonable potential calculations in this Fact Sheet. For effluent data, the Department is utilizing the most current information collected in the summer of 2006. The permittee collected four samples for total phosphorus with values ranging from 4.5 mg/L to 9.0 mg/L with a mean of 6.2 mg/L. For the purposes of calculations in this permit, an effluent value of 6.2 mg/L is being utilized in reasonable potential calculations in this Fact Sheet.

Using the following calculation and criteria, the Rumford Point facility does not have a reasonable potential to exceed the EPA's Gold Book goal of 0.100 mg/L for phosphorus or a reasonable potential to exceed the Department's 06-096 CMR Chapter 583 draft criteria of 0.033 mg/L for Class C waters. The calculations are as follows:

$$Cr = \frac{Q_e C_e + Q_s C_s}{Q_r}$$

Q_e = effluent flow i.e. facility design flow	=	0.019 MGD
C_e = effluent pollutant concentration	=	6.2 mg/L
Q_s = 7Q10 flow of receiving water	=	1,075 MGD
C_s = upstream concentration	=	0.018 mg/L
Q_r = receiving water flow	=	1,075 MGD
Cr = receiving water concentration	=	?

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

$$Cr = \frac{(0.019 \text{ MGD} \times 6.2 \text{ mg/L}) + (1,075 \text{ MGD} \times 0.018 \text{ mg/L})}{1,075 \text{ MGD}} = 0.018 \text{ mg/L}$$

$$Cr = 0.018 \text{ mg/L} < 0.100 \text{ mg/L} \Rightarrow \text{No Reasonable Potential}$$

$$Cr = 0.018 \text{ mg/L} < 0.033 \text{ mg/L} \Rightarrow \text{No Reasonable Potential}$$

Therefore, no end-of-pipe limitations or monitoring requirements for total phosphorus are being established in this permit.

- h. **pH:** The previous permitting action established a pH range limitation of 6.0 – 9.0 standard units based on Department rule found at Chapter 525(3)(III)(c), which is being carried forward in this permitting action along with a monitoring frequency of 2/Week.

A review of the monthly DMR data for the period January 2017 – January 2023 indicates the permittee has been in compliance with said limit(s) 100% of the time.

pH (DMRs=52)

Value	Limit (su)	Range (su)
Range	6.0 – 9.0	6.0 – 7.6

- i. **Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) and Chemical Specific Testing** – The previous permitting action did not contain any WET or chemical specific testing requirements as the Rumford Point facility was exempt from said testing pursuant the former Department rule Chapter 530.5. Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A., Sections 414-A and 420, prohibit the discharge of effluents containing substances in amounts that would cause the surface waters of the State to contain toxic substances above levels set forth in Federal Water Quality Criteria as established by the USEPA. Department Rules, 06-096 CMR Chapter 530, *Surface Water Toxics Control Program*, and Chapter 584, *Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants* set forth ambient water quality criteria (AWQC) for toxic pollutants and procedures necessary to control levels of toxic pollutants in surface waters. WET, priority pollutant and analytical chemistry testing as required by Chapter 530, is included in this permit in order to fully characterize the effluent. This permit also provides for reconsideration of effluent limits and monitoring schedules after evaluation of toxicity testing results. The monitoring schedule includes consideration of results currently on file, the nature of the wastewater, existing treatment and receiving water characteristics.

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.

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

Chapter 530 establishes four categories of testing requirements based predominately on the chronic dilution factor. The categories are as follows:

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

Department rule Chapter 530 (1)(D) specifies the criteria to be used in determining the minimum monitoring frequency requirements for WET, priority pollutant and analytical chemistry testing. Based on the Chapter 530 criteria, the permittee's facility falls into the Level IV frequency category as the facility has a chronic dilution factor of $>500:1$ and a $Q < 1.0$ MGD. Chapter 530(1)(D)(1) specifies that routine screening and surveillance level testing requirements are as follows:

Screening level testing – Beginning 24 months prior to permit expiration and lasting through 12 months prior to permit expiration (Year 4 of the term of the permit) and every five years thereafter if a timely request for renewal has been made and the permit continues in force, or is replaced by a permit renewal containing this requirement:

Level	WET Testing	Priority pollutant testing	Analytical chemistry
IV	1 per year	1 per year	4 per year

Surveillance level testing – Beginning upon permit issuance and lasting through 24 months prior to permit expiration (Years 1, 2 & 3 of the term of the permit) and commencing again 12 months prior to permit expiration (Year 5 of the term of the permit),

Level	WET Testing	Priority pollutant testing	Analytical chemistry
IV	1 per year	None required	1 per year

The routine testing requirements for Level IV are waived pursuant to 06-096 CMR Chapter 530(2)(D)(1), except that the Department shall require an individual discharger to conduct testing under the following conditions.

- (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.

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

The Department has no information on file that warrants establishing WET, priority pollutant or analytical chemistry testing.

In accordance with Department rule Chapter 530(2)(D)(4) and Special Condition H of this permit, *06-096 CMR 530(2)(D)(4) Statement For Reduced/Waived Toxics Testing* the permittee must annually submit a written statement to the Department evaluating its current status for each of the conditions listed. See **Attachment C** of the permit for an acceptable certification form to satisfy this Special Condition.

