

**AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 301 (h)  
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES)**

In compliance with the provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act, as amended, (33 U.S.C. §§1251 et seq.; the "CWA"), and Title 38 Maine Revised Statutes § 414-A et seq.,

**Town of Searsport  
P.O. Box 499  
Searsport, Maine 04974**

is authorized to discharge from a facility located at

**45 Navy Street  
Searsport, Maine 04974**

to receiving water named Penobscot Bay – Searsport, Maine

in accordance with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth herein.

This NPDES permit will become effective on the first day of the calendar month following 60 days after signature by both the Director of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Region 1) and the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP or the Department).<sup>\*</sup> This Waste Discharge License (WDL) will become effective immediately upon signature by the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Both the NPDES permit and WDL will expire concurrently at midnight, five (5) years from the date of signature by the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

This permit supersedes the NPDES permit/WDL issued on December 1, 2008. This permit consists of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit including effluent limitations and monitoring requirements (Part I) and MEPDES Standard Conditions Applicable to All Permits, (last revised July 1, 2002), and EPA NPDES Part II Standard Conditions (April 26, 2018), Attachment A Effluent Mercury Test Report, Attachment B Marine WET Test Requirements, and Attachment C WET and Chemistry Reporting Form.

Signed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

Signed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ken Moraff, Director  
Office of Ecosystems Protection  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Boston, Massachusetts

\_\_\_\_\_  
Melanie Loyzim, Acting Commissioner  
Maine Department of Environmental  
Protection  
Augusta, Maine

<sup>\*</sup> Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 124.15(b)(3), if no comments requesting a change to the draft permit are received, the NPDES permit will become effective upon the date of signature by the Commissioner of the Maine DEP.

**IN THE MATTER OF**

TOWN OF SEARSPORT, )  
 WALDO COUNTY, MAINE )  
 PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT )  
 WORKS )  
 ME0101966 )  
 W006279-6B-K-R )  
 )  
**APPROVAL** )

NATIONAL POLLUTANT  
 DISCHARGE  
 ELIMINATION SYSTEM  
 WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE  
  
**RENEWAL**

Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Title 33 U.S.C., Section 1251, et seq., and 38 M.R.S., Section 414 A et seq., and applicable regulations, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Region 1) and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP or the Department) have considered the application of the Town of Searsport (Searsport or Town hereinafter), with its supportive data, agency review comments, and other related materials on file and FINDS THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

**APPLICATION SUMMARY**

The Town has applied for renewal of a combined National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit #ME0100966 and Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) # W006279 that was issued November 12, 2008 and expired on November 30, 2013. The permit/license (permit) authorizes the discharge of up to a monthly average flow of 0.2 million gallons per day (MGD) of primary treated sanitary waste water to Penobscot Bay, Class SB, in Searsport, Maine.

**PERMIT SUMMARY**

This permitting action is similar to the previous permitting action in that it carries forward;

1. The monthly average flow limitation of 0.2 MGD (but is being expressed in gallons per day (gpd)).
2. The monthly average technology-based requirements to achieve a minimum of 30% removal of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and a minimum of 50% removal for total suspended solids (TSS).
3. The monthly average technology-based mass limitations for BOD and TSS.
4. The daily maximum concentration reporting requirement for settleable solids.
5. The daily maximum concentration limit for total residual chlorine.
6. The pH limits and testing frequency.

This permitting action is different than the previous permitting action in that it is:

1. Including enterococci limits based on the reasonable potential of the treated effluent to

cause or contribute to an exceedance of the state bacterial criteria to protect the recreational designated use.

2. Including updated fecal coliform limits consistent with the recommendations in the 2013 National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guidelines and the year-round designated shellfishing use in Maine's water quality standards.
3. Including total mercury limits consistent with Maine 06-096 Chapter 519: Interim Effluent Limitations and Controls for the Discharge of Mercury.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

BASED on the findings in the Fact Sheet dated December 19, 2018 and subject to the Conditions listed below, the EPA and the Department make 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 its 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. Section 464(4)(F), will be met, in that:
  - (a) Existing in-stream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect and maintain those existing uses will be maintained and protected;
  - (b) Where high quality waters of the State constitute an outstanding national resource, that water quality will be maintained and protected;
  - (c) Where the standards of classification of the receiving water body are not met, the discharge will not cause or contribute to the failure of the water body to meet the standards of classification;
  - (d) Where the actual quality of any classified receiving water body exceeds the minimum standards of the next highest classification, that higher water quality will be maintained and protected; and
  - (e) Where a discharge will result in lowering the existing quality of any water body, the Department has made the finding, following opportunity for public participation, that this action is necessary to achieve important economic or social benefits to the State.
4. The discharge will be subject to effluent limitations that require application of best practicable treatment.

**ACTION**

THEREFORE, the USEPA and the Department APPROVE the above-noted application of the TOWN OF SEARSPORT, to discharge up to a monthly average of 200,000 gpd of primary treated waste waters to Penobscot Bay, Class SB, in Searsport, Maine, SUBJECT TO THE ATTACHED CONDITIONS, and all applicable standards and regulations including:

1. “*Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Standard Conditions Applicable To All Permits*,” revised July 1, 2002, and *EPA NPDES Part II, Standard Conditions*, (April 2018) copies attached.
2. The Conditions on the following pages.
3. If a renewal application is timely submitted and accepted as complete for processing prior to the expiration of this permit, the terms and conditions of this permit and all subsequent modifications and minor revisions thereto will remain in effect until a final decision on the renewal application becomes effective (See 40 C.F.R. § 122.6). [*Maine Administrative Procedure Act*, 5 M.R.S.A. § 10002 and *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters*, 06-096 C.M.R. 2(21)(A) (effective June 9, 2018)].

PLEASE NOTE ATTACHED SHEET FOR GUIDANCE ON APPEAL PROCEDURES

Date of initial receipt of application: May 6, 2013  
Date of application acceptance: May 6, 2013

Date filed with Maine Board of Environmental Protection: December 19, 2018  
This order prepared by jointly GREGG WOOD, Bureau of Water Quality and Robin Johnson, EPA Region 1.

## **PART I – EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

1. This authorization to discharge includes two separate and independent permit authorizations. The two permit authorizations are (i) a federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Region 1) pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §§1251 et seq.; and (ii) an identical state Waste Discharge License (WDL) issued by the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP or the Department) pursuant to the Maine law, 38 M.R.S., Section 414-A et seq., and applicable regulations. All of the requirements contained in this authorization, as well as the standard conditions contained in 314 C.M.R. 3.19, are hereby incorporated by reference into this surface water discharge permit/license (permit).
2. This authorization also incorporates the state water quality certification issued by MEDEP under § 401(a) of the Federal Clean Water Act, 40 C.F.R. § 124.53, M.G.L. c. 21, § 27. All of the requirements (if any) contained in MEDEP's water quality certification for the permit are hereby incorporated by reference into this state permit.
3. Each agency has the independent right to enforce the terms and conditions of this permit. Any modification, suspension or revocation of this permit will be effective only with respect to the agency taking such action, and will not affect the validity or status of this permit/license as issued by the other agency, unless and until each agency has concurred in writing with such modification, suspension or revocation. In the event any portion of this permit is declared invalid, illegal or otherwise issued in violation of state law such permit will remain in full force and effect under federal law as a NPDES Permit issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In the event this permit/license is declared invalid, illegal or otherwise issued in violation of federal law, this permit will remain in full force and effect under state law as a WDL issued by the State of Maine.

**B. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

1. During the period beginning on the effective date and lasting through expiration, the permittee is authorized to discharge primary treated effluent from outfall serial number 001A to Penobscot Bay. Such discharge must be limited and monitored as specified below.

<b>Effluent Characteristic</b>	<b>Discharge Limitations</b>				<b>Monitoring Requirement</b>	
	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Measurement Frequency</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
Flow [50050]	200,000 gpd [07]	---	---	---	Continuous [99/99]	Recorder [RC]
BOD [00310]	338 lbs/day [26]	Report lbs/day [26]	203 mg/L [19]	Report, mg/L [19]	1/Week [01/07]	Composite [24]
BOD % Removal <sup>(1)</sup> [50076]	---	---	30 % [23]	---	1/Month [01/30]	Calculate [CA]
TSS [00530]	242 lbs/day [26]	Report lbs/day [26]	145 mg/L [19]	Report, mg/L [19]	1/Week [01/07]	Composite [24]
TSS % Removal <sup>(1,4)</sup> [81011]	---	---	50 % [23]	---	1/Month [01/30]	Calculate [CA]
Settleable Solids [00545]	---	---	Report (mg/L) [25]	Report (mg/L) [25]	1/Week [01/07]	Grab [GR]
Fecal Coliform Bacteria <sup>(2)</sup> [31615]	---	---	14/100 mL [30]	31/100 mL [30]	1/Week [01/07]	Grab [GR]
Enterococci bacteria <sup>(2,4)</sup> [61211] (April 15 – October 31 each year)	---	---	8 cfu/100 mL [30]	54 cfu/100 mL [30]	1/Week [01/07]	Grab [GR]
Total Residual Chlorine <sup>(3,4)</sup> [50060]	---	---	---	0.7 mg/L [19]	1/Day [01/01]	Grab [GR]
Total Mercury <sup>(4,5)</sup> [71900]	---	---	412 ng/L [3M]	618 ng/L [3M]	1/Year [01/YR]	Grab [GR]
pH (Std. Units) [00400]	The pH must not be less than 6.0 or greater than 9.0 at any time.				1/Week [01/01]	Grab [GR]

The italicized numeric values bracketed in the table above are code numbers that Department personnel use to code the monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs).

**EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

***SURVEILLANCE LEVEL TESTING*** - Beginning upon issuance of this permit and lasting through 24 months prior to permit expiration, and commencing again 12 months prior to permit expiration the permittee shall be limited and monitored as specified below:

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations				Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Measurement Frequency</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
Whole Effluent Toxicity <sup>(6)</sup> <u>Chronic – NOEL</u> <i>Arbacia punctulata</i> [TBH3A] <i>(Sea urchin)</i>	---	---	---	0.53 % [23]	1/Year [01/YR]	Composite [24]

***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, the permittee shall be limited and monitored as specified below:

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations				Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Measurement Frequency</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
Whole Effluent Toxicity <sup>(6)</sup> <u>Acute – NOEL</u> <i>Mysidopsis bahia</i> [TDM3E] <i>(Mysid Shrimp)</i>	---	---	---	Report % [23]	1/Year [01/YR]	Composite [24]
<u>Chronic – NOEL</u> <i>Arbacia punctulata</i> [TBH3A] <i>(Sea urchin)</i>	---	---	---	0.53 % [23]	1/Year [01/YR]	Composite [24]
Priority pollutant <sup>(7,9)</sup> [50008]	---	---	---	Report µg/L [28]	1/Year [01/YR]	Composite/Grab [24]
Analytical chemistry <sup>(8,9)</sup> [50008]	---	---	---	Report µg/L [28]	1/Quarter [01/90]	Composite/Grab [24]

The italicized numeric values in brackets in the tables above are not limitations but codes used by Department personnel to code monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs).

Footnotes:

1. Percent removal - The permittee must achieve at least 30% removal for BOD and 50% removal for TSS. For the purposes of calculating a monthly average percent removal, the permittee must use the measured monthly average influent and effluent concentrations. The permittee must report the measured influent concentrations.

**Calculating BOD<sub>5</sub> Monthly Average 30% Removal Limit**

$$\frac{(Z \text{ mg/L} - X \text{ mg/L}) * (100\%)}{(Z \text{ mg/L})} = Y \% \text{ Removal}$$

Where Z is the Monthly Average influent BOD<sub>5</sub> Concentration in mg/L, X = Monthly Average effluent BOD<sub>5</sub> concentration in mg/L and, Y = Actual Monthly Average BOD<sub>5</sub> Percent Removal

**Calculating TSS Monthly Average 50% Removal Limit**

$$\frac{(Z \text{ mg/L} - X \text{ mg/L}) * (100\%)}{(Z \text{ mg/L})} = Y \% \text{ Removal}$$

Where Z is the Monthly Average influent TSS Concentration in mg/L, X = Monthly Average effluent TSS concentration in mg/L and, Y = Actual Monthly Average TSS Percent Removal.

2. Fecal coliform and enterococci bacteria – The monthly average limits for fecal coliform and enterococci are expressed as and must be reported as a geometric mean. Enterococci bacteria limitations and monitoring requirements are in effect between April 15 – October 31 of each year. The EPA and Department reserves the right to impose the limitation on a year-round basis to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.
3. Total residual chlorine (TRC) – Limitations and monitoring requirements for TRC are in effect whenever elemental chlorine or chlorine-based compounds are utilized for disinfection or cleaning. The permittee must utilize approved test methods that are capable of bracketing the limitations in this permit.
4. Required for State Certification.
5. Mercury – All mercury sampling (1/Year) required to determine compliance with interim limitations established pursuant to Interim Effluent Limitations and Controls for the Discharge of Mercury, 06-096 CMR 519 (last amended October 6, 2001) must be conducted in accordance with EPA’s “clean sampling techniques” found in EPA Method 1669, Sampling Ambient Water For Trace Metals At EPA Water Quality Criteria Levels. All mercury analyses must be conducted in accordance with EPA Method 1631E, Determination of Mercury in Water by Oxidation, Purge and Trap, and Cold Vapor Fluorescence Spectrometry. See Attachment A, Effluent Mercury Test Report, of this permit for the Department’s form for reporting mercury test results. Compliance with the monthly average 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.



6. **Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Testing** – Definitive WET testing is a multi-concentration testing event (a minimum of five dilutions bracketing the critical acute and chronic thresholds of 1.8% and 0.53%, respectively), which provides a point estimate of toxicity in terms of No Observed Effect Level, commonly referred to as NOEL or NOEC. A-NOEL is defined as the acute no observed effect level with survival as the end point. C-NOEL is defined as the chronic no observed effect level with survival, reproduction and growth as the end points.
- **Surveillance level testing** - Beginning upon issuance of this permit and lasting through 24 months prior to permit expiration, and commencing again 12 months prior to permit expiration, the permittee must conduct surveillance level chronic WET testing at a minimum frequency of once per year using the sea urchin (*Arbacia punctulata*). Surveillance tests must be conducted in a different calendar quarter such that a test is conducted in all four calendar quarters during the term of the permit.
  - **Screening level testing** - Beginning 24 months prior to permit expiration and lasting through 12 months prior to permit expiration and every five years thereafter, the permittee must conduct screening level WET testing at a minimum frequency of once per year using the mysid shrimp and sea urchin. The permittee must conduct acute testing on the mysid shrimp (*Americamysis bahia*) and chronic testing on the sea urchin (*Arbacia punctulata*).

Test results must be submitted to both the Department and EPA not later than the next Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) required by the permit, provided, however, that the permittee may review the toxicity reports for up to 10 business days of their availability before submitting them. The permittee must evaluate test results being submitted and identify to the Department possible exceedances of the critical acute and chronic water quality thresholds of 1.8% and 0.53%, respectively.

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

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2002. *Methods for Measuring the Acute Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater and Marine Organisms*, 5th ed. EPA 821-R-02-012. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Washington, D.C., October 2002 (the acute method manual)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2002. *Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Marine and Estuarine Organisms*, 3rd ed. EPA 821-R-02-014. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Washington, D.C., October 2002 (the marine chronic method manual)

Results of WET tests must be reported on the “Whole Effluent Toxicity Report Marine Waters” form included as Attachment B of this permit each time a WET test is performed. The permittee is required to analyze the effluent for the analytical chemistry parameters specified on the “WET and Chemical Specific Data Report Form” form included as Attachment C of this permit each time a WET test is performed.

7. **Priority pollutant testing** – Priority pollutants are those parameters listed in Attachment C of this permit.
- Surveillance level testing -- Not required pursuant to 06-096 CMR 530.
  - Screening level testing - Beginning 24 months prior to permit expiration and lasting through 12 months prior to permit expiration and every five years thereafter, the permittee must conduct screening level priority pollutant testing at a minimum frequency of once per year (1/Year).
8. **Analytical chemistry – Refers to a suite of chemicals in Attachment C of this permit**
- Surveillance level testing – Pursuant to Department rule 06-096 CMR., Chapter 530(2)(D)(3)(d), surveillance level testing is being waived.
  - 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 the permittee must conduct screening level analytical chemistry testing at a minimum frequency of once per calendar quarter (1/Quarter).
9. **Analytical chemistry and priority pollutant testing** – This testing must be conducted on samples collected at the same time as those collected for whole effluent toxicity tests, when applicable. Analysis must be conducted using methods that permit detection of a pollutant at existing levels in the effluent or that achieve the most current minimum reporting levels (RL) of detection as specified by the Department, unless a lower detection level is required to be consistent with the sufficiently sensitive methods requirements found in Part I.B.2 (second paragraph) of this permit. See Attachment C of this permit for a list of the Department’s most current RLs.

Analytical chemistry and priority pollutant test results must be submitted to the Department not later than the next Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) required by the permit, provided, however, that the permittee may review the toxicity reports for up to 10 business days of their availability before submitting them. The permittee must evaluate test results being submitted and identify to the Department, possible exceedances of the acute, chronic or human health AWQC as established in Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants, 06-096 CMR 584 (last amended July 29, 2012). For the purposes of DMR reporting, enter a “1” for yes, testing done this monitoring period or “NODI-9” monitoring not required this period.

## 2. Sampling

Sampling for all parameters must be collected after the last treatment process prior to discharge to the receiving water. Sampling and analysis must be conducted in accordance with; a) methods approved by 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 136, b) alternative methods approved by the Department in accordance with the procedures in 40 CFR Part 136, or c) as otherwise specified by the Department. Samples that are sent out for analysis must be analyzed by a laboratory certified by the State of Maine's Department of Health and Human Services for waste water. Samples that are analyzed by laboratories operated by waste discharge facilities licensed pursuant to Waste Discharge Licenses 38 M.R.S. § 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, all 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 C.F.R. § 122.44(i)(1)(iv), the permittee must monitor according to sufficiently sensitive test procedures (i.e., methods) approved under 40 C.F.R. Part 136 or required under 40 C.F.R. Chapter I, Subchapter N or O for the analysis of pollutants or pollutant parameters limited except WET). A method is considered “sufficiently sensitive” when: (1) The method minimum level (ML) is at or below the level of the effluent limit established in this permit for the measured pollutant or pollutant parameter; or (2) The method has the lowest ML of the analytical methods approved under 40 C.F.R. Part 136 or required under 40 C.F.R. Chapter I, Subchapter N or O for the measured pollutant or pollutant parameter.

The term “minimum level” refers to either 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 several 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. When a parameter is not detected above the ML, the permittee must report the data qualifier signifying less than the ML for that parameter (e.g., <50µg/L, if the ML for a parameter is 50 µg/L).

In calculating and reporting the average monthly concentration when the pollutant is not detected, assign zero to the non-detected sample result if the pollutant was not detected for all monitoring periods in the prior twelve months. If the pollutant was detected in at least one monitoring period in the prior twelve months, then assign each non-detected sample result a value that is equal to one half of the detection limit for the purposes of calculating averages.

## 3. Toxics Control

- a. The permittee must not discharge any pollutant or combination of pollutants in toxic amounts.
- b. Any toxic components of the effluent must not result in any demonstrable harm to aquatic life or violate any state or federal water quality standard which has been or may be

promulgated. Upon promulgation of any such standard, this permit may be revised or amended in accordance with such standards.

### **C. NARRATIVE EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS**

1. The effluent must not contain a visible oil sheen, foam or floating solids at any time or which would impair the uses designated for the classification of the receiving waters.
2. The effluent must 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 must not impart visible discoloration, taste, toxicity, radioactivity, 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.

### **D. TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR (specific to MEDEP)**

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

### **E. AUTHORIZED DISCHARGES**

The permittee is authorized to discharge only in accordance with the terms and conditions of this permit and only from the outfall(s) listed in Part 1.B.1. Discharges of waste water from any other point sources, including sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) are not authorized under this permit, and must be reported in accordance with Part D.1.e of the Standard Conditions of this permit.

### **F. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT**

In accordance with EPA Part II Standard Condition D, the permittee must notify the Department and the EPA of the following:

1. Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into the waste water collection and treatment system by a source introducing pollutants to the system at the time of permit issuance.
2. For the purposes of this section, adequate notice must include information on:

- a. The quality or quantity of waste water introduced to the waste water collection and treatment system;
- b. Any anticipated impact of the change in the quality or quantity of the waste water to be discharged from the treatment system and
- c. Prohibitions concerning interference and pass-through: pollutants introduced into POTW's by a non-domestic source (user) must not pass through the POTW or interfere with the operation or performance of the works.

#### **G. WET WEATHER FLOW MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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

The plan must include operating procedures for a range of intensities, address solids handling procedures (including septic waste and other high strength wastes if applicable) and provide written operating and maintenance procedures during the events.

The permittee must review their plan annually and record necessary changes to keep the plan up to date.

#### **H. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FOR THE TREATMENT PLANT**

This facility must maintain a current written comprehensive Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Plan. 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 and within 90 days of any process changes or minor equipment upgrades [PCS Code 09699],** the permittee must evaluate and modify the O&M Plan including site plan(s) and schematic(s) for the waste water 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 EPA personnel upon request.

**Within 90 days of completion of new and or substantial upgrades of the wastewater PCS Codes treatment facility [PCS Code 50108],** the permittee must submit the updated O&M Plan to their Department's compliance inspector for review and comment.

**Within ninety (90) days of the effective date of this permit, [PCS Code 00701],** the permittee must submit to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection for review and approval, a public education program designed to minimize the entrance of non-industrial toxic pollutants and pesticides into the collection system and waste water treatment facility.

**Within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the effective date of this permit, [PCS Code 53399],** the permittee must provide written notice to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, that the approved public education program has been implemented.

## **I. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THE SEWER SYSTEM**

Operation and maintenance of the sewer system must be in compliance with the General Requirements of NPDES Part II Standard Conditions and the following terms and conditions. The permittee is required to complete the following activities for the collection system which it owns:

### **1. Maintenance Staff**

The permittee must provide an adequate staff to carry out the operation, maintenance, repair, and testing functions required to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. Provisions to meet this requirement must be described in the O&M Plan required in Section H, above.

### **2. Preventive Maintenance Program**

The permittee must maintain an ongoing preventive maintenance program to prevent overflows and bypasses caused by malfunctions or failures of the sewer system infrastructure. The program must include an inspection program designed to identify all potential and actual unauthorized discharges. Provisions to meet this requirement must be described in the O&M Plan required in Section H, above.

### **3. Infiltration/Inflow**

The permittee must control infiltration and inflow (I/I) into the sewer system as necessary to prevent high flow related unauthorized discharges from their collection system and high flow related violations of the wastewater treatment plant's effluent limitations, or excessive I/I.

### **4. Collection System Mapping**

**Within 30 months of the effective date of this permit,** the permittee must prepare a map of the sewer collection system it owns (see page 1 of this permit for the effective date).

The map must be on a street map of the community, with sufficient detail and at a scale to allow easy interpretation. The collection system information shown on the map must be based on current conditions and must be kept up-to-date and available for review by federal, state, or local agencies. Such map(s) must include, but not be limited to the following:

- a. All sanitary sewer lines and related manholes;
- b. All pump stations and force mains;
- c. All surface waters (labeled);
- d. Other major appurtenances such as inverted siphons and air release valves;

- e. A numbering system which uniquely identifies manholes, catch basins, overflow points, regulators and outfalls; and
- f. The scale and a north arrow; and the pipe diameter, date of installation, type of material, distance between manholes and the direction of flow.

**J. 06-096 CMR Ch. 530(2)(D)(4) STATEMENT FOR REDUCED/WAIVED TOXICS TESTING (Specific to Maine DEP)**

**By December 31 of each calendar year**, the permittee must provide the Department with a certification describing any of the following that have occurred since the effective date of this permit [*PCS Code 95799*]: See **Attachment D** of the Fact Sheet for an acceptable certification form to satisfy this requirement.

1. 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;
2. Changes in the operation of the treatment works that may increase the toxicity of the discharge; and
3. Changes in industrial manufacturing processes contributing wastewater to the treatment works that may increase the toxicity of the discharge.
4. In addition, in the comments section of the certification form, the permittee must provide the Department with statements describing:
  - a. Changes in storm water collection or inflow/infiltration affecting the facility that may increase the toxicity of the discharge.
  - b. Increases in the type or volume of hauled wastes accepted by the facility.
5. The Department reserves the right to require annual (surveillance level) testing or other toxicity testing if new information becomes available that indicates the discharge may cause or have a reasonable potential to cause exceedances of ambient water quality criteria/thresholds.

**K. SLUDGE AND/OR SEPTAGE USE/DISPOSAL**

1. The permittee must comply with all existing federal and state laws and regulations that apply to sludge and/or septage use and disposal practices, including EPA regulations promulgated at 40 C.F.R. Part 503.
2. If both state and federal requirements apply to the permittee's septage use and/or disposal practices, the permittee must comply with the more stringent of the applicable requirements.
3. The permittee must submit an annual report containing the information specified in the 40 C.F.R. Part 503 requirements. Reports must be submitted to the address contained in the reporting section of the permit. If the permittee engages a contractor or contractors for

septage preparation and ultimate use or disposal, the annual report need contain only the following information:

- a. Name and address of contractor(s) responsible for sludge preparation, use or disposal.
- b. Quantity of septage from the POTW that is transferred to the sludge contractor(s), and the method(s) by which the contractor will prepare and use or dispose of the septage.

## **L. MONITORING AND REPORTING**

Electronic Reporting: NPDES Electronic Reporting, 40 C.F.R. § 127, requires Maine NPDES 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.

1. Electronic DMRs submitted using the USEPA CDX system, must be:
  - a. Submitted by a facility-authorized signatory; and
  - b. Submitted no later than midnight on the 15th day of the month following the completed reporting period.
2. 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.
3. In addition, a hardcopy form of this sheet must be signed and submitted to your compliance inspector, or a copy attached to your CDX 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.
4. Any verbal reports or verbal notifications, if required in Parts I and/or II of this permit, must be made to EPA. This includes verbal reports and notifications which require reporting within 24 hours. (As examples, see EPA Standard Conditions, Part II.B.4.c. (2), Part II.B.5.c. (3), and Part II.D.1.e.) Verbal reports and verbal notifications must be made to EPA's Office of Environmental Stewardship at:

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Office of Environmental Stewardship  
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 (OES04-4)  
Boston, MA 02109-3912  
617-918-1746**

## **M. RE-OPENING OF PERMIT FOR MODIFICATIONS**

Upon evaluation of test results required by Part I of this permitting action, additional site-specific information or any other pertinent information or test result obtained during the term of this permit, the Department may, at any time, and with notice to the permittee, modify this permit to:



(1) include effluent limits necessary to control specific pollutants or whole effluent toxicity where there is a reasonable potential that the effluent may cause water quality criteria to be exceeded; (2) require additional monitoring if results on file are inconclusive; or (3) change the monitoring requirements and/or limitations based on new information.

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**A. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**5. Permit actions.** This permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause. The filing of a request by the permittee for a permit modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination, or a notification of planned changes or anticipated noncompliance does not stay any permit condition.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**B. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES**

**1. General facility requirements.**

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

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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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**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

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>1</sup>Updated July 17, 2018 to fix typographical errors.

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A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Duty to Comply

The Permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of the Clean Water Act (CWA or 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 for toxic pollutants and with standards for sewage sludge use or disposal established under Section 405(d) of the CWA within the time provided in the regulations that establish these standards or prohibitions, or standards for sewage sludge use or disposal, even if the permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement.
- b. Penalties for Violations of Permit Conditions: The Director will adjust the civil and administrative penalties listed below in accordance with the Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule (83 Fed. Reg. 1190-1194 (January 10, 2018) and the 2015 amendments to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, 28 U.S.C. § 2461 note. See Pub. L. 114-74, Section 701 (Nov. 2, 2015)). These requirements help ensure that EPA penalties keep pace with inflation. Under the above-cited 2015 amendments to inflationary adjustment law, EPA must review its statutory civil penalties each year and adjust them as necessary.

(1) Criminal Penalties

- (a) *Negligent Violations.* The CWA provides that any person who negligently violates permit conditions implementing Sections 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act is subject to criminal penalties of not less than \$2,500 nor more than \$25,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment of not more than 1 year, or both. In the case of a second or subsequent conviction for a negligent violation, a person shall be subject to criminal penalties of not more than \$50,000 per day of violation or by imprisonment of not more than 2 years, or both.
- (b) *Knowing Violations.* The CWA provides that any person who knowingly violates permit conditions implementing Sections 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act is subject to a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$50,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment for not more than 3 years, or both. In the case of a second or subsequent conviction for a knowing violation, a person shall be subject to criminal penalties of not more than \$100,000 per day of violation, or imprisonment of not more than 6 years, or both.
- (c) *Knowing Endangerment.* The CWA provides that any person who knowingly violates permit conditions implementing Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act and who knows at that time that he or she is placing another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury shall upon conviction be subject to a fine of not more than \$250,000 or by imprisonment of not more than 15 years, or both. In the case of a second or subsequent conviction for a knowing

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endangerment violation, a person shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$500,000 or by imprisonment of not more than 30 years, or both. An organization, as defined in Section 309(c)(3)(B)(iii) of the Act, shall, upon conviction of violating the imminent danger provision, be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000,000 and can be fined up to \$2,000,000 for second or subsequent convictions.

- (d) *False Statement.* The CWA provides that any person who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under this permit shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or by imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or both. If a conviction of a person is for a violation committed after a first conviction of such person under this paragraph, punishment is a fine of not more than \$20,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment of not more than 4 years, or both. The Act further provides that any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or non-compliance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 per violation, or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months per violation, or by both.
- (2) *Civil Penalties.* The CWA provides that any person who violates a permit condition implementing Sections 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed the maximum amounts authorized by Section 309(d) of the Act, the 2015 amendments to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, 28 U.S.C. § 2461 note, and 40 C.F.R. Part 19. *See* Pub. L.114-74, Section 701 (Nov. 2, 2015); 83 Fed. Reg. 1190 (January 10, 2018).
- (3) *Administrative Penalties.* The CWA provides that any person who violates a permit condition implementing Sections 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act is subject to an administrative penalty as follows:
- (a) *Class I Penalty.* Not to exceed the maximum amounts authorized by Section 309(g)(2)(A) of the Act, the 2015 amendments to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, 28 U.S.C. § 2461 note, and 40 C.F.R. Part 19. *See* Pub. L.114-74, Section 701 (Nov. 2, 2015); 83 Fed. Reg. 1190 (January 10, 2018).
- (b) *Class II Penalty.* Not to exceed the maximum amounts authorized by Section 309(g)(2)(B) of the Act the 2015 amendments to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, 28 U.S.C. § 2461 note, and 40 C.F.R. Part 19. *See* Pub. L.114-74, Section 701 (Nov. 2, 2015); 83 Fed. Reg. 1190 (January 10, 2018).

### 2. 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



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condition.

3. Duty to Provide Information

The Permittee shall furnish to the Director, within a reasonable time, any information which the Director 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 Director, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this permit.

4. Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the Permittee from responsibilities, liabilities or penalties to which the Permittee is or may be subject under Section 311 of the CWA, or Section 106 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA).

5. Property Rights

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

6. Confidentiality of Information

a. In accordance with 40 C.F.R. Part 2, any information submitted to EPA pursuant to these regulations may be claimed as confidential by the submitter. Any such claim must be asserted at the time of submission in the manner prescribed on the application form or instructions or, in the case of other submissions, by stamping the words "confidential business information" on each page containing such information. If no claim is made at the time of submission, EPA may make the information available to the public without further notice. If a claim is asserted, the information will be treated in accordance with the procedures in 40 C.F.R. Part 2 (Public Information).

b. Claims of confidentiality for the following information will be denied:

- (1) The name and address of any permit applicant or Permittee;
- (2) Permit applications, permits, and effluent data.

c. Information required by NPDES application forms provided by the Director under 40 C.F.R. § 122.21 may not be claimed confidential. This includes information submitted on the forms themselves and any attachments used to supply information required by the forms.

7. 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. The Permittee shall submit a new application at least 180 days before the expiration date of the existing permit, unless permission for a later date has been granted by the Director. (The Director shall not grant permission for applications to be submitted later than the expiration date of the existing permit.)

8. State Authorities

Nothing in Parts 122, 123, or 124 precludes more stringent State regulation of any activity

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covered by the regulations in 40 C.F.R. Parts 122, 123, and 124, whether or not under an approved State program.

### 9. Other Laws

The issuance of a permit does not authorize any injury to persons or property or invasion of other private rights, or any infringement of State or local law or regulations.

## B. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF POLLUTION CONTROLS

### 1. 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.

### 2. Need to Halt or Reduce 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.

### 3. 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.

### 4. Bypass

#### a. Definitions

- (1) *Bypass* means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.
- (2) *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

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- (1) *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. As of December 21, 2020 all notices submitted in compliance with this Section must be submitted electronically by the Permittee to the Director or initial recipient, as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 127.2(b), in compliance with this Section and 40 C.F.R. Part 3 (including, in all cases, Subpart D to Part 3), § 122.22, and 40 C.F.R. Part 127. Part 127 is not intended to undo existing requirements for electronic reporting. Prior to this date, and independent of Part 127, Permittees may be required to report electronically if specified by a particular permit or if required to do so by state law.
- (2) *Unanticipated bypass.* The Permittee shall submit notice of an unanticipated bypass as required in paragraph D.1.e. of this part (24-hour notice). As of December 21, 2020 all notices submitted in compliance with this Section must be submitted electronically by the Permittee to the Director or initial recipient, as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 127.2(b), in compliance with this Section and 40 C.F.R. Part 3 (including, in all cases, Subpart D to Part 3), § 122.22, and 40 C.F.R. Part 127. Part 127 is not intended to undo existing requirements for electronic reporting. Prior to this date, and independent of Part 127, Permittees may be required to report electronically if specified by a particular permit or required to do so by law.

### d. *Prohibition of bypass.*

- (1) Bypass is prohibited, and the Director 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 preventative maintenance; and
  - (c) The Permittee submitted notices as required under paragraph 4.c of this Section.
- (2) The Director may approve an anticipated bypass, after considering its adverse effects, if the Director determines that it will meet the three conditions listed above in paragraph 4.d of this Section.

### 5. Upset

- a. *Definition.* *Upset* means an exceptional incident in which there is an 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

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- 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 B.5.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:
    - (1) An upset occurred and that the Permittee can identify the cause(s) of the upset;
    - (2) The permitted facility was at the time being properly operated; and
    - (3) The Permittee submitted notice of the upset as required in paragraph D.1.e.2.b. (24-hour notice).
    - (4) The Permittee complied with any remedial measures required under B.3. above.
  - d. *Burden of proof.* In any enforcement proceeding the Permittee seeking to establish the occurrence of an upset has the burden of proof.

C. MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

1. 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 5 years (or longer as required by 40 C.F.R. § 503), 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 Director at any time.
- c. Records of monitoring information shall include:
  - (1) The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;
  - (2) The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;
  - (3) The date(s) analyses were performed;
  - (4) The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
  - (5) The analytical techniques or methods used; and
  - (6) The results of such analyses.
- d. Monitoring must be conducted according to test procedures approved under 40 C.F.R. § 136 unless another method is required under 40 C.F.R. Subchapters N or O.
- e. The Clean Water Act provides that any person who falsifies, tampers with, or

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knowingly renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under this permit shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000, or by imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or both. If a conviction of a person is for a violation committed after a first conviction of such person under this paragraph, punishment is a fine of not more than \$20,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment of not more than 4 years, or both.

2. Inspection and Entry

The Permittee shall allow the Director, or an authorized representative (including an authorized contractor acting as a representative of the 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.

D. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. Reporting Requirements

- a. *Planned Changes*. The Permittee shall give notice to the Director as soon as possible of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility. Notice is required only when:
  - (1) 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 C.F.R. § 122.29(b); or
  - (2) 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 at 40 C.F.R. § 122.42(a)(1).
  - (3) 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 Director of any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity which may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.

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- c. *Transfers.* This permit is not transferable to any person except after notice to the Director. The Director may require modification or revocation and reissuance of the permit to change the name of the Permittee and incorporate such other requirements as may be necessary under the Clean Water Act. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 122.61; in some cases, modification or revocation and reissuance is mandatory.
- d. *Monitoring reports.* Monitoring results shall be reported at the intervals specified elsewhere in this permit.
  - (1) Monitoring results must be reported on a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) or forms provided or specified by the Director for reporting results of monitoring of sludge use or disposal practices. As of December 21, 2016 all reports and forms submitted in compliance with this Section must be submitted electronically by the Permittee to the Director or initial recipient, as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 127.2(b), in compliance with this Section and 40 C.F.R. Part 3 (including, in all cases, Subpart D to Part 3), § 122.22, and 40 C.F.R. Part 127. Part 127 is not intended to undo existing requirements for electronic reporting. Prior to this date, and independent of Part 127, Permittees may be required to report electronically if specified by a particular permit or if required to do so by State law.
  - (2) If the Permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by the permit using test procedures approved under 40 C.F.R. § 136, or another method required for an industry-specific waste stream under 40 C.F.R. Subchapters N or O, the results of such monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the DMR or sludge reporting form specified by the Director.
  - (3) Calculations for all limitations which require averaging or measurements shall utilize an arithmetic mean unless otherwise specified by the Director in the permit.
- e. *Twenty-four hour reporting.*
  - (1) 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 report shall also be provided within 5 days of the time the Permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. The written report shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance 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. For noncompliance events related to combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, or bypass events, these reports must include the data described above (with the exception of time of discovery) as well as the type of event (combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, or bypass events), type of sewer overflow structure (e.g., manhole, combined sewer overflow outfall), discharge volumes untreated by the treatment works treating domestic sewage, types of human health and environmental impacts of the sewer overflow event, and whether the noncompliance was related to wet weather. As of December 21, 2020 all

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reports related to combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, or bypass events submitted in compliance with this section must be submitted electronically by the Permittee to the Director or initial recipient, as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 127.2(b), in compliance with this Section and 40 C.F.R. Part 3 (including, in all cases Subpart D to Part 3), § 122.22, and 40 C.F.R. Part 127. Part 127 is not intended to undo existing requirements for electronic reporting. Prior to this date, and independent of Part 127, Permittees may be required to electronically submit reports related to combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, or bypass events under this section by a particular permit or if required to do so by state law. The Director may also require Permittees to electronically submit reports not related to combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, or bypass events under this section.

- (2) 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. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 122.41(g).
    - (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 Director in the permit to be reported within 24 hours. *See* 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(g).
  - (3) The Director may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis for reports under paragraph D.1.e. of this Section if the oral report has been received within 24 hours.
- f. *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.
- g. *Other noncompliance.* The Permittee shall report all instances of noncompliance not reported under paragraphs D.1.d., D.1.e., and D.1.f. of this Section, at the time monitoring reports are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed in paragraph D.1.e. of this Section. For noncompliance events related to combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, or bypass events, these reports shall contain the information described in paragraph D.1.e. and the applicable required data in Appendix A to 40 C.F.R. Part 127. As of December 21, 2020 all reports related to combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, or bypass events submitted in compliance with this section must be submitted electronically by the Permittee to the Director or initial recipient, as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 127.2(b), in compliance with this Section and 40 C.F.R. Part 3 (including, in all cases, Subpart D to Part 3), §122.22, and 40 C.F.R. Part 127. Part 127 is not intended to undo existing requirements for electronic reporting. Prior to this date, and independent of Part 127, Permittees may be required to electronically submit reports related to combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, or bypass events under this section by a particular permit or if required to do so by state law. The Director may also require Permittees to electronically submit reports not related to combined sewer overflows, sanitary sewer overflows, or bypass events under this Section.
- h. *Other information.* Where the Permittee becomes aware that it failed to submit any

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relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a permit application or in any report to the Director, it shall promptly submit such facts or information.

- i. *Identification of the initial recipient for NPDES electronic reporting data.* The owner, operator, or the duly authorized representative of an NPDES-regulated entity is required to electronically submit the required NPDES information (as specified in Appendix A to 40 C.F.R. Part 127) to the appropriate initial recipient, as determined by EPA, and as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 127.2(b). EPA will identify and publish the list of initial recipients on its Web site and in the FEDERAL REGISTER, by state and by NPDES data group (see 40 C.F.R. § 127.2(c) of this Chapter). EPA will update and maintain this listing.

### 2. Signatory Requirement

- a. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the Director shall be signed and certified. *See* 40 C.F.R. §122.22.
- b. The CWA provides that any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or non-compliance shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000 per violation, or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months per violation, or by both.

### 3. Availability of Reports.

Except for data determined to be confidential under paragraph A.6. above, all reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the State water pollution control agency and the Director. As required by the CWA, effluent data shall not be considered confidential. Knowingly making any false statements on any such report may result in the imposition of criminal penalties as provided for in Section 309 of the CWA.

## E. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

### 1. General Definitions

For more definitions related to sludge use and disposal requirements, see EPA Region 1's NPDES Permit Sludge Compliance Guidance document (4 November 1999, modified to add regulatory definitions, April 2018).

*Administrator* means the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or an authorized representative.

*Applicable standards and limitations* means all, State, interstate, and federal standards and limitations to which a "discharge," a "sewage sludge use or disposal practice," or a related activity is subject under the CWA, including "effluent limitations," water quality standards, standards of performance, toxic effluent standards or prohibitions, "best management practices," pretreatment standards, and "standards for sewage sludge use or disposal" under Sections 301, 302, 303, 304, 306, 307, 308, 403 and 405 of the CWA.

*Application* means the EPA standard national forms for applying for a permit, including any additions, revisions, or modifications to the forms; or forms approved by EPA for use in



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“approved States,” including any approved modifications or revisions.

*Approved program* or *approved State* means a State or interstate program which has been approved or authorized by EPA under Part 123.

*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.

*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 United States.” 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.

*Bypass* see B.4.a.1 above.

*C-NOEC* or “*Chronic (Long-term Exposure Test) – No Observed Effect Concentration*” means the highest tested concentration of an effluent or a toxicant at which no adverse effects are observed on the aquatic test organisms at a specified time of observation.

*Class I sludge management facility* is any publicly owned treatment works (POTW), as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 501.2, required to have an approved pretreatment program under 40 C.F.R. § 403.8 (a) (including any POTW located in a State that has elected to assume local program responsibilities pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 403.10 (e)) and any treatment works treating domestic sewage, as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 122.2, classified as a Class I sludge management facility by the EPA Regional Administrator, or, in the case of approved State programs, the Regional Administrator in conjunction with the State Director, because of the potential for its sewage sludge use or disposal practice to affect public health and the environment adversely.

*Contiguous zone* means the entire zone established by the United States under Article 24 of the Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone.

*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 similar activities.

*CWA* means the Clean Water Act (formerly referred to as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act or Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972) Public Law 92-500, as amended by Public Law 95-217, Public Law 95-576, Public Law 96-483 and Public Law 97-117, 33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*

*CWA and regulations* means the Clean Water Act (CWA) and applicable regulations promulgated thereunder. In the case of an approved State program, it includes State program requirements.

*Daily Discharge* means the “discharge of a pollutant” measured during a calendar day or any

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other 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 measurements, the “daily discharge” is calculated as the average measurement of the pollutant over the day.

*Direct Discharge* means the “discharge of a pollutant.”

*Director* means the Regional Administrator or an authorized representative. In the case of a permit also issued under Massachusetts’ authority, it also refers to the Director of the Division of Watershed Management, Department of Environmental Protection, Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

*Discharge*

- (a) When used without qualification, *discharge* means the “discharge of a pollutant.”
- (b) As used in the definitions for “interference” and “pass through,” *discharge* means the introduction of pollutants into a POTW from any non-domestic source regulated under Section 307(b), (c) or (d) of the Act.

*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.

*Discharge of a pollutant* means:

- (a) Any addition of any “pollutant” or combination of pollutants to “waters of the United States” from any “point source,” or
- (b) Any addition of any pollutant or combination of pollutants to the waters of the “contiguous zone” or the ocean from any point source other than a vessel or other floating craft which is being used as a means of transportation.

This definition includes additions of pollutants into waters of the United States from: surface runoff which is collected or channeled by man; discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances owned by a State, municipality, or other person which do not lead to a treatment works; and discharges through pipes, sewers, or other conveyances, leading into privately owned treatment works. This term does not include an addition of pollutants by any “indirect discharger.”

*Effluent limitation* means any restriction imposed by the Director on quantities, discharge rates, and concentrations of “pollutants” which are “discharged” from “point sources” into “waters of the United States,” the waters of the “contiguous zone,” or the ocean.

*Effluent limitation guidelines* means a regulation published by the Administrator under section 304(b) of CWA to adopt or revise “effluent limitations.”

*Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”)* means the United States Environmental Protection

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Agency.

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

*Hazardous substance* means any substance designated under 40 C.F.R. Part 116 pursuant to Section 311 of CWA.

*Incineration* is the combustion of organic matter and inorganic matter in sewage sludge by high temperatures in an enclosed device.

*Indirect discharger* means a nondomestic discharger introducing “pollutants” to a “publicly owned treatment works.”

*Interference* means a discharge (see definition above) which, alone or in conjunction with a discharge or discharges from other sources, both:

- (a) Inhibits or disrupts the POTW, its treatment processes or operations, or its sludge processes, use or disposal; and
- (b) 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 Resources Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and including State regulations contained in any State sludge management plan prepared pursuant to Subtitle D of the SDWA), the Clean Air Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act.

*Landfill* means an area of land or an excavation in which wastes are placed for permanent disposal, and that is not a land application unit, surface impoundment, injection well, or waste pile.

*Land application* is the spraying or spreading of sewage sludge onto the land surface; the injection of sewage sludge below the land surface; or the incorporation of sewage sludge into the soil so that the sewage sludge can either condition the soil or fertilize crops or vegetation grown in the soil.