- j. 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 May 23, 2000, thereby administratively modifying MEPDES ME0101485/WDL W002685-5L-F-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. The interim mercury limits were scheduled to expire on October 1, 2001. However, effective June 15, 2001, the Maine Legislature enacted Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A. §413, sub-§11 specifying that interim mercury limits and monitoring requirements remain in effect.

On February 6, 2012, the Department issued a minor revision of the permit by reducing the monitoring frequency to 1/Year. The mercury effluent limitations and monitoring requirement of 1/Year are being incorporated into Special Condition A, *Effluent Limitations And Monitoring Requirements*, of this permit.

Maine law 38 M.R.S.A., §420 1-B,(B)(1) states that a facility is not in violation of the AWQC 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 reviewed DMRs for the period January 2017 – January 2023. A summary of the data is as follows:

Mercury (n = 6)

Value	Limit (ng/L)	Range (ng/L)	Mean (ng/L)
Monthly Average	4.5	1.0 – 1.5	1.3
Daily Maximum	6.8		

7. ANTI-BACKSLIDING

Federal regulation 40 CFR, §122(l) contains the criteria for what is often referred to as the anti-backsliding provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act). In general, the regulation states that except for provisions specified in the regulation, effluent limitations, standards or conditions must be at least as stringent as the final effluent limitations, standards or conditions in the previous permit. Applicable exceptions include (1) material and substantial alterations or additions to the permitted facility occurred after permit issuance which justify the application of a less stringent effluent limitation and (2) information is available which was not available at the time of the permit issuance (other than revised regulations, guidance or test methods) and which would justify the application of less stringent effluent limitations at the time of permit issuance. All limitations in this permit are equally or more stringent than the previous permit.

8. 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 waterbody to meet standards for Class C classification.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public notice of this application was made in the *Rumford Falls Times* newspaper on or about October 16, 2020. The Department receives public comments on an application until the date a final agency action is taken on the application. Those persons receiving copies of draft permits shall have at least 30 days in which to submit comments on the draft or to request a public hearing, pursuant to Chapter 522 of the Department's rules.

10. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

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

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

11. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

During the period March 31, 2023 through issuance of this permit, the Department solicited comments from the permittee, state agencies and interested parties on the proposed draft MEPDES permit/Maine WDL to be issued for the discharge(s) cited in said permit/license. The Department did not receive any comments on the draft permit. Therefore, no Response to Comments has been prepared.

ATTACHMENT A



MEPDES - Waste Discharge Program





Find address or place

+

-

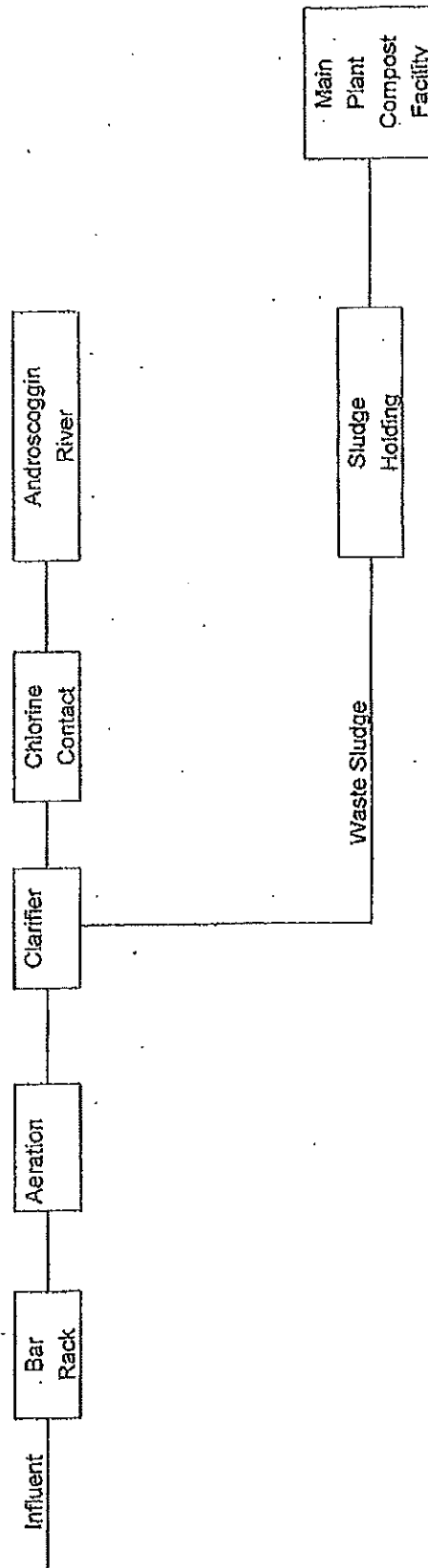
An aerial photograph of a rural area. In the upper left, there is a cluster of buildings and trees, identified by a label as 'RUMFORD POINT WWTF'. To the right of this area, a blue dot marks a location on a road, labeled '001'. The landscape includes green fields, a road, and a body of water in the lower right. A scale bar and coordinate information are located in the bottom right corner.

300ft
-70.669 44.499 Degrees

ATTACHMENT B

Rumford Point Line Drawing

Item 2 A)



ATTACHMENT C

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

CHAPTER 530.2(D)(4) CERTIFICATION

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 st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3 rd Quarter	4 th 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 ¹	<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.

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