*Land application unit* means an area where wastes are applied onto or incorporated into the soil surface (excluding manure spreading operations) for agricultural purposes or for treatment and disposal.

*LC<sub>50</sub>* means the concentration of a sample that causes mortality of 50% of the test population at a specific time of observation. The LC<sub>50</sub> = 100% is defined as a sample of undiluted effluent.

*Maximum daily discharge limitation* means the highest allowable “daily discharge.”

*Municipal solid waste landfill (MSWLF) unit* means a discrete area of land or an excavation that receives household waste, and that is not a land application unit, surface impoundment, injection well, or waste pile, as those terms are defined under 40 C.F.R. § 257.2. A MSWLF unit also may receive other types of RCRA Subtitle D wastes, such as commercial solid waste, nonhazardous sludge, very small quantity generator waste and industrial solid waste. Such a landfill may be

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publicly or privately owned. A MSWLF unit may be a new MSWLF unit, an existing MSWLF unit or a lateral expansion. A construction and demolition landfill that receives residential lead-based paint waste and does not receive any other household waste is not a MSWLF unit.

### *Municipality*

- (a) When used without qualification *municipality* means a city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body created by or under State law and having jurisdiction over disposal of sewage, industrial wastes, or other wastes, or an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization, or a designated and approved management agency under Section 208 of CWA.
- (b) As related to sludge use and disposal, *municipality* means a city, town, borough, county, parish, district, association, or other public body (including an intermunicipal Agency of two or more of the foregoing entities) created by or under State law; an Indian tribe or an authorized Indian tribal organization having jurisdiction over sewage sludge management; or a designated and approved management Agency under Section 208 of the CWA, as amended. The definition includes a special district created under State law, such as a water district, sewer district, sanitary district, utility district, drainage district, or similar entity, or an integrated waste management facility as defined in Section 201 (e) of the CWA, as amended, that has as one of its principal responsibilities the treatment, transport, use or disposal of sewage sludge.

*National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System* means the national program for issuing, modifying, revoking and reissuing, terminating, monitoring and enforcing permits, and imposing and enforcing pretreatment requirements, under Sections 307, 402, 318, and 405 of the CWA. The term includes an “approved program.”

*New Discharger* means any building, structure, facility, or installation:

- (a) From which there is or may be a “discharge of pollutants;”
- (b) That did not commence the “discharge of pollutants” at a particular “site” prior to August 13, 1979;
- (c) Which is not a “new source;” and
- (d) Which has never received a finally effective NPDES permit for discharges at that “site.”

This definition includes an “indirect discharger” which commences discharging into “waters of the United States” after August 13, 1979. It also includes any existing mobile point source (other than an offshore or coastal oil and gas exploratory drilling rig or a coastal oil and gas exploratory drilling rig or a coastal oil and gas exploratory drilling rig or a coastal oil and gas developmental drilling rig) such as a seafood processing rig, seafood processing vessel, or aggregate plant, that begins discharging at a “site” for which it does not have a permit; and any offshore or coastal mobile oil and gas exploratory drilling rig or coastal mobile oil and gas developmental drilling rig that commences the discharge of pollutants after August 13, 1979, at a “site” under EPA’s permitting jurisdiction for which it is not covered by an individual or general permit and which is located in an area determined by the Director in the issuance of a final permit to be in an area of biological concern. In determining whether an area is an area of biological concern, the Director shall consider the factors specified in 40 C.F.R. §§ 125.122 (a) (1) through (10).

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An offshore or coastal mobile exploratory drilling rig or coastal mobile developmental drilling rig will be considered a “new discharger” only for the duration of its discharge in an area of biological concern.

*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.

*NPDES* means “National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.”

*Owner or operator* means the owner or operator of any “facility or activity” subject to regulation under the NPDES programs.

*Pass through* means a Discharge (see definition above) which exits the POTW into waters of the United States 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).

*Pathogenic organisms* are disease-causing organisms. These include, but are not limited to, certain bacteria, protozoa, viruses, and viable helminth ova.

*Permit* means an authorization, license, or equivalent control document issued by EPA or an “approved State” to implement the requirements of Parts 122, 123, and 124. “Permit” includes an NPDES “general permit” (40 C.F.R § 122.28). “Permit” does not include any permit which has not yet been the subject of final agency action, such as a “draft permit” or “proposed permit.”

*Person* means an individual, association, partnership, corporation, municipality, State or Federal agency, or an agent or employee thereof.

*Person who prepares sewage sludge* is either the person who generates sewage sludge during the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works or the person who derives a material from sewage sludge.

*pH* means the logarithm of the reciprocal of the hydrogen ion concentration measured at 25° Centigrade or measured at another temperature and then converted to an equivalent value at 25° Centigrade.

*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, landfill leachate collection system, vessel or other floating craft from which pollutants are or may be discharged. This term does not include return flows from irrigated agriculture or agricultural storm water runoff (see 40 C.F.R. § 122.3).

*Pollutant* means dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, filter backwash, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials

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(except those regulated under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2011 *et seq.*)), heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt and industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste discharged into water. It does not mean:

- (a) Sewage from vessels; or
- (b) Water, gas, or other material which is injected into a well to facilitate production of oil or gas, or water derived in association with oil and gas production and disposed of in a well, if the well is used either to facilitate production or for disposal purposes is approved by the authority of the State in which the well is located, and if the State determines that the injection or disposal will not result in the degradation of ground or surface water resources.

*Primary industry category* means any industry category listed in the NRDC settlement agreement (*Natural Resources Defense Council et al. v. Train*, 8 E.R.C. 2120 (D.D.C. 1976), *modified* 12 E.R.C. 1833 (D.D.C. 1979)); also listed in Appendix A of 40 C.F.R. Part 122.

*Privately owned treatment works* means any device or system which is (a) used to treat wastes from any facility whose operator is not the operator of the treatment works and (b) not a “POTW.”

*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 a treatment works as defined by Section 212 of the Act, which is owned by a State or municipality (as defined by Section 504(4) of the Act). This definition includes any devices and systems used in the storage, treatment, recycling and reclamation of municipal sewage or industrial wastes of a liquid nature. It also includes sewers, pipes and other conveyances only if they convey wastewater to a POTW Treatment Plant. The term also means the municipality as defined in Section 502(4) of the Act, which has jurisdiction over the indirect discharges to and the discharges from such a treatment works.

*Regional Administrator* means the Regional Administrator, EPA, Region I, Boston, Massachusetts.

*Secondary industry category* means any industry which is not a “primary industry category.”

*Septage* means the liquid and solid material pumped from a septic tank, cesspool, or similar domestic sewage treatment system, or a holding tank when the system is cleaned or maintained.

*Sewage Sludge* means any solid, semi-solid, or liquid residue removed during the treatment of municipal waste water or domestic sewage. Sewage sludge includes, but is not limited to, solids removed during primary, secondary, or advanced waste water treatment, scum, septage, portable toilet pumpings, type III marine sanitation device pumpings (33 C.F.R. Part 159), and sewage sludge products. Sewage sludge does not include grit or screenings, or ash generated during the incineration of sewage sludge.

*Sewage sludge incinerator* is an enclosed device in which only sewage sludge and auxiliary fuel are fired.

*Sewage sludge unit* is land on which only sewage sludge is placed for final disposal. This does

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not include land on which sewage sludge is either stored or treated. Land does not include waters of the United States, as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.

*Sewage sludge use or disposal practice* means the collection, storage, treatment, transportation, processing, monitoring, use, or disposal of sewage sludge.

*Significant materials* includes, but is not limited to: raw materials; fuels; materials such as solvents, detergents, and plastic pellets; finished materials such as metallic products; raw materials used in food processing or production; hazardous substance designated under Section 101(14) of CERCLA; any chemical the facility is required to report pursuant to Section 313 of title III of SARA; fertilizers; pesticides; and waste products such as ashes, slag and sludge that have the potential to be released with storm water discharges.

*Significant spills* includes, but is not limited to, releases of oil or hazardous substances in excess of reportable quantities under Section 311 of the CWA (see 40 C.F.R. §§ 110.10 and 117.21) or Section 102 of CERCLA (see 40 C.F.R. § 302.4).

*Sludge-only facility* means any “treatment works treating domestic sewage” whose methods of sewage sludge use or disposal are subject to regulations promulgated pursuant to section 405(d) of the CWA, and is required to obtain a permit under 40 C.F.R. § 122.1(b)(2).

*State* means any of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, or an Indian Tribe as defined in the regulations which meets the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 123.31.

*Store or storage of sewage sludge* is the placement of sewage sludge on land on which the sewage sludge remains for two years or less. This does not include the placement of sewage sludge on land for treatment.

*Storm water* means storm water runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage.

*Storm water discharge associated with industrial activity* means the discharge from any conveyance that is used for collecting and conveying storm water and that is directly related to manufacturing, processing, or raw materials storage areas at an industrial plant.

*Surface disposal site* is an area of land that contains one or more active sewage sludge units.

*Toxic pollutant* means 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.

*Treatment works treating domestic sewage* means a POTW or any other sewage sludge or waste water treatment devices or systems, regardless of ownership (including federal facilities), used in the storage, treatment, recycling, and reclamation of municipal or domestic sewage, including land dedicated for the disposal of sewage sludge. This definition does not include septic tanks or similar devices.

For purposes of this definition, “domestic sewage” includes waste and waste water from humans or household operations that are discharged to or otherwise enter a treatment works. In States where there is no approved State sludge management program under Section 405(f) of the CWA, the Director may designate any person subject to the standards for sewage sludge use and

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disposal in 40 C.F.R. Part 503 as a “treatment works treating domestic sewage,” where he or she finds that there is a potential for adverse effects on public health and the environment from poor sludge quality or poor sludge handling, use or disposal practices, or where he or she finds that such designation is necessary to ensure that such person is in compliance with 40 C.F.R. Part 503.

*Upset* see B.5.a. above.

*Vector attraction* is the characteristic of sewage sludge that attracts rodents, flies, mosquitoes, or other organisms capable of transporting infectious agents.

*Waste pile or pile* means any non-containerized accumulation of solid, non-flowing waste that is used for treatment or storage.

*Waters of the United States or waters of the U.S.* means:

- (a) All waters which are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide;
- (b) All interstate waters, including interstate “wetlands;”
- (c) All other waters such as intrastate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, “wetlands”, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce including any such waters:
  - (1) Which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purpose;
  - (2) From which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce; or
  - (3) Which are used or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce;
- (d) All impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States under this definition;
- (e) Tributaries of waters identified in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this definition;
- (f) The territorial sea; and
- (g) “Wetlands” adjacent to waters (other than waters that are themselves wetlands) identified in paragraphs (a) through (f) of this definition.

Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of CWA (other than cooling ponds as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 423.11(m) which also meet the criteria of this definition) are not waters of the United States. This exclusion applies only to manmade bodies of water which neither were originally created in waters of the United States (such as disposal area in wetlands) nor resulted from the impoundment of waters of the United States. Waters of the United States do not include prior converted cropland.



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Notwithstanding the determination of an area's status as prior converted cropland by any other federal agency, for the purposes of the Clean Water Act, the final authority regarding Clean Water Act jurisdiction remains with EPA.

*Wetlands* means those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater 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 (WET)* means the aggregate toxic effect of an effluent measured directly by a toxicity test.

*Zone of Initial Dilution (ZID)* means the region of initial mixing surrounding or adjacent to the end of the outfall pipe or diffuser ports, provided that the ZID may not be larger than allowed by mixing zone restrictions in applicable water quality standards.

2. Commonly Used Abbreviations

BOD	Five-day biochemical oxygen demand unless otherwise specified
CBOD	Carbonaceous BOD
CFS	Cubic feet per second
COD	Chemical oxygen demand
Chlorine	
Cl <sub>2</sub>	Total residual chlorine
TRC	Total residual chlorine which is a combination of free available chlorine (FAC, see below) and combined chlorine (chloramines, etc.)
TRO	Total residual chlorine in marine waters where halogen compounds are present
FAC	Free available chlorine (aqueous molecular chlorine, hypochlorous acid, and hypochlorite ion)
Coliform	
Coliform, Fecal	Total fecal coliform bacteria
Coliform, Total	Total coliform bacteria
Cont.	Continuous recording of the parameter being monitored, i.e. flow, temperature, pH, etc.
Cu. M/day or M <sup>3</sup> /day	Cubic meters per day
DO	Dissolved oxygen

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kg/day	Kilograms per day
lbs/day	Pounds per day
mg/L	Milligram(s) per liter
mL/L	Milliliters per liter
MGD	Million gallons per day
Nitrogen	
Total N	Total nitrogen
NH <sub>3</sub> -N	Ammonia nitrogen as nitrogen
NO <sub>3</sub> -N	Nitrate as nitrogen
NO <sub>2</sub> -N	Nitrite as nitrogen
NO <sub>3</sub> -NO <sub>2</sub>	Combined nitrate and nitrite nitrogen as nitrogen
TKN	Total Kjeldahl nitrogen as nitrogen
Oil & Grease	Freon extractable material
PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyl
Surfactant	Surface-active agent
Temp. °C	Temperature in degrees Centigrade
Temp. °F	Temperature in degrees Fahrenheit
TOC	Total organic carbon
Total P	Total phosphorus
TSS or NFR	Total suspended solids or total nonfilterable residue
Turb. or Turbidity	Turbidity measured by the Nephelometric Method (NTU)
µg/L	Microgram(s) per liter
WET	“Whole effluent toxicity”
ZID	Zone of Initial Dilution

Permit Attachment A

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Effluent Mercury Test Report

Name of Facility: \_\_\_\_\_ Federal Permit # ME \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of this test:  Initial limit determination
 Compliance monitoring for: year \_\_\_\_\_ calendar quarter \_\_\_\_\_
 Supplemental or extra test

SAMPLE COLLECTION INFORMATION

Sampling Date: [mm][dd][yy] Sampling time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM
Sampling Location:
Weather Conditions:
Please describe any unusual conditions with the influent or at the facility during or preceding the time of sample collection:
Optional test - not required but recommended where possible to allow for the most meaningful evaluation of mercury results:
Suspended Solids \_\_\_\_\_ mg/L Sample type: \_\_\_\_\_ Grab (recommended) or \_\_\_\_\_ Composite

ANALYTICAL RESULT FOR EFFLUENT MERCURY

Name of Laboratory: \_\_\_\_\_
Date of analysis: \_\_\_\_\_ Result: \_\_\_\_\_ ng/L (PPT)
Please Enter Effluent Limits for your facility
Effluent Limits: Average = \_\_\_\_\_ ng/L Maximum = \_\_\_\_\_ ng/L
Please attach any remarks or comments from the laboratory that may have a bearing on the results or their interpretation. If duplicate samples were taken at the same time please report the average.

CERTIFICATION

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the foregoing information is correct and representative of conditions at the time of sample collection. The sample for mercury was collected and analyzed using EPA Methods 1669 (clean sampling) and 1631 (trace level analysis) in accordance with instructions from the DEP.
By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO YOUR ASSIGNED INSPECTOR

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

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

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

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

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

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

Results	% effluent		A-NOEL	C-NOEL
	mysid shrimp	sea urchin		
A-NOEL				
C-NOEL				

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

place \* next to values statistically different from controls

	A-NOEL	C-NOEL
toxicant / date		
limits (mg/L)		
results (mg/L)		

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

**Laboratory conducting test**

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

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

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

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

# Permit Attachment C

Printed 11/17/2015

## Maine Department of Environmental Protection WET and Chem

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

Facility Name \_\_\_\_\_ MEPDES # \_\_\_\_\_ Facility Representative Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Pipe # \_\_\_\_\_ To the best of my knowledge this information is true, accurate and complete.

Licensed Flow (MGD)   
Acute dilution factor   
Chronic dilution factor   
Human health dilution factor   
Criteria type: M(arine) or F(resh)

Flow for Day (MGD)<sup>(1)</sup>  Flow Avg. for Month (MGD)<sup>(2)</sup>   
Date Sample Collected  Date Sample Analyzed

Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Lab Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Lab ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Last Revision - July 1, 2015

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

**MARINE AND ESTUARY VERSION**

Please see the footnotes on the last page.

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

Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
WET and Chem

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

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



Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
WET and Chem

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V	BROMOFORM	5								
V	CARBON TETRACHLORIDE	5								
V	CHLOROBENZENE	6								
V	CHLORODIBROMOMETHANE	3								
V	CHLOROETHANE	5								
V	CHLOROFORM	5								
V	DICHLOROBROMOMETHANE	3								
V	ETHYLBENZENE	10								
V	METHYL BROMIDE (Bromomethane)	5								
V	METHYL CHLORIDE (Chloromethane)	5								
V	METHYLENE CHLORIDE	5								
V	TETRACHLOROETHYLENE (Perchloroethylene or Tetrachloroethene)	5								
V	TOLUENE	5								
V	TRICHLOROETHYLENE (Trichloroethene)	3								
V	VINYL CHLORIDE	5								

Notes:

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

Comments:



**NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT**  
**AND**  
**MAINE WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE**  
**FACT SHEET**

Prepared Jointly by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and  
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – New England Office

PERMIT NUMBER: ME0101966  
LICENSE NUMBER: W006279-6B-K-R

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: December 27, 2018 – February 1, 2019

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

**Town of Searsport**  
**P.O. Box 499**  
**Searsport, Maine 04974**

COUNTY: Penobscot

NAME AND ADDRESS WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

**Town of Searsport Wastewater Treatment Plant**  
**45 Navy Street**  
**Searsport, Maine 04974**

RECEIVING WATER Penobscot Bay

CLASSIFICATION: Class SB

COGNIZANT OFFICIAL AND TELEPHONE NUMBER:

Mr. Howard M. Clark  
Superintendent  
(207) 548-6320  
E-mail: [rbouchard1@myfairpoint.net](mailto:rbouchard1@myfairpoint.net).

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- B – Searsport Treatment Schematic
- C - Discharge Monitoring Report Data
- D – WET Waiver Form

## 1. APPLICATION SUMMARY

### a. Application

The Town of Searsport (Searsport) is a municipal discharger as defined by 40 CFR §122.2. Searsport has applied for renewal of a combined National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit #ME0101966 and Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) # W006279 that was issued on November 12, 2008 and expired on November 30, 2013. The 2008 permit is based on a Section 301(h) variance of secondary treatment and authorized the discharge of up to a monthly average flow of 0.2 million gallons per day (MGD) of primary treated sanitary waste water to Penobscot Bay, a Class SB water, in Searsport, Maine. Appendix A of this Fact Sheet shows the location of the outfall.

### b. Source Description

Sanitary waste water is generated by approximately 600 single family residences in Searsport. The facility does not receive any flow from industrial sources.

### c. Waste Water Treatment

The facility provides a primary level of treatment for dry weather flows via a bar screen, a comminutor, flow measurement, primary settling via two rectangular clarifier tanks, an aerobic sludge digester for composting solids, chlorination, and dechlorination. See Appendix B of this Fact Sheet for a schematic of the waste water treatment process. Polymer is added to the waste water flow at the headworks to enhanced flocculation and solids removal in the clarifier tanks. The polymer is added at the bar screen where downgradient agitation provides rapid and complete mixing. All wastewater treated at the facility is discharged to the Searsport Harbor by way of a ten (10) inch diameter PVC pipe. The outfall pipe extends out into the receiving waters approximately 1,200 feet from the edge of the shoreline. The outfall discharges at -20.0 feet mean low tide elevation according to a plan prepared by T.Y. Lin Hunter-Ballew International, dated July 29, 1988, entitled "Ocean Outfall Plan, Town of Searsport, Water Pollution Control Facility."

## 2. PERMIT SUMMARY

### a. Regulatory

Section 301(h) of the Clean Water Act (CWA) provides a vehicle by which a permittee may request a variance from secondary treatment requirements. Although the State of Maine received authorization from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to administer the NPDES permit program in Maine on January 12, 2001, the Clean Water Act does not allow delegation of the 301(h) waiver process to States. Therefore, issuance of a permit granting such a variance may only be issued by the EPA.

Also, pursuant to Maine law, anyone discharging pollutants to waters of the State must obtain a license to do so from the State of Maine. Therefore, this document serves as a combination NPDES permit and a Maine WDL, to satisfy both federal and State requirements.

EPA may not issue a permit unless the State Water Pollution Control Agency with jurisdiction over the receiving water(s) either certifies that the effluent limitations contained in the permit are stringent enough to assure that the discharge will not cause the receiving water to violate the State WQSs or it is deemed that the state has waived its right to certify. Regulations governing state certification are set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 124.53 and § 124.55. EPA has requested permit certification by the State pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 124.53 and expects that the Draft Permit will be certified.

If the State believes that any conditions more stringent than those contained in the Draft Permit are necessary to meet the requirements of either the CWA §§ 208(e), 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 or the appropriate requirements of State law, the State should include such conditions and, in each case, cite the CWA or State law reference upon which that condition is based. Failure to provide such a citation waives the right to certify as to that condition. The only exception to this is that the sludge conditions/requirements implementing § 405(d) of the CWA are not subject to the § 401 State Certification requirements. Reviews and appeals of limitations and conditions attributable to State certification shall be made through the applicable procedures of the State and may not be made through the applicable procedures of 40 C.F.R. § 124.

In addition, the State should provide a statement of the extent to which any condition of the Draft Permit can be made less stringent without violating the requirements of State law. Since the State's certification is provided prior to permit issuance, any failure by the State to provide this statement waives the State's right to certify or object to any less stringent condition.

It should be noted that under CWA § 401, EPA's duty to defer to considerations of state law is intended to prevent EPA from relaxing any requirements, limitations or conditions imposed by state law. Therefore, "[a] State may not condition or deny a certification on the grounds that State law allows a less stringent permit condition." See 40 C.F.R. § 124.55(c). In such an instance, the regulation provides that, "The Regional Administrator shall disregard any such certification conditions or denials as waivers of certification." Id. EPA regulations pertaining to permit limits based upon water quality standards and state requirements are contained in 40 C.F.R. § 122.4 (d) and 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(d).

b. History<sup>1</sup>

December 28, 1982 - The Town of Searsport submitted a final application to the EPA for a variance from secondary treatment requirements pursuant to Section 301(h) of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

May 14, 1985 - EPA tentatively approved the request for a variance from secondary treatment requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> This section is included to provide useful historical background information for this permit. In some cases, the supporting documentation for this background information may no longer be available from the municipality, state and/or EPA.

January 22, 1986 - The Department issued a Water Quality Certification, pursuant to section 401, of the public notice draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit #ME0101966 granting the Section 301(h) waiver from secondary treatment requirements.

February 12, 1986 – The EPA issued NPDES permit #ME0101966 for the Searsport facility for a five-year term. At the time of permit issuance, the existing sewer system for Searsport consisted of a combined system that discharged untreated waste waters to the tidewaters of Searsport via six (6) combined sewer overflow points. Condition C(1)(a-e) of the permit outlined a schedule of compliance for the construction of a primary treatment facility and compliance with new limitations stipulated in the permit.

July 23, 1987 - The Department issued WDL #W006279-45-B-R that authorized the discharge of untreated municipal waste water from six combined sewer overflow points until a primary treatment facility was constructed. The WDL established a deadline of July 1, 1988 for the completion of the treatment facility. Upon commencement of operation of the waste water treatment facility, the WDL authorized the discharge of up to 0.2 million gallons per day (MGD) of primary treated waste water.

July 1, 1988 - The primary treatment facility for Searsport commenced operations.

September 22, 1989 - The Department issued WDL amendment #W006279-59-C-M that authorized the treatment facility to accept a maximum of 2,000 gallons per day and up to 30,000 gallons per year of septage into the plant's aerated digesters.

April 4, 1990 - The Department issued WDL amendment #W006279-59-D-M that authorized the treatment facility to accept a maximum of 2,000 gallons per day, 7,000 gallons per month and up to 70,000 gallons per year of septage.

September 22, 1995 – The Department issued WDL renewal #W006279-59-E-R that authorized the continued discharge of primary treated wastewater from the municipal facility in Searsport.

January 12, 2001 – The Department received authorization from the EPA to administer the NPDES program in Maine, however, the authority to grant a variance from secondary treatment requirements pursuant to Section 301(h) of the CWA was not granted to the State of Maine. Because this permit is being issued under a variance from secondary treatment requirements under the CWA, this modified 301(h) permit must be issued by EPA and, herein, the permit is being proposed for joint issuance with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and EPA.

April 25, 2002 – The Department issued a Section 401 Water Quality Certification to EPA indicating that the proposed primary treatment discharge would not cause or contribute to failure of the water body to attain the standards of its assigned classification.

June 12, 2002 – The Department and EPA issued a combined WDL and NPDES permit (#W006279-5L-F-R and ME0101966) authorizing the discharge of primary treated waste water from the permittee's facility.

February 27, 2007 – The Town of Searsport submitted an application to the Department and EPA for renewal of the June 12, 2002 license/permit. The Department accepted the application for processing on February 28, 2007.

November 12, 2008 – The Department and EPA issued a combined WDL and NPDES permit (#W006279-5L-H-R and ME0101966) authorizing the discharge of primary treated waste water from the permittee's facility.

September 11, 2013 – EPA sent Searsport a 301(h) application/questionnaire package.

May 6, 2013 - Searsport submits a current 301(h) reapplication to EPA.

### **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., 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.

Maine law, 38 M.R.S., Section 469 classifies the receiving water at the point of discharge as Class SB water. Maine water quality standards at 38 M.R.S., Section 465-B(2) contain the designated uses and specific water quality criteria for Class SB waters. Designated uses are identified as “recreation in and on the water, fishing, aquaculture, propagation and harvesting of shellfish, industrial processes and cooling water supply, hydroelectric power generation, navigation and as habitat for fish and other estuarine and marine life.”

Federal regulation 40 CFR, Part 125, Subpart G, more specifically Part 125.57(a)(2), states that discharge of pollutants in accordance with such modified requirements [301(h)] will not interfere, alone or in combination with pollutants from other sources, with the attainment or maintenance of that water quality which assures protection of public water supplies and protection and propagation of a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife, and allows recreational activities in and on the water.

### **4. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS**

Penobscot Bay at the point of discharge is a marine water subject to tidal action with a difference in tides (mean high to mean low) of up to 12 feet with very strong currents.<sup>2</sup> Maine law, 38 M.R.S. § 469 classifies the receiving waters at the point of discharge as Class SB waters. Maine law, 38 M.R.S. § 465-B(2) contains the classification standards for Class SB waters.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/stationhome.html?id>

Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires states to identify those waterbodies that are not expected to meet surface water quality standards after the implementation of technology-based controls and, as such require the development of total maximum daily loads (TMDL). The State of Maine 2016 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report, prepared by the Department pursuant to Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, lists the receiving water as “Category A: Estuarine and Marine Waters with Impaired for Bacteria only-TMDL Required”<sup>3</sup>

a. Shellfishing

Searsport’s waste water treatment facility discharges to a shellfish harvesting area that the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has designated as shellfish Area 33, Searsport to Stockton Springs.

The areas of the following map highlighted (in yellow) are designated by the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) as impaired and were based on DMR shellfish closure areas as of the TMDL issuance date (August 2009)<sup>4</sup>.

DMR’s Shellfish Closure Notice for Area 33A-1, Searsport Harbor of September 26, 2012, is quoted as follows:

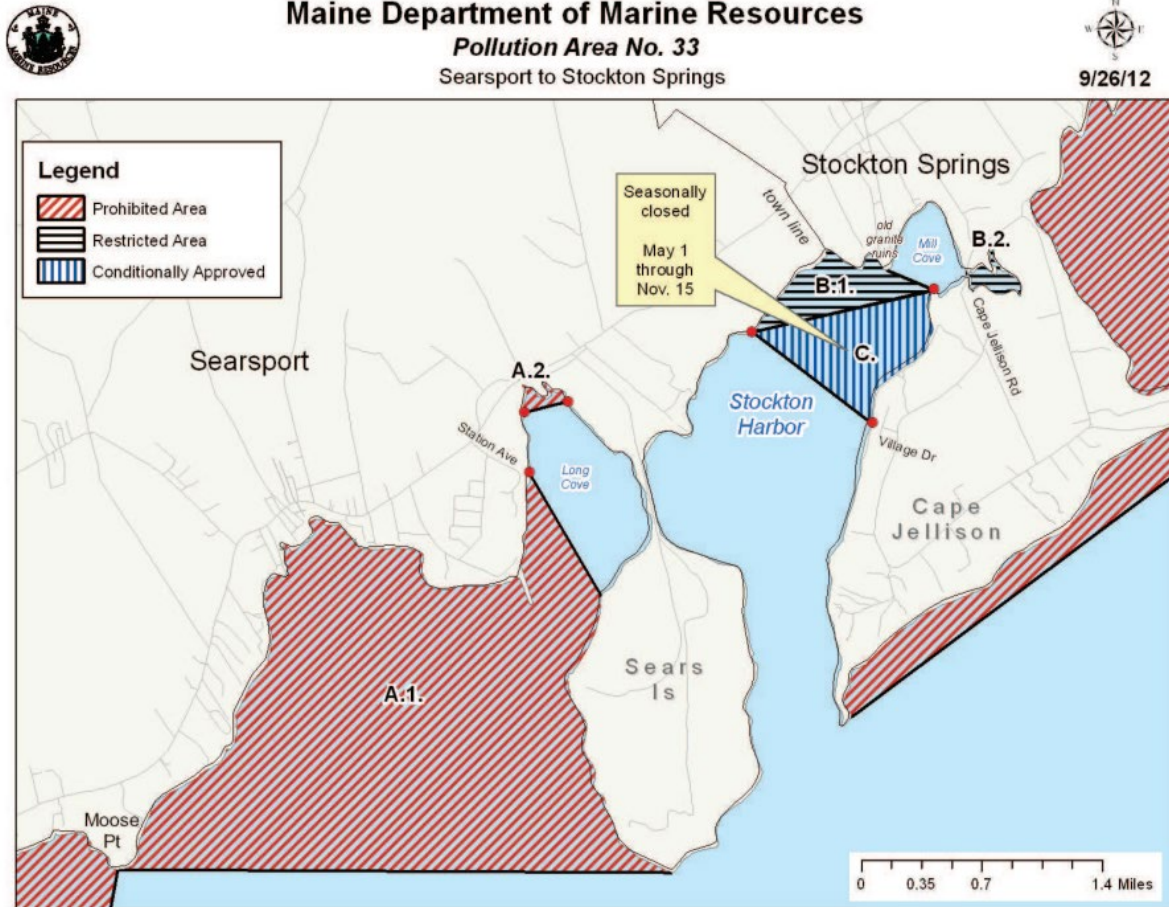
Effective immediately, because of pollution, it shall be unlawful to dig, take or possess any clams, quahogs, oysters or mussels taken from the shores, flats and waters of north of a line beginning at the south tip of Moose Point (Searsport), then running east to the south tip of Sears Island; AND west of a line beginning at a red painted post located on the western shore of Long Cove, beyond the end of Station Avenue, then running in a southeasterly direction to an unnamed point of land on the west shore of Sears Island, approximately 2500 feet south of the southwest end of the causeway.

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<sup>3</sup> Maine DEP 2016 Integrated Report Appendices, Page 185

<sup>4</sup> See TMDL Table 2-5. Estuarine and Marine Waters Impaired by Bacteria from Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)





**Figure 1. DMR's Shellfish Closure Notice for Area 33.**

Additionally, MDMR traditionally closes shellfish harvesting areas in the vicinity of outfall pipes when field data on bacteria counts in the immediate area is insufficient, inconclusive or exceeds standards set in the National Shellfish Sanitation Program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As discussed in Section 8e, compliance with the monthly average and daily maximum limitations for fecal coliform bacteria is intended to ensure the Searsport facility will not cause or contribute to the closure of the shellfish harvesting area.

38 M.R.S. § 465-B(B) states that “the dissolved oxygen content of Class SB waters must be not less than 85% of saturation.” Monitoring conducted in August of 1995 by MDEP divers confirmed that the receiving water biological and water quality conditions were consistent with water quality standards. Further, the largely buoyant freshwater discharge quickly rises to the surface. Strong currents quickly dilute and disperse the effluent. Conditions within the zone of initial dilution were almost identical to control sites beyond the ZID. DEP found there would be little risk of adverse impacts to the receiving waters from these discharges provided that the permittee performed effluent monitoring as part of the regular permit conditions. EPA and the Department have made the determination that based on the ambient sampling to date and past effluent monitoring data, the discharge complies with 40 CFR, § 125.57(a)(2).

b. Biological Monitoring

In accordance with federal regulation, municipalities with CWA Section 301(h) waivers from secondary treatment “must have a monitoring program that is designed to provide data to evaluate the impact of the modified discharge on the marine biota, demonstrate compliance with applicable water quality standards or water quality criteria, as applicable, and measure toxic substances in the discharge” (*see* 40 C.F.R. § 125.63(a)(1)(i)). The first round of Maine 301(h) waiver permits<sup>5</sup> included requirements for sediment monitoring and benthic surveys to be conducted by SCUBA divers. To alleviate the cost of each waiver applicant conducting their own SCUBA surveys, MEDEP agreed to conduct the SCUBA surveys on behalf of the applicants. Between 1987 and 1994 four surveys were conducted by MEDEP biologist/SCUBA divers.

The results of the “field surveys and sampling of several facilities demonstrate that there is no impact, nor is any impact likely, from the discharge of primary treated waste water from the 301 (h) participating facilities.”<sup>6</sup> One of the permittees, Boothbay Harbor, had been in operation for 22 years at the time of the survey. The biologists found no solids deposition within the outfall zone of initial dilution (ZID) or the control sites. They found no discernable difference between bottom dwelling organisms, flora and fauna within the ZID and again at control sites. The biologist found the same to be true in each of the four facilities surveyed. The divers also observed that, due to its relatively low density, the effluent rose toward the surface of the ocean and was quickly dispersed by longshore currents.

However, after surveying the sites of four facility outfalls, by letter dated February 17, 1995 from the EPA Regional Administrator, the EPA agreed with the MDEP that further SCUBA inspections of 301(h) outfalls was too dangerous due to the swift currents generally found in these receiving waters. David Courtemanch, the MEDEP Senior Biologist and diver with the most experience in potential impact of the 301(h) facilities in Maine concluded that “any monitoring beyond effluent sampling is useless, wasteful, and of no environmental benefit.”<sup>7</sup> He also noted that strong currents and tides around each of the outfall presented technical difficulties and risks to divers that could not be justified in future field surveys.

A recent study of 40 marine outfalls published in the Marine Pollution Bulletin Journal<sup>8</sup> found that the “main physical processes that govern the mixing and evolution of wastewater in the ocean are turbulent dispersion, transport (advection and diffusion) and resuspension ... In high energy environments all constituents will be broadly dispersed with a minor chance of concentrating.” The study demonstrated where significant currents and wave action were present, there was almost no degradation to the marine environment from small municipal dischargers.

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<sup>5</sup> The 14 Maine 301(h) waivers were granted in the 1980s except for Stonington which was granted in 1994. Six of the 14 municipalities no longer have 301(h) waivers, having upgraded to secondary treatment or ceased discharging to surface waters.

<sup>6</sup> Transmittal letter to David Fierra, Director, Water Management Division US EPA, New England from Martha Kirkpatrick, MEDEP Director Bureau of Land and Water Quality dated October 28, 1994 for the: MEDEP 301(h) Facilities in Maine, Determining the Necessary Scope of Study for Assurance of Environmental Protection.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Marine Pollution Bulletin Journal (101(2015)174–181): Response of benthos to ocean outfall discharges: does a general pattern exist? A. Puente, R.J. Diaz: [www.elsevier.com/locate/marpolbul](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/marpolbul)

EPA and MEDEP agree that effluent limits and monitoring requirements are sufficiently protective of the aquatic environment at the point of discharge so as not to require additional biological monitoring. This decision is consistent with 40 CFR §125.63(a)(1)(i)(B) which states that the monitoring requirements are “limited to include only those scientific investigations necessary to study the effects of the proposed discharge” and 40 CFR § 125.63(b)(1) which specifies that monitoring is required to the extent practicable.

## **5. WAIVER OF SECONDARY TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Under Section 301(b)(1)(B) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) in existence on July 1, 1977 were required to meet effluent limitations based on secondary treatment, which is defined in terms of the parameters BOD, TSS and pH.

National effluent limitations for these pollutants were promulgated and are included in POTW permits issued under Section 402 of the CWA.

Congress subsequently amended the CWA, adding Section 301(h), which authorizes the EPA Administrator, with State concurrence, to issue NPDES permits modifying the secondary treatment requirements with respect to the discharge of pollutants from a POTW into marine waters, provided that the applicant meet several conditions.

EPA issued a 301(h) waiver to Searsport on May 9, 1985, based upon the following findings:

- That the discharge will comply with the State of Maine water quality standards for dissolved oxygen and suspended solids.
- That the proposed discharge will not adversely impact public water supplies as the discharge is to salt water and there are no nearby desalinization facilities.
- The discharge will not interfere with the protection and propagation of a balanced indigenous population of marine life and will allow for recreational activities.
- That the discharge will not result in additional treatment requirements on other point and non-point sources.
- That the State of Maine concurs with the approval of the 301(h) waiver.

Federal regulation 40 CFR Part 125.57(a)(3), states that the applicant must establish a system for monitoring the impact of POTW discharges with 301(h) waivers on a representative sample of aquatic biota, to the extent practicable, and the scope of such monitoring must be limited to include only those scientific investigations which are necessary to study the effects of the proposed discharge

EPA has made a determination that the scope of effluent limitations and monitoring requirements in this permit are sufficient to provide the necessary information to study the effects of the discharge on the receiving waters.

Because all of the prior 301(h) conditions have been maintained and because there has been no new or substantially increased discharge from the permittee’s facility, EPA proposes, through the re-issuance of the Searsport permit, to carry forward the original 301(h) waiver decision.

## 6. ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA), grants authority and imposes requirements on Federal agencies regarding endangered or threatened species of fish, wildlife, or plants (listed species) and habitat of such species that has been designated as critical (a “critical habitat”).

Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA requires every Federal agency, in consultation with and with the assurance of the Secretary of Interior, to ensure that any action it authorizes, funds or carries out, in the United States or upon the high seas, is not likely to likely to adversely affect the continued existence of any listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) administers Section 7 consultations for freshwater species. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) administers Section 7 consultations for marine and anadromous species.

The Federal action being considered in this case is EPA’s reissuance of the NPDES Permit and Waiver from Secondary Treatment for the Facility. As the federal agency charged with authorizing the discharge from this Facility, EPA initiated consultation under § 7(a)(2) of the ESA with the February 16, 2016 meeting with NMFS.<sup>9</sup> Following the meeting, EPA sent a detailed letter with supporting materials to NMFS concerning all eight municipal permits with waivers (301(h)) from secondary treatment in Maine. The letter requested that NMFS concur with EPA that repermitting the 8 facilities is not likely to adversely affect the continued existence of any listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.<sup>10</sup> NMFS concurred with EPA’s finding by letter April 12, 2017. The letter said in part:

We have completed our consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species act (ESA) in response to your letter received April 5, 2017. We reviewed your consultation request document and related materials. Based on our knowledge, expertise, and your materials, we concur with your conclusions that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect the NMFS ESA-listed species and/or designated critical habitat. We also concur with your analysis and conclusion provided in your correspondence that the proposed action will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of the proposed critical habitat, and conference is not necessary. Therefore, no further consultation pursuant to section 7 of the ESA is required.<sup>11</sup>

As of the development of this Fact Sheet, EPA has obtained no new information that would change the basis of EPA’s April 5, 2017, determination that the proposed action will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of the proposed critical habitat.

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<sup>9</sup> February 16, 2016 Meeting with Christine Vaccaro, Section 7 Fisheries Biologist of the NOAA Protected Resources Division, Phil Colarusso and Doug Corb EPA, RI and Mark Johnson, Marine Habitat Resource Specialist at the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) in Gloucester, MA.

<sup>10</sup> April 5, 2017 letter to Kimberly Damon-Randall, Assistant Regional Administrator for NMFS Protected Species, from Ellen Weitzler P. E., Chief, Municipal Permits Branch EPA Region I.

<sup>11</sup> April 12, 2017 letter from Kimberly Damon-Randall, Assistant Regional Administrator for NMFS Protected Species, to Ellen Weitzler P. E., Chief, Municipal Permits Branch EPA Region I.

## 7. EFH (ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT)

Under the 1996 Amendments (PL 104-267) to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. § 1801 et seq. (1998)), EPA is required to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) if EPA's action or proposed actions that it funds, permits, or undertakes, "may adversely impact any essential fish habitat." 16 U.S.C. § 1855(b). The Amendments broadly define "essential fish habitat" as: "waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity. 16 U.S.C. § 1802 (10). Adversely impact means any impact which reduces the quality and/or quantity of EFH. 50 C.F.R. § 600.910 (a). Adverse effects may include direct (e.g., contamination or physical disruption), indirect (e.g., loss of prey, reduction in species' fecundity), site-specific or habitat-wide impacts, including individual, cumulative, or synergistic consequences of actions. Essential fish habitat is only designated for species for which federal fisheries management plans exist. 16 U.S.C. § 1855(b) (1) (A). EFH designations for New England were approved by the U.S. Department of Commerce on March 3, 1999.

### a. Description of Proposed Actions

This proposed action is the reissuance of existing NPDES permit and accompanying Clean Water Act Section 301(h) waiver authorizing the discharge of primary treated waste water to the marine receiving waters.

EPA met with Mark Johnson, Marine Habitat Resource Specialist, with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office in Gloucester Mass concerning the permitted discharge to Essential Fish Habitat. The meeting was held concurrently with the ESA Section 7 consultation mentioned in the previous section of this Fact Sheet.<sup>12</sup> The initial meeting was followed by a letter from EPA to Louis A. Chiarella, Assistant Regional Administrator, Habitat Conservation Division, NMFS.<sup>13</sup> The letter stated in part:

EPA believes that the conditions and limitations contained within the proposed permit adequately protect all aquatic life, including those with designated EFH in the receiving water, and that further mitigation is not warranted. If adverse impacts to EFH are detected because of this permit action, or if new information is received that changes the basis for these conclusions, EPA will contact NMFS Habitat Division.

As of the development of this Fact Sheet, EPA has obtained no new information that would change the basis of EPA's June 29, 2017, determination that further mitigation is not warranted. NMFS will receive the Draft Permit, (this) Fact Sheet, and the Tentative Waiver Decision Document during the 30-day public notice comment period. NMFS may revisit EFH consultation based on these documents or new information, if warranted.

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<sup>12</sup> February 16, 2016 Meeting with Christine Vaccaro, Section 7 Fisheries Biologist of the NOAA Protected Resources Division, Phil Colarusso and Doug Corb EPA, RI and Mark Johnson, Marine Habitat Resource Specialist at the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) in Gloucester, MA.

<sup>13</sup> Letter from Doug Corb, EPA Region I Municipal Permits Branch to Louis A. Chiarella, Assistant Regional Administrator, Habitat Conservation Division, NMFS., Dated June 29, 2017.

b. EFH Species

The species listed in the table below are believed to be the only managed species present during one or more life stages within the area which encompasses the discharge site. No “habitat area of particular concern.” as defined under § 600.815(a)(9) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, has been designated for this site.

The discharge location (N 44° 27.131W 68° 54.641) falls within the EFH designation for the following 10-minute square shown in Table 1:

**Table 1 – EFH Designations**

Boundary	North	East	South	West
Coordinate	44° 30.0 N	68° 50.0 W	44° 20.0 N	69° 00.0 W
Species	Eggs	Larvae	Juveniles	Adults
Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )			X	X
Atlantic cod ( <i>Gadus morhua</i> )		X	X	X
pollock ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> )			X	
whiting ( <i>Merluccius bilinearis</i> )			X	X
red hake ( <i>Urophycis chuss</i> )			X	X
white hake ( <i>Urophycis tenuis</i> )			X	X
winter flounder ( <i>Pseudopleuronectes americanus</i> )	X	X	X	X
yellowtail flounder ( <i>Limanda ferruginea</i> )	X	X		
windowpane flounder ( <i>Scophthalmus aquosus</i> )	X	X	X	X
American plaice ( <i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i> )	X	X	X	X
ocean pout ( <i>Macrozoarces americanus</i> )	X	X	X	X
Atlantic sea scallop ( <i>Placopecten magellanicus</i> )	X	X	X	X
Atlantic sea herring ( <i>Clupea harengus</i> )		X	X	X
bluefish ( <i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i> )			X	X
Atlantic mackerel ( <i>Scomber scombrus</i> )			X	X

## 8. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

### a. Effluent Flow

The sewage treatment plant discharge is encompassed within the definition of “pollutant” and is subject to regulation under the CWA. The CWA defines “pollutant” to mean, inter alia, “municipal . . . waste” and “sewage...discharged into water.” 33 U.S.C. § 1362(6).

EPA may use design flow of effluent both to determine the necessity for effluent limitations in the permit that comply with the Act, and to calculate the limits themselves.

EPA practice is to use design flow as a reasonable and important worst-case condition in EPA’s reasonable potential and water quality-based effluent limitations (WQBEL) calculations to ensure compliance with water quality standards under Section 301(b)(1)(C). Should the effluent discharge flow exceed the flow assumed in these calculations, the instream dilution would decrease and the calculated effluent limits may not be protective of WQS. Further, pollutants that do not have the reasonable potential to exceed WQS at the lower discharge flow may have reasonable potential at a higher flow due to the decreased dilution.

To ensure that the assumptions underlying the Region’s reasonable potential analyses and derivation of permit effluent limitations remain sound for the duration of the permit, the Region may ensure its “worst-case” effluent wastewater flow assumption through imposition of permit conditions for effluent flow. Thus, the effluent flow limit is a component of WQBELs because the WQBELs are premised on a maximum level of flow. In addition, the flow limit is necessary to ensure that other pollutants remain at levels that do not have a reasonable potential to exceed WQS.

Using a facility’s design flow in the derivation of pollutant effluent limitations, including conditions to limit wastewater effluent flow, is consistent with, and anticipated by NPDES permit regulations. Regarding the calculation of effluent limitations for POTWs, 40 C.F.R. § 122.45(b)(1) provides, “permit effluent limitations...shall be calculated based on design flow.” POTW permit applications are required to include the design flow of the treatment facility. Id. § 122.21(j)(1)(vi).

Similarly, EPA’s reasonable potential regulations require EPA to consider “where appropriate, the dilution of the effluent in the receiving water,” 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(d)(1)(ii), which is a function of both the wastewater effluent flow and receiving water flow.

EPA guidance directs that this “reasonable potential” (RP) analysis be based on “worst-case” conditions. EPA accordingly is authorized to carry out its reasonable potential calculations by presuming that a plant is operating at its design flow when assessing reasonable potential.

The limitation on sewage effluent flow is within EPA’s authority to condition a permit in order to carry out the objectives of the Act. See CWA §§ Sections 402(a)(2) and 301(b)(1)(C); 40 C.F.R. §§ 122.4(a) and (d); 122.43 and 122.44(d).

A condition on the discharge designed to protect EPA's WQBEL and RP calculations is encompassed by the references to "condition" and "limitations" in 402 and 301 and implementing regulations, as they are designed to assure compliance with applicable water quality regulations, including antidegradation. Regulating the quantity of pollutants in the discharge through a restriction on the quantity of wastewater effluent is consistent with the overall structure and purposes of the CWA.

In addition, as provided in Part II.B.1 of this permit and 40 C.F.R. § 122.41(e), the permittee is required to properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control. Operating the facilities wastewater treatment systems as designed includes operating within the facility's design effluent flow. Thus, the permit's effluent flow limitation is necessary to ensure proper facility operation, which in turn is a requirement applicable to all NPDES permits. See 40 C.F.R. § 122.41.

The 2008 permit established a monthly average flow limitation of 200,000 gallons per day (gpd). The limit was originally established by the EPA on May 9, 1985 when the waiver was granted and is continued in the draft permit.

b. Dilution Factors

Department Regulation Chapter 530 Surface Water Toxics Control Program, §4(a)(2) states:

- (1) *For estuaries where tidal flow is dominant and marine discharges, dilution factors are calculated as follows. These methods may be supplemented with additional information such as current studies or dye studies.*
  - (a) *For discharges to the ocean, dilution must be calculated as near-field or initial dilution, or that dilution available as the effluent plume rises from the point of discharge to its trapping level, at mean low water level and slack tide for the acute exposure analysis, and at mean tide for the chronic exposure analysis using appropriate models determined by the Department such as MERGE, CORMIX or another predictive model.*
  - (b) *For discharges to estuaries, dilution must be calculated using a method such as MERGE, CORMIX or another predictive model determined by the Department to be appropriate for the site conditions.*
  - (c) *In the case of discharges to estuaries where tidal flow is dominant and marine waters, the human health criteria must be analyzed using a dilution equal to three times the chronic dilution factor.*

Using plan and profile information of the outfall and the CORMIX model, the Department has determined the dilution factors for the discharge of 0.20 MGD from the waste water treatment facility are as follows:

Acute = 54:1

Chronic = 188:1

Harmonic mean = 564:1



The harmonic mean dilution factor is approximated by multiplying the chronic dilution factor by a factor of three (3).

Treated wastewater is discharged to the Searsport Harbor by way of a ten (10) inch diameter PVC pipe. The outfall pipe extends out into the receiving waters approximately 1,200 feet from the edge of the shoreline. The outfall discharges at -20.0 feet mean low tide elevation according to a plan prepared by T.Y. Lin Hunter-Ballew International, dated July 29, 1988, entitled "Ocean Outfall Plan, Town of Searsport, Water Pollution Control Facility."

c. Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS)

Federal regulations state that primary or equivalent treatment means treatment by screening, sedimentation, and skimming adequate to remove at least thirty percent (30%) of the BOD and 30% of the TSS material in the treatment works influent (40 CFR §125.58(r)). The Department considers a thirty percent (30%) removal of BOD and a fifty percent (50%) removal of TSS from the influent loading as a best professional judgment (BPJ) determination of best practicable treatment (BPT) for primary facilities.

The 2008 Permit included requirements for 30% BOD removal and 50% TSS removal as well as calculated mass and concentration limits for BOD and TSS. The limitations were calculated based on an assumed influent concentration of 290 mg/L for each parameter and a 30% removal for BOD and a 50% removal for TSS. The effluent limits from the 2008 Permit and the effluent data for 2013 to 2018 are provided in Appendix C. As can be seen from the data, the facility has met its BOD and TSS effluent limits consistently.

The percent removal requirements were established in the 2008 permitting action and are being carried forward. Percent removal is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Percent removal} = \frac{((\text{ave monthly influent concentration}) - (\text{ave monthly effluent concentration})) \times 100}{100}$$

EPA established an assumed monthly average influent concentration of 290 mg/l for BOD and TSS based on the EPA Design Manual, Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems table entitled "Characteristics of Typical Residential Wastewater" high range of values for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS<sup>14</sup>.

The BOD and TSS effluent limits in the draft permit continue this approach and were derived as follows:

Flow limitation of 200,000 gpd (0.20 MGD)

$$\begin{aligned} \text{BOD:} \quad & 290 \text{ mg/L} - [(290 \text{ mg/L})(0.30)] = 203 \text{ mg/L} \\ & (203 \text{ mg/L})(8.34)(0.20 \text{ MGD}) = 338 \text{ lbs/day} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{TSS:} \quad 290 \text{ mg/L} - [(290 \text{ mg/L})(0.50)] = 145 \text{ mg/L}$$

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<sup>14</sup> Design Manual Onsite Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems, EPA Office of Water Program Operations, October 1980, EPA 625/1-80-012, Table 4-3, Page 56.

$$(145 \text{ mg/L})(8.34)(0.20 \text{ MGD}) = 242 \text{ lbs/day}$$

The sampling frequency in the draft permit is 1/week. The once per week monitoring for BOD and TSS is based on a BPJ determination by the EPA and the Department given the size and type of treatment facility.

d. Settleable solids

The settleable solids test indicates how the solids are settling in a treatment plant. “Settleable Solids” is the term applied to the material settling out of suspension within a defined period of time. The settleable solids test can help the operator estimate the volume of sludge to be expected. Conventional primary treatment units remove 90 to 95% of settleable solids. This test is mostly for operational control and thus it is reported without limits.

The previous permitting action established monthly average and daily maximum concentration reporting requirements for settleable solids with a 1/Week monitoring frequency. This frequency is retained in the draft permit. A review of the DMR data for the period October 2013 – September 2018 indicates the monthly average and daily maximum concentrations have fallen within the range of 0.1-1.0 ml/L.

The Draft Permit continues the requirement to report settleable solids with the same once per week monitoring frequency.

e. Enterococci bacteria and fecal coliform bacteria

Specific types of non-pathogenic bacteria are used as indicator organisms, or surrogates, for waterborne pathogens (bacteria, viruses, etc.) which enter surface waters from a variety of sources, including human sewage and the feces of warm-blooded wildlife. These pathogens can pose a risk to human health due to gastrointestinal illness through different exposure routes, including contact with and ingestion of recreational waters, ingestion of drinking water, and consumption of shellfish.<sup>15</sup>

Enterococci

Maine water quality standards use enterococci as indicator organisms for protection of estuarine and marine recreational waters (38 M.R.S. § 465-B(2)(B)). Because contact recreation occurs largely in the summer months, the enterococci criteria are applied seasonally between April 15<sup>th</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>. The current permit does not have enterococci limits. The draft permit includes enterococci limits based on the reasonable potential of the treated effluent to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the state bacterial water quality standards. The enterococcus limits proposed in the draft permit are a monthly geometric mean of 8 cfu/100 mL and a maximum daily limit of 54 cfu/100 mL with weekly monitoring.

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<sup>15</sup> Maine Statewide Bacteria TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Loads) August 2009 Report # DEPLW-1002.

Fecal Coliform

Maine water quality standards apply, by reference, the numeric criteria recommended by the National Shellfish Sanitation Program, United States Food and Drug Administration (see 38 M.R.S. § 465-B(2.A)). Unlike the bacteria criteria to protect recreational uses which are applicable seasonally, Maine’s coliform criteria to protect shellfishing uses apply year-round. Bacteria are limited in the 2008 Permit to average and daily maximum concentration limits of 15 colonies/100 mL and 50 colonies/100 mL, respectively. These limits were based on DEP’s interpretation of the 2005 National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish. The 2008 Permit applied the fecal coliform limits seasonally (May 15 – September 30). As can be seen from the summary in Table 2, the permittee has been consistently meeting these effluent limits. A full monthly monitoring data set for 2013 to 2018 is provided in Appendix C.

**Table 2 - Summary of Effluent Fecal Coliform Data (2013-2018)**

	Monthly Ave (#/100 ml)	Daily Max (#/100 ml)
Effluent Limit	15	50
Minimum	4	4
Maximum	14	40
Average	6.4	13.8

The Maine Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) regulates shellfishing within the state. MDMR sets shellfish closure areas around all outfalls discharging sanitary wastewater to protect shellfish beds in case of failure of disinfection systems. Even with the outfall closure areas, the permit limits must still protect the designated uses of class SB waters, which include harvesting of shellfish. The MDMR Closure Orders, Number 33 found on page 7 of the Fact Sheet do not remove the designated use of harvesting of shellfish, nor EPA’s responsibility to set fecal coliform limits in the draft permit to protect that use.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) periodically updates the shellfish standards. The most recent revision is the National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish, 2013 Revision. EPA will apply the same bacteriological standards from this Guidance Document, as used by the MDMR in the protection shellfish resources as permit limits. These specify that:

The fecal coliform median or geometric mean MPN or MF (mTEC) of the water sample results shall not exceed fourteen (14) per 100 mL, and not more than ten (10) percent of the samples shall exceed an MPN or MF (mTEC) of: 31 CFU per 100 mL for a MF [membrane filter] (mTEC) test.

The Draft Permit includes monthly average and daily maximum limits of 14 colonies/100 mL and 31 colonies/100 mL, respectively. These limits are consistent with the recommendations in the 2013 National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish. The monitoring frequency requirement of once per week is based on DEP guidance for

POTWs and is applicable year-round, consistent with Maine’s water quality standards. The permittee may continue to use the Standard Method 9222-D-1997- Thermotolerant (Fecal) Coliform Membrane Filter Procedure which is the closest method to that used by MDMR that is approved for wastewater under 40 CFR § 136.

f. Total residual chlorine (TRC)

Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) - Chlorine compounds resulting from the disinfection process can be extremely toxic to aquatic life. The instream chlorine criteria are defined in National Recommended Water Quality Criteria: 2002, EPA 822R-02-047 (November 2002), as adopted by the Maine DEP into the Chapter 584: Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants<sup>16</sup>. The criteria establish that the total residual chlorine in the receiving water should not exceed 7.5 µg/L (chronic) and 13 µg/L (acute). Maine also applies a technology-based best practicable treatment (BPT) limit of 1.0 mg/L.

The 2008 permitting action established a water quality based daily maximum limitation of 0.70 mg/L based on an acute dilution of 54:1 and chronic dilution of 188:1, with monitoring frequency of 1/Day. A review of effluent monitoring data from October 2013 through September 2018 demonstrates that Searsport has consistently met the daily maximum 0.7 mg/L TRC limit. Results from that 5+ year period of monitoring are shown below:

Daily Maximum Values (mg/L)	Average (mg/L)
0.0 – 0.7	0.49

Revised end-of-pipe water quality-based concentration thresholds may be calculated as shown below.

Parameter	Acute Criteria	Chronic Criteria	Acute Dilution	Chronic Dilution	Acute Limit	Chronic Limit
Chlorine	13 µg/L	7.5 µg/L	54:1	188:1	0.70 mg/L	1.4 mg/L

Example calculation: Acute            0.013 mg/L (54) = 0.70 mg/L  
 Chronic                            0.0075 mg/L (188) = 1.4 mg/L

To limit the toxic effects of chlorine compounds, permits issued with MEDEP impose the more stringent of the calculated water quality based or BPT based limits. 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 unless the calculated acute water quality based threshold is lower than 1.0 mg/L.

The draft permit continues the water quality based effluent limit of 0.7 mg/L and the daily monitoring requirement from the 2008 permit since the water quality based effluent limit is more stringent than the BPT limit, as required by § 301(b)(1)(C) of the CWA and 40 C.F.R. §§ 122.44(d)(1) and 122.44(d)(5).

<sup>16</sup> Ch. 584, Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants <http://maine.gov/dep/water/rules/index.html>

g. pH

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R § 125.61 (a) There must exist a water quality standard or standards applicable to the pollutant(s) [including] pH. Additionally, Maine Water Quality Standards State that: Discharge of pollutants to any water of the State that violates sections 465...or causes the “pH” of estuarine and marine waters to fall outside of the 7.0 to 8.5 range is not permissible.

The 2008 Permit established a BPT pH range limit of 6.0 –9.0 standard units pursuant to Department rule, Chapter 525(3)(III)(c), along with a monitoring frequency of 1/week. A review of the DMR data for the period October 2013 – August 2018 indicates that the permittee has not reported any exceedance of the pH range. A full monthly monitoring data set for 2013 to 2018 is provided in Appendix C.

The Draft Permit proposes to continue the pH limits from the 2004 Permit (6.0 to 9.0 standard units), consistent with the secondary treatment standards for pH found in 40 CFR §133.102(c) and consistent with the BPT approach Maine regulations.

h. Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) & Chemical-Specific Testing

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 water quality criteria as established in Chapter 584.

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  $Q \leq 1.0$  MGD

Department rule Chapter 530 (2)(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 Searsport facility falls into the Level III frequency category as the facility has a chronic dilution factor  $\geq 100:1$  but  $< 500:1$ . Chapter 530(2)(D)(1) specifies that surveillance and screening level testing requirements are as follows:

Screening level testing

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

Surveillance level testing

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

Tests results from the above required testing can be found in Attachment C of this Fact Sheet.

Chapter 530(2)(D)(3)(d) states in part that for Level III facilities "... may be waived from conducting surveillance testing for individual WET species or chemicals provided that testing in the preceding 60 months does not indicate any reasonable potential for exceedance as calculated pursuant to section 3(E)".

Chapter 530 §(3)(E) states "For effluent monitoring data and the variability of the pollutant in the effluent, the Department shall apply the statistical approach in Section 3.3.2 and Table 3-2 of USEPA's "Technical Support Document for Water Quality-Based Toxics Control" (USEPA Publication 505/2-90-001, March, 1991, EPA, Office of Water, Washington, D.C.) to data to determine whether water-quality based effluent limits must be included in a waste discharge license. Where it is determined through this approach that a discharge contains pollutants or WET at levels that have a reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality criteria, appropriate water quality-based limits must be established in any licensing action."

**WET test evaluation**

On December 11, 2018, the Department conducted a statistical evaluation on the most recent 60 months of WET test results on file with the Department in accordance with the statistical approach in Chapter 530. The statistical evaluation indicates there are no A-NOEL test results for the mysid shrimp that exceed or have a reasonable potential to exceed the critical water quality thresholds of 1.8%. Therefore, pursuant to Department rule Chapter 530 (2)(D)(1), this permit is granting a waiver for surveillance testing for the mysid shrimp.

There is one test result of 0.53% on 3/11/2014 for the sea urchin that has a reasonable potential to exceed the critical C-NOEL threshold of 0.53%. Therefore, a C-NOEL limitation of 0.53% is being established for the sea urchin along with a 1/Year monitoring requirement.

Therefore, WET testing is being established as follows:

Surveillance - Beginning upon issuance of this permit and lasting through 24 months prior to permit expiration, and commencing again 12 months prior to permit expiration. Beginning 24 months prior to and lasting through 12 months prior to permit expiration (year 4 of the permit) and every five years thereafter.

Level	WET Testing
III	1 per year for the sea urchin

Screening -. 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

Level	WET Testing
III	1 per year for the mysid shrimp 1 per year for the sea urchin

Chapter 530 §(2)(D) states:

- (4) *All dischargers having waived or reduced testing must file statements with the Department on or before December 31 of each year describing the following.*
- (a) *Changes in the number or types of non-domestic wastes contributed directly or indirectly to the wastewater treatment works that may increase the toxicity of the discharge;*
  - (b) *Changes in the operation of the treatment works that may increase the toxicity of the discharge; and*
  - (c) *Changes in industrial manufacturing processes contributing wastewater to the treatment works that may increase the toxicity of the discharge.*

Part I.J. of the Draft Permit, 06-096 CMR 530 (2)(D)(4) *Statement For Reduced/Waiver Toxics Testing*, of this permitting action requires the permittee to file an annual certification with the Department.

#### Analytical chemistry & priority pollutant testing evaluation

As with WET test results, on December 11, 2018, the Department conducted a statistical evaluation on the most recent 60 months of analytical chemistry and priority pollutant test results on file with the Department in accordance with the statistical approach outlined in Chapter 530. The statistical evaluation indicates there are no test results for any parameters that exceed or have a reasonable potential to exceed any acute or chronic AWQC.

Chapter 530(2)(D)(3)(d) states in part that for Level III facilities "... may be waived from conducting surveillance testing for individual WET species or chemicals provided that testing in the preceding 60 months does not indicate any reasonable potential for exceedance as calculated pursuant to section 3(E)". Therefore, based on the results of the 12/11/18 evaluation report, this permit action is waving surveillance level analytical testing requirements.

Screening - 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, screening level testing is as follows:

Level	Priority pollutant testing	Analytical chemistry
I	1 per year	4 per year

As with WET testing, Chapter 530 (2)(D) requires an annual certification to qualify for reduced testing. Part I.J. of the Draft Permit, 06-096 CMR 530 (2)(D)(4) *Statement for Reduced/Waived Toxics Testing*, of this permitting action requires the permittee to file an annual certification with the Department.

i. Mercury

On May 23, 2000, pursuant to Certain deposits and discharges prohibited, 38 M.R.S. § 420 and Waste discharge licenses, 38 M.R.S. § 413 and Interim Effluent Limitations and Controls for the Discharge of Mercury, 06-096 CMR 519 (last amended October 6, 2001), the MEDEP issued a Notice of Interim Limits for the Discharge of Mercury to the permittee, administratively modifying WDL #W006279 by establishing interim average and maximum effluent concentration limits of 412 nanograms per liter (ng/L) and 618 ng/L, respectively, and a minimum monitoring frequency requirement of one (1) test per year for mercury. A review of the MEDEP's data base for the period May 2001 to January 2018 indicates mercury test results have ranged from 7.67 ng/L to 56.00 ng/L with an arithmetic mean (n=21) of 20.71 ng/L.

As discussed in Section 2.a of this Fact Sheet, if the State believes that any conditions more stringent than those contained in the Draft Permit are necessary to meet the requirements of either the CWA §§ 208(e), 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 or the appropriate requirements of State law, the State should include such conditions and, in each case, cite the CWA or State law reference upon which that condition is based. In this case, Maine's CWA 401 certification is expected to include the interim limits for the discharge of mercury that are already incorporated in the Facility's Maine Discharge License, but which have not previously been incorporated into its NPDES Permit, on the basis that such limits are required in accordance with 38 M.R.S. § 420(1-B)(B)(1). The interim mercury limitations have been incorporated into Part I.B of the Draft Permit.

## 9. DISCHARGE IMPACT ON RECEIVING WATERS

EPA and the Department have determined that the permit limits and conditions are sufficient to ensure that the existing water uses will be maintained and protected and the discharge will not cause or contribute to failure of the waterbody to meet standards for Class SB classification.

## 10. SLUDGE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

Maine regulates sludge under Department Regulations Chapter 400 et seq. Domestic sludge is regulated under Federal requirements found at 40 CFR Part 503. These requirements are self-



implementing by the permittee. The permittee must keep records onsite for 5 years for inspection by EPA or the Department upon request. The permittee must stay apprised of all regulations applicable to their practice for the use or disposal of sludge. The draft permit includes a summary of records to be kept by the permittee related to the current land application of septage.

As explained in its application, Searsport is licensed to receive septage up to a maximum of 2,000 gpd, 7,000 gpm and up to 70,000 gallons a year. This septage is from residential and commercial sources only. Septage brought to the plant is unloaded through a screening basket and into an aerated scum tank. From there, it is pumped to two 25,000 aerated sludge digesters where it is mixed with primary sludge from the normal treatment process and then pumped to the belt press for flocculation and dewatering. While Searsport does not haul any septage, they do haul their dewatered sludge to the Haw Ridge Compost Facility in Unity Plantation. (Application, Att E).

If the ultimate sludge disposal method changes, the permittee must notify EPA and DEP and the requirements pertaining to sludge monitoring and other conditions would change accordingly.

The permittee is required to annually report to EPA the quantity and ultimate disposition sludge removed from the treatment system consistent with CWA 503 regulations.

## **11. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FOR THE TREATMENT PLANT**

The permit standard conditions for "Proper Operation and Maintenance" are found at 40 CFR §122.41(e). These require proper operation and maintenance of permitted wastewater systems and related facilities to achieve permit conditions. Similarly, the permittee has a "duty to mitigate" as required by 40 CFR §122.41(d). This requires the permittee to take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of the permit which has the reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment. EPA maintains that these programs are an integral component of ensuring permit compliance under both these provisions.

The draft permit includes requirements for the permittee to control infiltration and inflow (I/I). Infiltration is groundwater that enters the collection system through physical defects such as cracked pipes, or deteriorated joints. Inflow is extraneous flow entering the collection system through point sources such as roof leaders, yard and area drains, sump pumps, manhole covers, tide gates, and cross connections from storm water systems. 40 CFR §125.60(c)(iii) addresses I/I in a conventional primary treatment process. It recognizes that significant I/I prior to treatment can hinder the POTW's ability to meet the percent removal limits and allows for their adjustment provided the I/I is deemed nonexcessive.<sup>17</sup>

For the above stated reasons, the permit requires an ongoing program to address and remove I/I from the system. EPA is requiring a written Wet Weather Management Plan (that identifies how the facility will effectively operate during periods of high flow) in the draft permit to ensure proper operation of the WWTF. This is important since Searsport, in its permit application,

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<sup>17</sup> Nonexcessive (i.e., wastewater plus inflow plus infiltration) is less than 275 gallons per capita per day. 40 CFR §125.60(c)(iii)

acknowledges that it experiences increased inflow and infiltration during extended periods of wet weather.

## 12. PUBLIC COMMENTS PERIOD AND PROCEDURES FOR FINAL DECISION

Notice of the application being filed with the EPA and the Department for renewal of the permit was placed in the Republican Journal on or about April 18, 2013 consistent with Maine application requirements.

The draft permit public notice will be placed on the EPA Region 1 NPDES website at: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/maine-npdes-permits>.

All persons, including applicants, who believe any condition of the draft permit is inappropriate must raise all issues and submit all available arguments and all supporting material for their arguments in full by the close of the public comment period, to the U.S. EPA, Office of Ecosystem Protection, 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3912, to the contact named in Section 13 below, and to the Department at the address shown in Section 12 below. Any person, prior to such date, may submit a request in writing for a public hearing to consider the draft permit to EPA and the State Agency. Such requests shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing.

Public hearings may be held after at least thirty days public notice whenever the Regional Administrator finds that response to this notice indicates a significant public interest. In reaching a final decision on the draft permit, the Regional Administrator will respond to all significant comments and make these responses available to the public at EPA's Boston office.

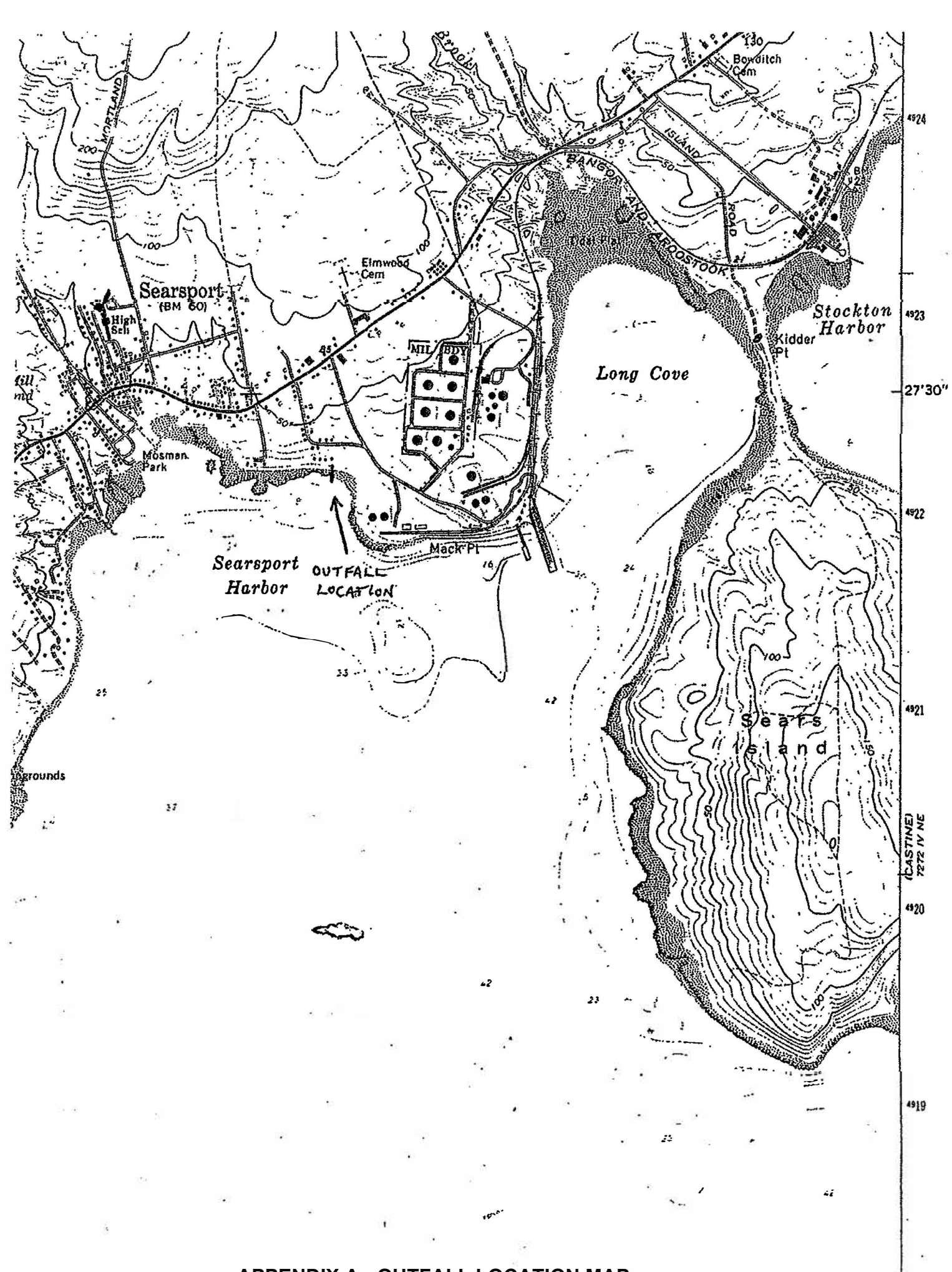
Following the close of the comment period and after a public hearing, if such a hearing is held, the Regional Administrator will issue a final permit decision and forward a copy of the final decision to the applicant and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice.

## 13. CONTACTS

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

Gregg Wood  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Land & Water Quality  
Division of Water Quality Management  
State House Station #17  
Augusta, ME. 04333-0017  
Phone: 207-287-7693  
Email: [gregg.wood@maine.gov](mailto:gregg.wood@maine.gov)

Robin L. Johnson  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Mail Code – OEP06-1  
5 Post Office Square – Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109-3912  
Phone: 617-918-1045  
Email: [johnson.robin@epa.gov](mailto:johnson.robin@epa.gov)

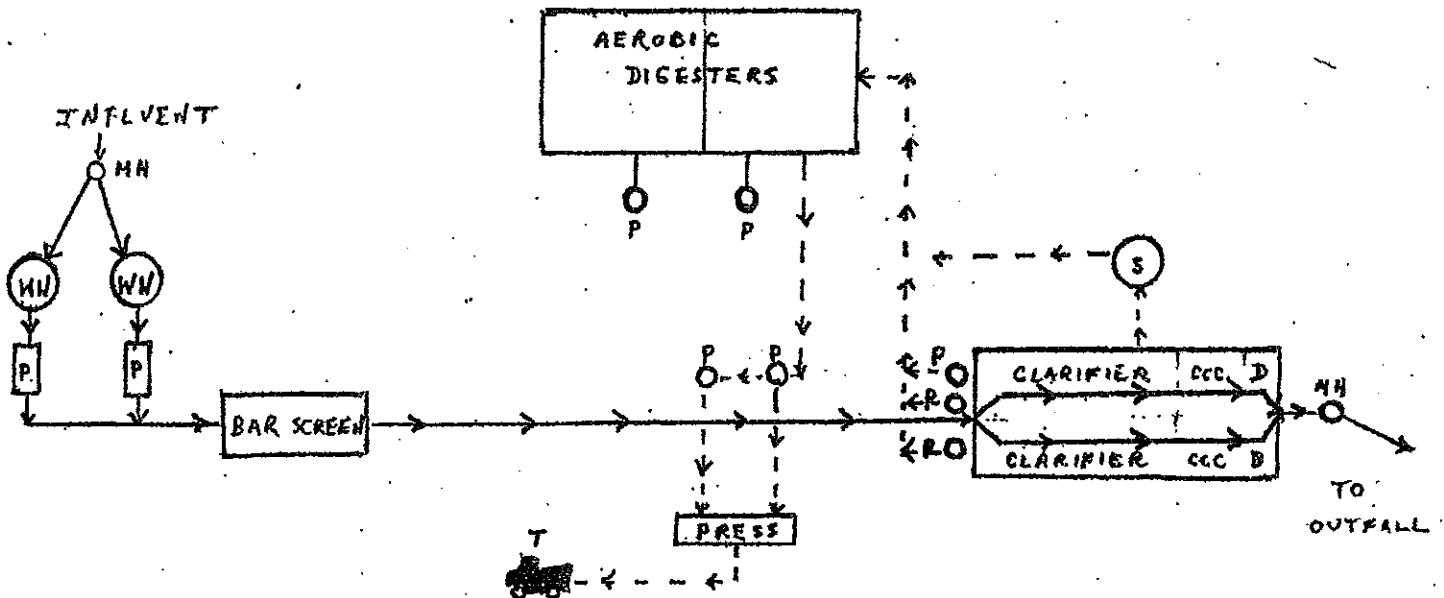


APPENDIX A - OUTFALL LOCATION MAP

FACT SHEET APPENDIX B -  
TREATMENT PLANT SCHEMATIC

FORM DEPLW 106

2.A) PLEASE SHOW BELOW OR ATTACH A LINE DRAWING SHOWING ALL TREATMENT UNITS AND IMPORTANT ASSOCIATED OR SUPPORTING UNITS.



- P PUMP
- NW NETWELL
- CCC CHLORINE CONTACT CHAMBER
- D DECHLORINATION
- INFLUENT FLOW
- SLUDGE FLOW
- S SCUM PIT

Searsport Fact Sheet  
Appendix C

	Flow	BOD <sub>5</sub>	BOD <sub>5</sub>	BOD <sub>5</sub>	BOD <sub>5</sub>	BOD <sub>5</sub>	BOD <sub>6</sub>
Monitoring Period End Date	Monthly Average (gal/day)	Monthly Average (mg/L)	Monthly Average (lb/day)	Daily Max (lb/day)	Daily Max (mg/L)	Monthly Average (mg/L)	% Removal
<b>Effluent Limit</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>Report</b>	<b>Report</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Minimum</b>	<b>55000</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>116000</b>	<b>199</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>78050.85</b>	<b>152.17</b>	<b>93.42</b>	<b>120.95</b>	<b>189.42</b>	<b>50.29</b>	<b>50.45</b>
10/31/2013	66000	159	81	106	196	60	60
11/30/2013	80000	123	64	69	138	62	62
12/31/2013	73000	123	70	91	185	57	57
01/31/2014	112000	161	110	159	247	46	46
02/28/2014	62000	170	78	97	203	51	51
03/31/2014	87000	176	108	127	236	49	49
04/30/2014	113000	104	93	114	149	58	58
05/31/2014	88000	187	130	170	271	41	41
06/30/2014	78000	133	78	123	205	54	54
07/31/2014	97000	113	85	118	179	59	59
08/31/2014	70000	182	115	162	240	50	50
09/30/2014	63000	179	95	111	208	51	51
10/31/2014	82000	146	86	121	171	55	55
11/30/2014	90000	97	83	142	108	55	55
12/31/2014	109000	126	121	178	185	41	41
01/31/2015	62000	172	85	98	195	53	53
02/28/2015	55000	161	72	79	190	51	51
03/31/2015	74000	173	98	109	241	45	45
04/30/2015	116000	110	93	106	164	47	47
05/31/2015	61000	186	91	99	199	50	50
06/30/2015	68000	185	97	126	252	54	54
07/31/2015	62000	183	92	116	224	54	54
08/31/2015	61000	189	97	121	219	50	50
09/30/2015	72000	159	128	300	202	54	54
10/31/2015	85000	195	140	251	238	46	46
11/30/2015	84000	148	86	107	205	50	50
12/31/2015	85000	125	91	139	138	50	50
01/31/2016	86000	166	101	133	228	38	38

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	Flow	BOD <sub>5</sub>	BOD <sub>5</sub>	BOD <sub>5</sub>	BOD <sub>5</sub>	BOD <sub>5</sub>	BOD <sub>6</sub>
Monitoring Period End Date	Monthly Average (gal/day)	Monthly Average (mg/L)	Monthly Average (lb/day)	Daily Max (lb/day)	Daily Max (mg/L)	Monthly Average (mg/L)	% Removal
02/29/2016	108000	104	103	131	123	48	48
03/31/2016	89000	93	75	101	119	56	56
04/30/2016	77000	153	86	106	220	45	45
05/31/2016	65000	172	92	107	198	54	54
06/30/2016	65000	156	83	95	172	54	54
07/31/2016	67000	146	73	97	211	57	57
08/31/2016	65000	169	86	98	192	52	52
09/30/2016	63000	152	76	84	164	58	58
10/31/2016	62000	179	86	96	214	54	54
11/30/2016	72000	116	75	88	148	59	59
12/31/2016	91000	135	84	108	152	48	48
01/31/2017	99000	87	94	140	123	54	54
02/28/2017	69000	174	87	123	207	39	39
03/31/2017	72000	141	93	101	176	44	44
04/30/2017	96000	141	121	167	180	39	39
05/31/2017	100000	126	90	105	161	47	47
06/30/2017	64000	175	86	91	191	50	50
07/31/2017	66000	174	88	101	189	43	43
08/31/2017	63000	181	88	105	217	50	50
09/30/2017	64000	186	101	143	235	42	42
10/31/2017	66000	199	163	170	235	40	40
11/30/2017	72000	164	87	92	177	51	51
12/31/2017	69000	142	95	132	169	47	47
01/31/2018	86000	153	80	95	203	54	54
02/28/2018	82000	121	84	112	156	54	54
03/31/2018	92000	130	89	108	150	51	51
04/30/2018	108000	121	113	140	134	49	49
05/31/2018	65000	164	85	89	190	49	49
06/30/2018	63000	167	80	90	186	52	52
07/31/2018	66000	169	91	98	191	49	49
08/31/2018	69000	167	97	117	178	54	54
09/30/2018	75000	149	94	140	195	53	53

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	TSS (mg/L)	TSS (lb/day)	TSS (lb/day)	TSS (mg/L)	TSS	pH	pH
Monitoring Period End Date	Monthly Average	Monthly Average	Daily Max	Daily Max	% Removal	Minimum	Maximum
<b>Effluent Limit</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>Report</b>	<b>Report</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Minimum</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.6</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>72.32</b>	<b>45.47</b>	<b>61.86</b>	<b>84.95</b>	<b>74.80</b>	<b>6.89</b>	<b>7.30</b>
10/31/2013	67	34	42	78	81	7	7.5
11/30/2013	56	29	32	58	83	7	7.4
12/31/2013	51	30	34	59	81	7.2	7.6
01/31/2014	70	50	75	105	70	6.9	7.4
02/28/2014	82	38	42	89	74	7	7.6
03/31/2014	81	53	84	89	71	7.1	7.5
04/30/2014	53	50	78	57	73	7	7.5
05/31/2014	82	57	68	109	69	7.2	7.5
06/30/2014	58	34	49	82	82	6.8	7.5
07/31/2014	58	47	87	73	77	7.2	7.5
08/31/2014	63	41	61	73	84	7.2	7.4
09/30/2014	61	33	39	65	85	7	7.5
10/31/2014	52	31	52	63	84	7	7.3
11/30/2014	51	44	72	54	77	6.9	7.3
12/31/2014	62	68	135	75	66	7.1	7.5
01/31/2015	68	34	39	81	78	6.7	7.3
02/28/2015	66	29	34	79	77	6.7	7.4
03/31/2015	96	56	74	113	71	7.2	7.3
04/30/2015	52	45	56	56	73	6.9	7.6
05/31/2015	80	40	43	89	78	6.8	7.2
06/30/2015	74	39	47	82	80	7.1	7.4
07/31/2015	82	41	61	117	80	6.6	7.4
08/31/2015	78	40	44	89	80	6.6	7.4
09/30/2015	67	65	191	83	81	6.9	7.4
10/31/2015	79	58	109	91	78	7.2	7.3
11/30/2015	68	43	52	86	75	6.7	7.2
12/31/2015	63	47	84	81	72	6.8	7.2
01/31/2016	62	38	47	81	74	6.9	7.2

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	TSS (mg/L)	TSS (lb/day)	TSS (lb/day)	TSS (mg/L)	TSS	pH	pH
Monitoring Period End Date	Monthly Average	Monthly Average	Daily Max	Daily Max	% Removal	Minimum	Maximum
02/29/2016	68	69	92	78	64	6.3	7.1
03/31/2016	51	41	53	63	73	6.4	6.6
04/30/2016	79	45	59	121	71	6.7	6.9
05/31/2016	85	45	47	89	77	6.6	6.7
06/30/2016	75	40	50	85	79	6.8	7.2
07/31/2016	73	37	43	81	80	6.7	7.1
08/31/2016	76	39	44	93	81	6.8	7
09/30/2016	72	36	39	75	81	6.9	7.4
10/31/2016	87	42	43	94	76	6.9	7.5
11/30/2016	70	48	69	81	76	7.1	7.5
12/31/2016	69	43	47	81	69	6.9	7.1
01/31/2017	59	67	104	79	65	6.4	6.9
02/28/2017	78	38	43	86	67	7	7.5
03/31/2017	83	56	66	101	64	6.8	7.4
04/30/2017	83	76	128	87	60	7.1	7.5
05/31/2017	82	58	65	94	67	7.1	7.5
06/30/2017	96	48	51	106	72	6.9	7.3
07/31/2017	86	44	46	92	74	6.9	7.1
08/31/2017	83	40	46	90	77	6.9	7.2
09/30/2017	86	46	54	95	74	6.8	7.4
10/31/2017	84	41	45	93	76	6.9	7.1
11/30/2017	85	45	55	106	71	6.8	7.4
12/31/2017	74	52	71	78	68	6.8	7.4
01/31/2018	82	45	68	96	75	6.6	7.3
02/28/2018	64	44	47	87	75	7.1	7.4
03/31/2018	66	45	57	82	71	7.1	7.3
04/30/2018	53	51	67	57	76	7.2	7.5
05/31/2018	84	44	48	99	75	7	7.3
06/30/2018	87	42	47	93	75	6.9	7.1
07/31/2018	81	44	45	88	77	6.8	7.1
08/31/2018	78	46	51	84	77	6.8	7.1
09/30/2018	73	46	71	99	77	6.9	7



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	Total Residual Chlorine	Fecal coliform	Fecal coliform	WET Acute Mysid. Bahia	WET Chronic Arbacia	Solids, settleable (mL/L)
Monitoring Period End Date	Daily Max (mg/L)	Monthly Geometric Mean (#/100 mL)	Daily Max (#/100 mL)	Daily Minimum LC50, (% effluent)	Daily Minimum No Affect Level (% effluent)	Daily Max
<b>Effluent Limit</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Report</b>	<b>Report</b>	<b>Report</b>
<b>Minimum</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Maximum</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>6.37</b>	<b>13.83</b>	<b>11.26</b>	<b>2.58</b>	<b>0.37</b>
10/31/2013	0.5	9	20			0.6
11/30/2013	0.5	8	24			0.1
12/31/2013	0.7	5	5			0.5
01/31/2014	0.6	5	5			0.7
02/28/2014	0.7	5	5			0.2
03/31/2014	0.7	5	5	6.3	0.5	0.5
04/30/2014	0.6	11	30			0.4
05/31/2014	0.6	5	5			0.5
06/30/2014	0.6	9	16			0.1
07/31/2014	0.6	7	30			0.5
08/31/2014	0.5	14	35			0.6
09/30/2014	0.6	8	30			0.2
10/31/2014	0.7	5	8			0.5
11/30/2014	0.7	5	5			0.2
12/31/2014	0.6	5	8			1
01/31/2015	0.7	5	5			0.5
02/28/2015	0.6	5	5			0.1
03/31/2015	0.7	5	5			1
04/30/2015	0.7	6	12			1
05/31/2015	0.6	7	10	12.5	3.1	0.6
06/30/2015	0.6	7	15			0.6
07/31/2015	0.6	6	10			0.2
08/31/2015	0.6	8	15			0.1
09/30/2015	0.7	5	5			0.5
10/31/2015	0.7	5	5			0.1
11/30/2015	0.5	8	40			0.5
12/31/2015	0.7	6	10			0.6
01/31/2016	0.6	5	5			0.5

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	Total Residual Chlorine	Fecal coliform	Fecal coliform	WET Acute Mysid. Bahia	WET Chronic Arbacia	Solids, settleable (mL/L)
Monitoring Period End Date	Daily Max (mg/L)	Monthly Geometric Mean (#/100 mL)	Daily Max (#/100 mL)	Daily Minimum LC50, (% effluent)	Daily Minimum No Affect Level (% effluent)	Daily Max
02/29/2016	0.7	8	40			1
03/31/2016	0.6	5	8			0.1
04/30/2016	0.1	8	40			0.4
05/31/2016	0.1	7	10			0.3
06/30/2016	0.2	10	32			0.3
07/31/2016	0.7	6	16			0.1
08/31/2016	0.6	4	4	12.5	3.1	0.2
09/30/2016	0.6	8	20			0.1
10/31/2016	0.7	11	20			0.1
11/30/2016	0.2	7	12			0.3
12/31/2016	0.2	6	12			0.4
01/31/2017	0.5	6	12			0.1
02/28/2017	0.6	4	4			0.9
03/31/2017	0.1	4	4			0.2
04/30/2017	0.3	6	12			0.9
05/31/2017	0.5	6	16			0.4
06/30/2017	0.3	4	4			0.1
07/31/2017	0.2	8	24			0.2
08/31/2017	0.2	11	24			0.4
09/30/2017	0.4	5	8			0.2
10/31/2017	0.4	6	8	12.5	3.1	0.1
11/30/2017	0.7	7	40			0.4
12/31/2017	0.5	6	8			0.4
01/31/2018	0.6	5	12	12.5	3.1	0.3
02/28/2018	0.4	7	12			0.5
03/31/2018	0.4	4	4			0.1
04/30/2018	0.5	4	4			0.3
05/31/2018	0.2	7	16			0.3
06/30/2018	0.1	5	5			0.3
07/31/2018	0.1	5	8			0.1
08/31/2018	0	5	12			0.1
09/30/2018	0.1	6	12			0.2

## Fact Sheet Appendix D - Statement for Reduced/Waived Toxics Testing

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

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

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

TOWN OF SEARSPORT	)	TENTATIVE DECISION
PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS,	)	OF THE REGIONAL
APPLICATION FOR SECTION 301(h) TO	)	ADMINISTRATOR PURSUANT
VARIANCE FROM THE SECONDARY	)	40 C.F.R. § 125, SUBPART G
TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE	)	
CLEAN WATER ACT	)	

The Town of Searsport (Searsport or permittee), is a publicly owned treatment works located in the Town of Searsport, Maine. Searsport has submitted a waiver application pursuant to Section 301(h) of the Clean Water Act, as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987 (the Act). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Region 1) has reviewed the merits of this application for the waiver request. Based on this review, it is my tentative decision that Searsport should receive a 301(h) waiver from secondary treatment standards in accordance with the terms, conditions, and limitations proposed in the modified 301(h) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

Searsport’s application is seeking approval for the discharge of up to a monthly average of 200,000 gallons per day of primary treated waste water generated by residential homes within the Town of Searsport. Searsport is seeking renewal of its variance from the secondary treatment requirements of the Clean Water Act, as amended by the Act pursuant to Section 301(h) that was originally granted by the EPA on February 12, 1986, and subsequently renewed on June 12, 2002. It is my tentative decision that Searsport be granted a renewal of the variance in accordance with the terms, conditions, and limitations of the attached decision document. This determination is subject to concurrence by the State of Maine as required by Section 301(h) of the Act. Region 1 has prepared a draft NPDES permit in accordance with this decision.

Because my decision is based on available evidence specific to this discharge, it is not intended to assess the need for secondary treatment by other publicly owned treatment works discharging to the marine environment. This decision and the NPDES permit implementing this decision are subject to revision based on subsequently acquired information relating to the impacts of the less-than-secondary treated effluent on the marine environment.

Pursuant to the procedures of the NPDES Permit Regulations, 40 C.F.R. § 124, a public notice will be issued which describes the comment procedures that are available to interested persons regarding this decision and the accompanying draft NPDES permit.

Date	<u>December 18, 2018</u>	<u>S/SIGNATURE ON FILE</u>
		Alexandra Dapolito-Dunn,
		Regional Administrator
		Environmental Protection Agency
		Region 1

TENTATIVE DECISION DOCUMENT

ANALYSIS OF THE APPLICATION FOR A SECTION 301(h)

SECONDARY TREATMENT VARIANCE

FOR

TOWN OF SEARSPORT

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 1 - NEW ENGLAND

December 2018

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

BIP .....	Balanced Indigenous Population
BOD <sub>5</sub> .....	Biochemical Oxygen Demand
CWA .....	Clean Water Act
CZM.....	Coastal Zone Management
DMR .....	Discharge Monitoring Report
DO.....	Dissolved Oxygen
EPA.....	Environmental Protection Agency
gpd.....	gallons per day
MEDEP .....	Maine Department of Environmental Protection
MGD .....	million gallons per day
WQS.....	Surface Water Quality Standards
NPDES.....	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
SCUBA .....	Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus
TSD.....	Amended 301(h) Technical Support Document (1994)
TSS.....	Total Suspended Solids
WET.....	Whole Effluent Toxicity
WQA.....	Water Quality Act
WQS.....	Water Quality Standards
ZID .....	Zone of Initial Dilution



## I. SUMMARY

The applicant, the Town of Searsport (Searsport or permittee) is seeking a variance from secondary treatment requirements for a monthly average flow of up to 200,000 gallons per day (gpd) of waste water from its wastewater treatment plant. The treatment plant is located in the Town of Searsport, Maine and discharges its effluent to Penobscot Bay, a Class SB waterway as classified by 38 Maine Revised Statutes (M.R.S.) § 469. See Appendix A of the Fact Sheet for a location map.

EPA followed the guidance provided in EPA's Amended Section 301(h) Technical Support Document (1994) for evaluating the improved discharge for a small applicant (average dry weather flows below 5.0 MGD). The Region relied on information in a 1994 document entitled "301(h) Facilities in Maine, Determining the Necessary Scope of Study for Assurance of Environmental Protection," prepared by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP or the Department)<sup>1</sup>, as well as monthly compliance data generated by Searsport in accordance with the terms and conditions of its NPDES Permit/Maine Waste Discharge License for the period from 2013 through 2018.

The applicant's receipt of a Section 301(h) variance from secondary treatment is contingent upon the following conditions:

1. The treatment system's ability to maintain a monthly average of 30 percent (%) removal rate of five-day biochemical oxygen demanding (BOD<sub>5</sub>) and 50% removal for total suspended solids (TSS) (State of Maine Section 401 Water Quality Certification Condition), and;
2. The discharge's ability to meet all water quality standards at the edge of the zone of initial dilution, and;
3. State Certification under 401 of the Act regarding compliance with State law and State Water Quality Standards, including a basis for the conclusion reached.

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<sup>1</sup> MEDEP, *301(h) Facilities in Maine, Determining the Necessary Scope of Study for Assurance of Environmental Protection*, October 27, 1994.

## **II. INTRODUCTION**

Searsport has requested a renewal of its five-year variance from the secondary treatment requirements for its publicly owned treatment works (POTW) pursuant to Section 301(h) of the Clean Water Act, as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987. This tentative decision document summarizes the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 1 with regards to Searsport's 301(h) waiver request. The conclusions and recommendations in this document are based on the application of the requirements set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 125, Subpart G to Searsport's discharge.

The applicant's most recent combined EPA Permit and Maine State License expired on November 30, 2013. Searsport submitted an updated application for a Section 301(h) variance which EPA received on May 6, 2013. The expired permit remains in effect under the provisions of 40 C.F.R. § 122.6.

EPA applied the criteria established in 40 C.F.R. § 125, Subpart G, "Criteria for Modifying the Secondary Treatment Requirements under Section 301(h) of the Clean Water Act," in acting on this request.

## **III. DESCRIPTION OF TREATMENT FACILITY**

Sanitary waste water is generated by approximately 600 single family residences in Searsport. The facility does not receive any flow from industrial sources.

The facility provides a primary level of treatment for dry weather flows via a bar screen, a comminutor, flow measurement, primary settling via two rectangular clarifier tanks, an aerobic sludge digester for composting solids, chlorination, and dechlorination. See Attachment B of this Fact Sheet for a schematic of the waste water treatment process. Polymer is added to the waste water flow at the headworks to enhanced flocculation and solids removal in the clarifier tanks. The polymer is added at the bar screen where downgradient agitation provides rapid and complete mixing. All wastewater treated at the facility is discharged to the Searsport Harbor by way of a ten (10) inch diameter PVC pipe. The outfall pipe extends out into the receiving waters approximately 1,200 feet from the edge of the shoreline. The outfall discharges at -20.0 feet mean low tide elevation according to a plan prepared by T.Y. Lin Hunter-Ballew International, dated July 29, 1988, entitled "Ocean Outfall Plan, Town of Searsport, Water Pollution Control Facility."

## **IV. DESCRIPTION OF RECEIVING WATER**

Penobscot Bay at the point of discharge is a marine water subject to tidal action with a difference in tides (mean high to mean low) of up to 12 feet with very strong currents. Maine law, 38 M.R.S. § 469 classifies the receiving waters at the point of discharge as Class SB waters. Maine law, 38 M.R.S. § 465-B(2) contains the classification standards for Class SB waters.

Searsport's waste water treatment facility discharges to a shellfish harvesting area that the Maine Department of Marine Resources (MEDMR) has designated as Shellfish Area 33, Searsport Harbor.

## V. PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISCHARGE

### A. Dilution Factors

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 125.62(a), the outfall and diffuser must be located and designed to provide adequate initial dilution, dispersion, and transport of wastewater to meet all applicable water quality standards at and beyond the boundary of the zone of initial dilution (ZID) during periods of maximum stratification and during other periods when more critical situations may exist.

Treated wastewater is discharged to the Searsport Harbor by way of a ten (10) inch diameter PVC pipe.

MEDEP Rule 06-096 CMR, Chapter 530, Surface Water Toxics Control Program, § 4(A)(2) states:

- (2) For estuaries where tidal flow is dominant and marine discharges, dilution factors are calculated as follows. These methods may be supplemented with additional information such as current studies or dye studies.
  - (a) For discharges to the ocean, dilution must be calculated as near-field or initial dilution, or that dilution available as the effluent plume rises from the point of discharge to its trapping level, at mean low water level and slack tide for the acute exposure analysis, and at mean tide for the chronic exposure analysis using appropriate models determined by the Department such as MERGE, CORMIX or another predictive model.
  - (b) For discharges to estuaries, dilution must be calculated using a method such as MERGE, CORMIX or another predictive model determined by the Department to be appropriate for the site conditions.
  - (c) In the case of discharges to estuaries where tidal flow is dominant and marine waters, the human health criteria must be analyzed using a dilution equal to three times the chronic dilution factor.

With the current outfall location, the Department determined through CORMIX modeling, the dilution factors associated with the facility at the permitted flow of 200,000 gpd were as follows.

Acute = 54:1

Chronic = 188:1

Harmonic mean = 564:1

The effluent is less dense than sea water and flows quickly to the surface and spreads out. Strong lateral currents, significant tidal ranges (12+ feet), and wave action provide rapid mixing.

Pursuant to Department rule 06-096 Ch. 530 § 4(A)(2)(c), the harmonic mean dilution factor is approximated by multiplying the chronic dilution factor by a factor of three (3).

## **VI. APPLICATION OF STATUTORY AND REGULATORY CRITERIA**

### **A. Primary or Equivalent Treatment Requirements**

[Section 301(h) of the Clean Water Act, 40 C.F.R. § 125.57, 40 C.F.R. § 125.58(r) and 40 C.F.R. § 125.60]

Section 301(h) of the Clean Water Act requires that an applicant for a 301(h) waiver of secondary treatment must demonstrate, among other things, that the discharger will be discharging effluent that has received at least primary or equivalent treatment.

Section 301(h)(9) defines primary or equivalent treatment as “screening, sedimentation and skimming adequate to remove at least 30 percent of the biological oxygen demanding material and of the suspended solids in the treatment works influent, and disinfection, where appropriate.” (See also 40 C.F.R. §§ 125.57, 125.58(r) and 125.60). It is noted that MEDEP’s definition of primary treatment differs from the federal definition, in that it requires 50% removal of total suspended solids (TSS).

The permit has flow limits, concentration and mass limitations for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS, as well as limits for fecal coliform, enterococci bacteria, pH, and total residual chlorine. See the Fact Sheet for an explanation of the limits derivation. See Fact Sheet Appendix C for a summary of Discharge Monitoring Report data for the period from August 2013 through September 2018. There were no reported exceedances of permit limits during that time period.

### **B. Existence of and Compliance with Applicable Water Quality Standards [40 C.F.R. § 125.61]**

40 C.F.R. § 125.61(a) specifies that there must be a water quality standard applicable to each pollutant for which a modification is requested, specifically biochemical oxygen demand (or dissolved oxygen), total suspended solids, and pH. The applicant must: (1) demonstrate that the modified discharge will comply with such water quality standards and; (2) provide a determination, signed by the certifying authority (i.e., the MEDEP), that the proposed modified discharge will comply with applicable provisions of State law, including water quality standards (40 C.F.R. §§ 125.61(b)(1) and (2)).

The State of Maine has adopted water quality standards including water use classifications. Penobscot Bay is classified as Class SB pursuant to Maine law, 38 M.R.S. § 469. Maine law 38 M.R.S. § 465-B(2) contains the following standards for Class SB waters:

*Class SB waters must be of such quality that they are suitable for the designated uses of recreation in and on the water, fishing, aquaculture, propagation and harvesting of shellfish, industrial process and cooling water supply, hydroelectric power generation,*

*navigation and as habitat for fish and other estuarine and marine life. The habitat must be characterized as unimpaired.*

Specific Maine water quality criteria related to DO, TSS and pH are discussed below:

### **1. Dissolved Oxygen (DO) [40 C.F.R. § 125.61(a)(1)]**

Maine law, 38 M.R.S. § 465-B(2)(B) specifies that Class SB waters shall have a dissolved oxygen content of at least 85% of saturation.

EPA finds that there is no reasonable potential for the discharge to cause or contribute to a violation of the Maine DO criteria due to the available dilution as well as technology-based BOD<sub>5</sub> effluent limits which control the amount of oxygen consuming organic matter discharged from the Facility. The largely buoyant freshwater discharge from the outfall quickly rises to the surface. Strong currents quickly dilute and disperse the effluent (See more in the following Section). The ability of treated effluent to depress ambient DO levels is not immediate. H. W. Streeter and Earle B. Phelps developed the DO sag equation, which demonstrates that the effects of effluent biochemical oxygen demand occur over time. The rapid dilution ensures that oxygen demanding effluent is thoroughly dispersed well before it has time to depress ambient DO. EPA has no evidence of any deficiencies in dissolved oxygen in proximity to Northport and as such, the discharge complies with 40 C.F.R. § 125.57(a)(2). This is consistent with findings from the 2012 State of the Gulf of Maine Report - Eutrophication, which reported that there are no major problems with dissolved oxygen in the open ocean, non-estuarine portions of the Gulf of Maine.<sup>2</sup>

### **2. Suspended Solids [40 C.F.R. § 125.61(a)(2)]**

The Maine water quality standards do not include numeric criteria for suspended solids, but narrative criteria are included in Title 38 of Maine Law at:

38 M.R.S. § 464(4)(A)(4), which states that: *...the department may not issue a water discharge license for any of the following discharges: ...Discharge of pollutants to waters of the State that imparts color, taste, turbidity (emphasis added) toxicity, radioactivity or other properties that cause those waters to be unsuitable for the designated uses and characteristics ascribed to their class, and,*

38 M.R.S. § 464(4)(B), which states that: *All surface waters of the State shall be free of settled substances which alter the physical or chemical nature of bottom material and of floating substances, except as naturally occur, which impair the characteristics and designated uses ascribed to their class.*

Rather than settling near the outfall, buoyant effluent rises toward the surface and is greatly dispersed. The Fact Sheet includes an explanation and the supporting science showing there is no concentrated deposition of settleable solids in the vicinity of the outfall as a result of the permitted discharge.

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<sup>2</sup> Liebman, M. et. al. *State of the Gulf of Maine Report – Eutrophication*, page 12-13, June 2012 available at <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/2/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/eutrophication.pdf>.

The proposed permit requires effluent monitoring of suspended solids to determine compliance with technology-based requirements. Such monitoring will provide additional confirmation that this discharge is consistent with water quality.

### **3. pH [40 C.F.R. § 125.61(a)(3)]**

Maine law 38 M.R.S. § 464(4)(A)(5) specifies that no discharge shall cause the pH of marine water to fall outside the range of 7.0 – 8.5 standard units. The current NPDES permit established a technology-based pH range limit of 6.0 –9.0 standard units pursuant to Department rule, 06-096 CMR Ch. 525(3)(III)(c), see also 40 C.F.R. § 133.102(4)(c). It is expected that, with the available rapid mixing and dilution in the vicinity of the outfall, the technology-based pH effluent limits will ensure that the marine pH criteria will be met in the receiving water. The monitoring frequency is once per week.

#### **C. Attainment or maintenance of water quality which assures protection of public water supplies; assures the protection and propagation of a balanced indigenous population of shellfish, fish, and wildlife; and allows recreational activities. [40 C.F.R. § 125.62]**

##### **1. Physical Characteristics of Discharge – Attainment of Water Quality Standards [40 C.F.R. § 125.62(a)(i-iii)]**

The State of Maine has applicable State water quality standards that directly correspond to the CWA Section 304(a)(1) water quality criterion. With the current configuration of the outfall pipe, modeling performed indicates that it will provide adequate dilution, dispersion, and transport of wastewater such that the discharge will not exceed, at or beyond the zone of initial dilution, any applicable water-quality standards. See Section V.A. of this document for the dilution factors calculated with the outfall.

In order to ensure attainment of water quality standards, the permit includes water quality-based limits on fecal coliform, enterococci bacteria, and total residual chlorine.

The applicable Maine Water Quality Standards for these pollutants (see Maine law 38 M.R.S. §§ 465-B(2)(B), (C)) are:

*Between April 15th and October 31st, the number of enterococcus bacteria in these waters may not exceed a geometric mean of 8 CFU per 100 milliliters in any 90-day interval or 54 CFU per 100 milliliters in more than 10% of the samples in any 90-day interval. The number of total coliform bacteria or other specified indicator organisms in samples representative of the waters in shellfish harvesting areas may not exceed the criteria recommended under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program, United States Food and Drug Administration.*

*Discharges to Class SB waters may not cause adverse impact to estuarine and marine life in that the receiving waters must be of sufficient quality to support all estuarine and*

*marine species indigenous to the receiving water without detrimental changes in the resident biological community. There shall be no new discharge to Class SB waters which would cause closure of open shellfish areas by the Department of Marine Resources.*

Maine law 38 M.R.S., § 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. Total residual chlorine is the only known toxic constituent in the effluent. It is regulated to ensure there is no discharge of toxic pollutants in toxic amounts.

EPA also reviewed available information and determined that there are no other pollutants in the discharge that would cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to exceedances of state water quality standards pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(d).

a) Fecal Coliform

Maine law 38 M.R.S. § 465-B(2)(B) specifies that the numbers of total coliform bacteria or other specified indicator organisms in samples representative of the waters in shellfish harvesting areas may not exceed the criteria recommended under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program.

The current permit established monthly average (geometric mean) and daily maximum limits of 15 colonies/100 ml and 50 colonies/100 ml respectively. The draft permit limits are the current National Shellfish Sanitation Program limits for Fecal coliform, with a monthly average (geometric mean) and daily maximum limits of 14 colonies/100 ml and 31 colonies/100 ml respectively. The monitoring frequency is 1/week.

As discussed in detail in Section IV, the waters of Penobscot Bay are closed to shellfishing by order of the Maine Department of Marine Resources (MEDMR). However, the closure is not due to bacteria discharged from the treatment plant. The permittee's compliance with its bacteria limits to date and small plant flow support the conclusion that the treatment plant's discharge does not cause or contribute to a violation of water quality standards.

b) Enterococcus

Maine water quality standards use enterococci as indicator organisms for protection of estuarine and marine recreational waters. Because contact recreation occurs largely in the summer months, the enterococci criteria are applied seasonally. (38 M.R.S. § 465-B(2)(B)). The current permit does not have enterococci limits. The draft permit includes enterococci limits based on the reasonable potential of the treated effluent to cause or contribute to an exceedance of the state bacterial water quality standards.

The enterococcus limits proposed in the draft permit are a monthly geometric mean of 8 cfu/100 ml and a maximum daily limit of 54 cfu/100 ml. The monitoring frequency shall be weekly.

### c) Total Residual Chlorine

Maine law 38 M.R.S. § 420 prohibits dischargers from discharging toxic pollutants in toxic amounts. MEDEP rule 06-096 CMR, Chapter 584 establishes numeric ambient water quality criteria for pollutants known to be toxic to aquatic life or harmful to humans. There are no pollutants discharged from the Searsport facility in toxic amounts.

Limits on TRC are specified to ensure attainment of the ambient water quality criteria for chlorine and that best practicable treatment (BPT) technology is utilized to abate the discharge of chlorine. Permits issued by the EPA impose the more stringent of the calculated water quality-based or technology-based limits. In this case, due to the higher dilution afforded by the new outfall configuration and location, a maximum daily technology-based effluent limit of 0.7 mg/L is more stringent than the water quality-based effluent limit and has been proposed in the draft permit.

To meet the water quality-based limits calculated above, the permittee must dechlorinate the effluent prior to discharge.

### **2. Impact of the Discharge on Public Water Supplies [40 C.F.R. § 125.62(b)]**

The Searsport discharge will not have an impact on public drinking water supplies as the facility discharges to a marine environment and the EPA and MEDEP are not aware of any proposals to construct a desalination plant near the Searsport discharge location.

### **3. Biological Impact of Discharge [40 C.F.R. § 125.62(c)]**

The discharge must allow for the attainment or maintenance of water quality which assures protection and propagation of a balanced indigenous population (BIP) of fish, shellfish, and wildlife (40 C.F.R. § 125.62(c)(1)). A BIP must exist immediately beyond the boundary of the zone of initial dilution (ZID) and in all areas beyond the ZID that are actually or potentially affected by the applicant's discharge (40 C.F.R. §§ 125.62(c)(2)(i), (ii)). Conditions within the zone of initial dilution must not contribute to extreme adverse biological impacts, including, but not limited to, the destruction of distinctive habitats of limited distribution, the presence of a disease epicenter, and stimulation of phytoplankton blooms which have adverse effects beyond the zone of initial dilution. [40 C.F.R. § 125.62(c)(3)]

See the discussion in Section VI.C.7(a) of this document. The area at the point of discharge is indistinguishable from control areas supporting a BIP of fish, shellfish, and wildlife.

### **4. Impact of Discharge on Recreational Activities (40 C.F.R. § 125.62(d))**

The discharge must allow for the attainment or maintenance of water quality which allows for recreational activities beyond the zone of initial dilution, including, without limitation, swimming, diving, boating, fishing and picnicking, and sports activities along shorelines and beaches. (40 C.F.R. § 125.62(d)(1)).



The draft permit has enterococci bacteria limits. Maine water quality standards use enterococci as indicator organisms for protection of estuarine and marine recreational waters (38 M.R.S. § 465-B(2)(B)). Because contact recreation occurs largely in the summer months, the enterococci criteria are applied seasonally, from April 15th through October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**5. Additional requirements for applications based on improved or altered discharges [40 C.F.R. § 125.62(e)]**

The effluent volume, characteristics, and discharge location are unchanged, so it is not an improved or altered discharge.

**6. Stressed Waters [40 C.F.R. § 125.62(f)]**

This section requires that in determining compliance with the above-mentioned sections, that the assessment of the permittee's modified discharge take into account "pollutants from other sources." The State of Maine 2016 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report ("2016 IWQMA"), prepared by the Department pursuant to Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, lists the receiving water in Category 5-B-1(a): Estuarine and Marine Waters Impaired for Bacteria Only – TMDL.

The waters listed are closed for shellfishing by the Maine Department of Marine Resources (MEDMR), Area 33 (See Figures 1 and 2). Because there have been no reported exceedances of the fecal coliform effluent limits from August 2013 through September 2018, there is no indication that the discharge is causing or contributing to elevated fecal coliform in the receiving water that has occurred during the summer months. The new year-round fecal coliform effluent limits will ensure that the discharge does not cause or contribute to an exceedance of fecal coliform levels in the receiving water during the entire year.



**Maine Department of Marine Resources**  
**Pollution Area No. 33**  
 Searsport to Stockton Springs

9/26/12

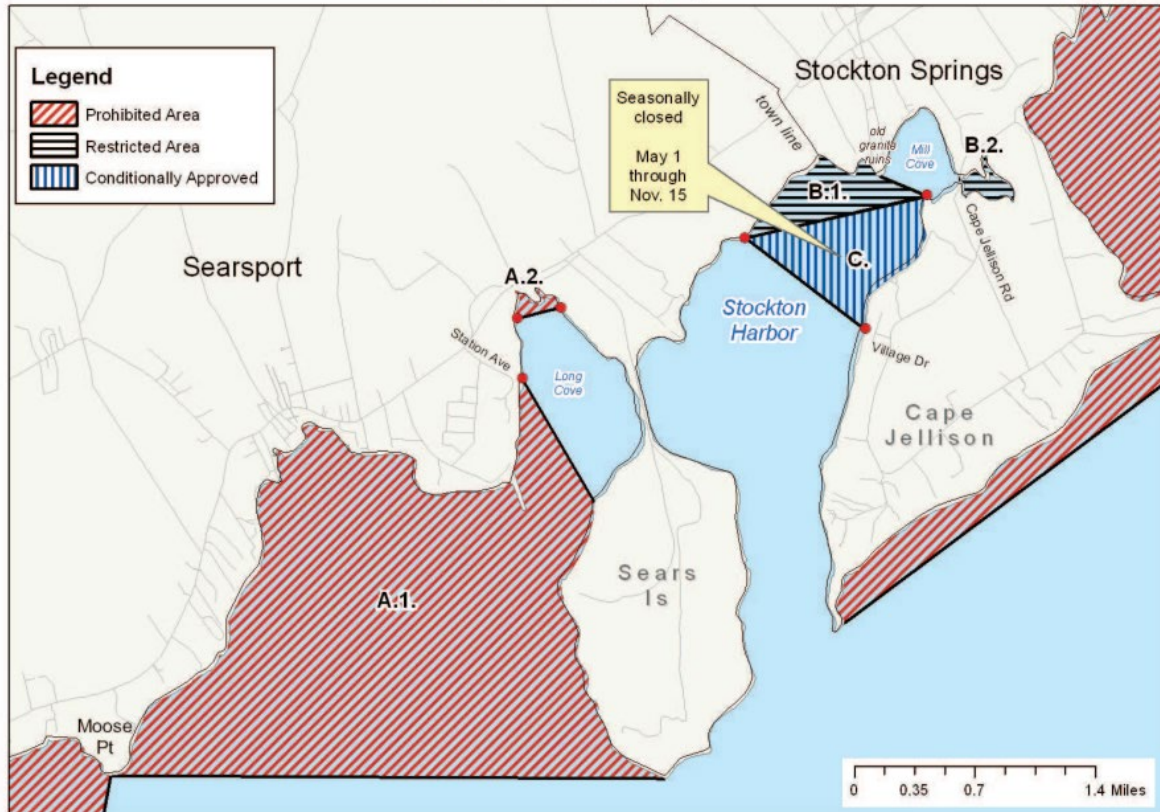


Figure 1 Maine DMR Shellfish Closure Area

EPA also notes that the Maine DMR traditionally closes shellfish harvesting areas in the vicinity of outfall pipes when field data on bacteria counts in the immediate area is insufficient, inconclusive or exceeds standards set in the National Shellfish Sanitation Program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As discussed in Section VI.C.1(a), compliance with the monthly average and daily maximum limitations for fecal coliform bacteria will ensure the Searsport facility will not cause or contribute to the closure of the shellfish harvesting area to the waterbody's impairment.

The 2016 IWQMA also lists all estuarine and marine waters capable of supporting American lobster as Category 5-D, partially supporting fishing ("shellfish" consumption) due to elevated levels of PCBs and other persistent, bioaccumulating substances in lobster tomalley. See IWQMA Appendices, Page 199). EPA is not aware of any PCBs or persistent, bioaccumulating substances being discharged from the Searsport wastewater treatment that cause or contribute to this impairment.

**7. Establishment of Monitoring Programs [40 C.F.R. § 125.63]**

Federal regulation 40 C.F.R. § 125.63(a)(1)(i)(A) requires that the applicant develop a monitoring program designed to evaluate the impact of the modified discharge on the marine

biota, demonstrate compliance with applicable water quality standards, and measure toxic substances in the discharge. 40 C.F.R. § 125.63(a)(2) allows the Administrator to require revisions to the proposed monitoring program before issuance of a modified permit and during the term of any modified permit.

#### a) Ambient Biological Monitoring

The first round of Maine 301(h) waiver permits included requirements for sediment monitoring and benthic surveys to be conducted by SCUBA divers. To alleviate the cost of each waiver applicant conducting their own SCUBA surveys, MEDEP agreed to conduct the SCUBA surveys on behalf of the applicants. Between 1987 and 1994 four surveys were conducted by MEDEP biologist/SCUBA divers.

The results of the “field surveys and sampling of several facilities demonstrate that there is no impact, nor is any impact likely, from the discharge of primary treated waste water from the 301 (h) participating facilities.” The biologists found no solids deposition within the outfall zone of initial dilution (ZID) or the control sites. They found no discernable difference between bottom dwelling organisms, flora and fauna within the ZID and again at control sites. At all four of the facilities surveyed, the divers also observed that, due to its relatively low density, the effluent rose toward the surface of the ocean and was quickly dispersed by longshore currents.

However, after surveying the sites of four facility outfalls, by letter dated February 17, 1995 from the EPA Regional Administrator, the EPA agreed with the MDEP that further SCUBA inspections of 301(h) outfalls was too dangerous due to the swift currents generally found in these receiving waters. David Courtemanch, the MEDEP Senior Biologist and diver with the most experience in potential impact of the 301(h) facilities in Maine concluded that “any monitoring beyond effluent sampling is useless, wasteful, and of no environmental benefit. He also noted that strong currents and tides around each of the outfall presented technical difficulties and risks to divers that could not be justified in future field surveys.

A recent study of 40 marine outfalls published in the Marine Pollution Bulletin Journal found that the “main physical processes that govern the mixing and evolution of wastewater in the ocean are turbulent dispersion, transport (advection and diffusion) and resuspension ... In high energy environments all constituents will be broadly dispersed with a minor chance of concentrating.” The study demonstrated where significant currents and wave action were present, there was almost no degradation to the marine environment from small municipal dischargers. EPA and MEDEP agree that effluent limits and monitoring requirements are sufficiently protective of the aquatic environment at the point of discharge so as not to require additional biological monitoring. This decision is consistent with 40 C.F.R. §125.63(a)(1)(i)(B) which states that the monitoring requirements are “limited to include only those scientific investigations necessary to study the effects of the proposed discharge” and 40 C.F.R. §125.63(b)(1) which specifies that monitoring is required to the extent practicable.

b) Effluent Monitoring

The NPDES permit contains monitoring conditions that will provide data on the quality of the effluent discharged including flow, BOD<sub>5</sub>, TSS, settleable solids, fecal coliform, enterococci bacteria, total residual chlorine, mercury, pH, and whole effluent toxicity.

**D. Effect of Modified Discharge on Other Point and Nonpoint Sources [40 C.F.R. § 125.64]**

40 C.F.R. § 125.64(a) states that no modified discharge may result in any additional pollution control requirements on any other point or nonpoint source, and 40 C.F.R. § 125.64(b) requires that the applicant obtain a determination from the State or interstate agency having authority to establish waste load allocations indicating whether the applicant's discharge will result in any additional treatment pollution control, or other requirement on any other point or nonpoint source. Searsport anticipates receiving said determination from the MEDEP indicating that the applicant's discharge will not result in additional treatment or other requirements on other point sources prior to issuance of the final NPDES permit.

**E. Toxics Control Program [40 C.F.R. § 125.66]**

**1. Chemical Analysis [40 C.F.R. § 125.66(a)(2)]**

Searsport has no industrial connections to the collection system and certifies that there are no known or suspected sources of toxic pollutants or pesticides in their discharge.

**2. Identification of Sources and Industrial Pretreatment Requirements [40 C.F.R. § 125.66(a)(2), 40 C.F.R. § 125.66(b), and 40 C.F.R. § 125.66(c)]**

Given the nature of the source of the discharge (residential entities) Searsport has determined, to the best of its knowledge, that there are no sources of toxic pollutants being conveyed to the treatment plant. Therefore, an industrial pretreatment program is not required pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 125.66(c).

**3. Nonindustrial Source Control Program [40 C.F.R. § 125.66(d)]**

Under 40 C.F.R. § 125.66(d), the applicant must submit a proposed public education program designed to minimize the entrance of nonindustrial toxic pollutants and pesticides into its POTW. The requirement to submit and implement a public education program is included in Part I.H of the Draft Permit.

The requirement in 40 C.F.R. § 125.66(d)(2) for the permittee to develop and implement a non-industrial source control does not apply to small applicants that certify that there are no known or suspected water quality, sediment accumulation, or biological problems related toxic pollutants or pesticides in its discharge. Searsport qualifies as a small applicant and provided this certification with their application submissions.

**F. Increase in Effluent Volume or Amount of Pollutants Discharged [40 C.F.R. § 125.67]**

40 C.F.R. § 125.67(a) states that the applicant's discharge may not result in any new or substantially increased discharges of the pollutant to which the modification applies above the discharge specified in the Section 301(h) modified permit.

The Searsport discharge will not result in any substantially increased discharge of these pollutants.

All limits in the draft permit are as or more stringent than those limits in the current NPDES permit, and the application does not indicate any increase in pollutants discharged to the facility.

40 C.F.R. § 125.67(b) requires that where pollutants discharges are attributable in part to combined sewer overflows, the applicant minimize existing overflows and prevent increases in the amount of pollutants discharged. There are no CSOs associated with the Searsport collection system. Therefore, Searsport is in compliance with 40 C.F.R. § 125.67(b).

**G. Special Conditions for Section 301(h) Modified Permits [40 C.F.R. § 125.68]**

Each section 301(h) modified permit issued must contain, in addition to all applicable terms and conditions required by 40 C.F.R. § 122, the following:

**1. Effluent limits and mass loadings which will assure compliance with the requirements of this subpart (40 C.F.R. § 125.68(a));**

The NPDES permit contains such effluent limits and mass loadings.

**2. A schedule or schedules of compliance for:**

- a) 40 C.F.R. § 125.68(b)(1), Pretreatment program development required by section 125.66(c).

Searsport has no industrial discharges to its collection system and so is not required by 40 C.F.R. § 125.66(c) to have a pretreatment program. Therefore, the permit does not require the development of such a program.

- b) 40 C.F.R. § 125.68(b)(2), Nonindustrial toxics control program required by section 125.66(d).

Part I.H of the Draft Permit includes a schedule requiring implementation of a public education program designed to minimize the entrance of non-industrial toxic pollutants and pesticides into the collection system and wastewater treatment facility.

- c) 40 C.F.R. § 125.68(b)(3), Control of combined sewer overflows required by section 125.67.

There are no CSOs associated with Searsport's collection system. Therefore, no schedule is required.

**3. Monitoring Program requirements (40 C.F.R. §125.68(c) that include:**

- a) Biological monitoring requirements of section 125.63(b).

EPA has not required a biological monitoring program in the Draft Permit. The decision by EPA and MEDEP to use effluent limits and monitoring requirements in place of an ambient biological monitoring program is discussed above.

- b) Water quality requirements of section 125.63(c).

In recognition of the composition of the wastewater, (comprised of domestic and commercial entities) and the significant dilution provided, EPA and MEDEP finds that receiving water quality monitoring is not necessary.

- c) Effluent monitoring requirements of §§ 125.60(b), 125.62(c) and (d), and 125.63(d).

The Draft Permit contains appropriate effluent monitoring and reporting requirements to satisfy the above regulatory requirements.

**4. Reporting requirements that include the results of the monitoring programs required by paragraph (c) of this section at such frequency as prescribed in the approved monitoring program (40 C.F.R. § 125.68(d)).**

The Draft Permit contains monthly reporting of the results of effluent monitoring requirements specified by the permit.

**VII. COMPLIANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF OTHER STATE, LOCAL OR FEDERAL LAWS**

Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 125.59(b)(3), a modified NPDES permit may not be issued unless the proposed discharge complies with applicable provisions of state, local, or other federal laws or Executive Orders, including the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq., the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq., and the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act 16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq. These requirements are discussed below.

**A. State Coastal Zone Management Program**

A copy of the draft NPDES permit is being sent to the Maine's State Planning Office for a consistency determination. With the expected Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the

MEDEP, the EPA anticipates an affirmative consistency determination prior to issuance of the NPDES permit as a final agency action.

## **B. Endangered or Threatened Species**

Section 7(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA), grants authority and imposes requirements on Federal agencies regarding endangered or threatened species of fish, wildlife, or plants (listed species) and habitat of such species that has been designated as critical (a “critical habitat”).

Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA requires every Federal agency, in consultation with and with the assurance of the Secretary of Interior, to ensure that any action it authorizes, funds or carries out, in the United States or upon the high seas, is not likely to likely to adversely affect the continued existence of any listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) administers Section 7 consultations for freshwater species. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) administers Section 7 consultations for marine and anadromous species.

The Federal action being considered in this case is EPA’s reissuance of the NPDES Permit and Waiver from Secondary Treatment for the Facility. As the federal agency charged with authorizing the discharge from this Facility, EPA initiated consultation under § 7(a)(2) of the ESA with the February 16, 2016 meeting with NMFS.<sup>3</sup> Following the meeting, EPA sent a detailed letter with supporting materials to NMFS concerning all eight municipal permits with waivers (301(h)) from secondary treatment in Maine. The letter requested that NMFS concur with EPA that re-permitting the 8 facilities is not likely to adversely affect the continued existence of any listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.<sup>4</sup> NMFS concurred with EPA’s finding by letter April 12, 2017. The letter said in part:

We have completed our consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species act (ESA) in response to your letter received April 5, 2017. We reviewed your consultation request document and related materials. Based on our knowledge, expertise, and your materials, we concur with your conclusions that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect the NMFS ESA-listed species and/or designated critical habitat. We also concur with your analysis and conclusion provided in your correspondence that the proposed action will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of the proposed critical habitat, and conference is not necessary. Therefore, no further consultation pursuant to section 7 of the ESA is required.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> February 16, 2016 Meeting with Christine Vaccaro, Section 7 Fisheries Biologist of the NOAA Protected Resources Division, Phil Colarusso and Doug Corb EPA, RI and Mark Johnson, Marine Habitat Resource Specialist at the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) in Gloucester, MA.

<sup>4</sup> April 5, 2017 letter to Kimberly Damon-Randall, Assistant Regional Administrator for NMFS Protected Species, from Ellen Weitzler P. E., Chief, Municipal Permits Branch EPA Region 1.

<sup>5</sup> April 12, 2017 letter from Kimberly Damon-Randall, Assistant Regional Administrator for NMFS Protected Species, to Ellen Weitzler P. E., Chief, Municipal Permits Branch EPA Region 1.

As of the development of the documents to support this decision, EPA has obtained no new information that would change the basis of EPA's April 5, 2017, determination that the proposed action will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of the proposed critical habitat.

### **C. Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act**

The discharge is not located near any marine or estuarine sanctuary designated under Title III of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended, or the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

### **D. Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)**

Under the 1996 Amendments (PL 104-267) to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. § 1801 et seq. (1998)), EPA is required to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) if EPA's action or proposed actions that it funds, permits, or undertakes, "may adversely impact any essential fish habitat." 16 U.S.C. § 1855(b). The Amendments broadly define "essential fish habitat" as: "waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity. 16 U.S.C. § 1802 (10). Adversely impact means any impact which reduces the quality and/or quantity of EFH. 50 C.F.R. § 600.910 (a). Adverse effects may include direct (e.g., contamination or physical disruption), indirect (e.g., loss of prey, reduction in species' fecundity), site-specific or habitat-wide impacts, including individual, cumulative, or synergistic consequences of actions. Essential fish habitat is only designated for species for which federal fisheries management plans exist. 16 U.S.C. § 1855(b) (1) (A). EFH designations for New England were approved by the U.S. Department of Commerce on March 3, 1999.

#### **1. Description of Proposed Actions**

This proposed action is the reissuance of existing NPDES permit and accompanying Clean Water Act Section 301(h) waiver authorizing the discharge of primary treated waste water to the marine receiving waters.

EPA met with Mark Johnson, Marine Habitat Resource Specialist, with the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northeast Regional Office in Gloucester Mass concerning the permitted discharge to Essential Fish Habitat. The meeting was held concurrently with the ESA Section 7 consultation mentioned in the previous section of this Fact Sheet.<sup>6</sup> The initial meeting was followed by a letter from EPA to Louis A. Chiarella, Assistant Regional Administrator, Habitat Conservation Division, NMFS.<sup>7</sup> The letter stated in part:

EPA believes that the conditions and limitations contained within the proposed permit adequately protect all aquatic life, including those with designated EFH in the receiving water, and

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<sup>6</sup> February 16, 2016 Meeting with Christine Vaccaro, Section 7 Fisheries Biologist of the NOAA Protected Resources Division, Phil Colarusso and Doug Corb EPA, RI and Mark Johnson, Marine Habitat Resource Specialist at the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO) in Gloucester, MA.

<sup>7</sup> Letter from Doug Corb, EPA Region 1 Municipal Permits Branch to Louis A. Chiarella, Assistant Regional Administrator, Habitat Conservation Division, NMFS., Dated June 29, 2017.



that further mitigation is not warranted. If adverse impacts to EFH are detected because of this permit action, or if new information is received that changes the basis for these conclusions, EPA will contact NMFS Habitat Division.

As of the development of the documents to support this decision, EPA has obtained no new information that would change the basis of EPA’s June 29, 2017, determination that further mitigation is not warranted. NMFS will receive the Draft Permit, Fact Sheet, and the Tentative Waiver Decision Document during the 30-day public notice comment period. NMFS may revisit EFH consultation based on these documents or new information, if warranted.

## 2. EFH Species

The discharge location (N 44° 27.131” , W 68° 54.641” W) falls within the EFH designation for the following 10-minute square shown in Table 1.

The species listed in the table below are believed to be the only managed species present during one or more life stages within the area which encompasses the discharge site. No “habitat area of particular concern.” as defined under § 600.815(a)(9) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, has been designated for this site.

**Table 1 – EFH Designations**

Boundary	North	East	South	West	
Coordinates	44° 30.0 N	68° 50.0 W	44° 20.0 N	69° 00.0 W	
Species		Eggs	Larvae	Juveniles	Adults
Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )				X	X
Atlantic cod ( <i>Gadus morhua</i> )			X	X	X
haddock ( <i>Melanogrammus aeglefinus</i> )					
pollock ( <i>Pollachius virens</i> )				X	
whiting ( <i>Merluccius bilinearis</i> )				X	X
offshore hake ( <i>Merluccius albidus</i> )					
red hake ( <i>Urophycis chuss</i> )				X	X
white hake ( <i>Urophycis tenuis</i> )				X	X
redfish ( <i>Sebastes fasciatus</i> )		n/a			
witch flounder ( <i>Glyptocephalus cynoglossus</i> )					
winter flounder ( <i>Pseudopleuronectes americanus</i> )		X	X	X	X
yellowtail flounder ( <i>Limanda ferruginea</i> )		X	X		
windowpane flounder ( <i>Scophthalmus aquosus</i> )		X	X	X	X

American plaice ( <i>Hippoglossoides platessoides</i> )	X	X	X	X
ocean pout ( <i>Macrozoarces americanus</i> )	X	X	X	X
Atlantic halibut ( <i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i> )				
Atlantic sea scallop ( <i>Placopecten magellanicus</i> )	X	X	X	X
Atlantic sea herring ( <i>Clupea harengus</i> )		X	X	X
monkfish ( <i>Lophius americanus</i> )				
bluefish ( <i>Pomatomus saltatrix</i> )			X	X
long finned squid ( <i>Loligo pealeii</i> )	n/a	n/a		
short finned squid ( <i>Illex illecebrosus</i> )	n/a	n/a		
Atlantic butterfish ( <i>Peprilus triacanthus</i> )				
Atlantic mackerel ( <i>Scomber scombrus</i> )			X	X
summer flounder ( <i>Paralichthys dentatus</i> )				
scup ( <i>Stenotomus chrysops</i> )	n/a	n/a		
black sea bass ( <i>Centropristis striata</i> )	n/a			
surf clam ( <i>Spisula solidissima</i> )	n/a	n/a		
ocean quahog ( <i>Artica islandica</i> )	n/a	n/a		
spiny dogfish ( <i>Squalus acanthias</i> )	n/a	n/a		
tilefish ( <i>Lopholatilus chamaeleonticeps</i> )				
bluefin tuna ( <i>Thunnus thynnus</i> )				X

### VIII. STATE CONCURRENCE IN VARIANCE

Permittees may not be granted a Section 301(h) variance, as specified under Section 301(h) of the Act and 40 C.F.R. § 125.59(i)(2), until the appropriate State certification/concurrence is granted or waived pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 124.54. EPA expects that the State of Maine will make such a determination upon review of the proposed draft permit conditions.

### IX. CONCLUSION

EPA has determined that Searsport’s treated effluent will receive sufficient initial dilution and mixing such that the discharge will comply with all of the requirements of Section 301(h) of the Clean Water Act, as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987, and 40 C.F.R. § 125, Subpart G.

## **X. TENTATIVE DECISION**

For the reasons discussed in this Tentative Decision Document, EPA is tentatively approving Searsport's request to discharge primary effluent to Penobscot Bay. This Tentative Decision is contingent upon the following conditions:

1. The Searsport treatment system maintaining a 12-month rolling average of 30% removal of BOD<sub>5</sub> and 50% removal TSS (Maine BPT and Section 401 Water Quality Certification condition), and;
2. State certification is granted under Section 401 of the Act, and;
3. The discharge will comply with all state water quality standards.

This tentative decision will become final upon issuance of the NPDES permit.

## **XI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The public notice will be placed on the EPA Region 1 NPDES website at:

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/maine-npdes-permits>. All persons, including applicants, who believe any condition of the tentative decision is inappropriate must raise all issues and submit all available arguments and all supporting material for their arguments in full by the close of the public comment period, to the U.S. EPA, Office of Ecosystem Protection, 5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, Boston, Massachusetts 02109-3912, Attn: Robin Johnson. Any person, prior to such date, may submit a request in writing for a public hearing to consider the tentative waiver decision to EPA. Such requests shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. Public hearings may be held after at least thirty days public notice whenever the Regional Administrator finds that response to this notice indicates a significant public interest. In reaching a final decision on the tentative waiver decision, the Regional Administrator will respond to all significant comments and make these responses available to the public at EPA's Boston office.

Following the close of the comment period and after a public hearing, if such a hearing is held, the Regional Administrator will issue a final decision and forward a copy of the final decision to the applicant and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice. Additional information concerning this tentative decision may be obtained from and written comments should be directed to:

Robin L. Johnson  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Mail Code – OEP06-1  
5 Post Office Square – Suite 100  
Boston, MA 02109-3912  
Phone: 617-918-1045  
Email: johnson.rob@epa.gov

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION  
BUREAU OF WATER QUALITY  
STATE HOUSE STATION #17  
AUGUSTA, ME. 04333-0017

UNITED STATE ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION AGENCY  
OFFICE OF ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION  
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE  
BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE ISSUANCE OF A TENTATIVE CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 301(H) WAIVER FROM SECONDARY TREATMENT DECISION DOCUMENT, DRAFT NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT TO DISCHARGE INTO WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER SECTIONS 301 AND 402 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT, AS AMENDED, AND CODE OF MAINE RULES (CMR) 06, CHAPTERS 523 AND 524, AND REQUEST FOR STATE CERTIFICATION UNDER SECTION 401 OF THE CLEAN WATER ACT.

DATE OF NOTICE: **December 27, 2018**

PERMIT NUMBER: **ME0101966**

PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER: **ME-006-019**

NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

**Town of Searsport  
P.O. Box 499  
Searsport, Maine 04974**

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE FACILITY WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

**Town of Searsport  
Wastewater Treatment Plant  
45 Navy Street  
Searsport, Maine 04974**

RECEIVING WATER: Penobscot Bay - Class SB

PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT PERMIT:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) have cooperated in the development of a Draft Permit for the Waste Water Treatment Facility, which discharges primary treated domestic wastewater. EPA is also public noticing its Tentative Clean Water Act Section 301(h) Waiver from Secondary Treatment Decision.

The effluent limits and permit conditions imposed have been drafted to assure compliance with the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. sections 1251 et seq., the CMR 06, Chapters 523 and 524 and the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38 Chapter 3 Protection and Improvement of Waters, Subchapter 1 Article 4-A § 464 (Maine Water Quality Standards).

EPA has requested that the State certify this Draft Permit with the Waiver from Secondary Treatment,

pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and expects that the Draft Permit will be certified.

#### INFORMATION ABOUT THE DRAFT PERMIT:

The Draft Permit, Tentative Clean Water Act Section 301(h) Waiver from Secondary Treatment Decision Document, and explanatory Fact Sheet may be obtained at no cost at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes-permits/maine-draft-individual-npdes-permits> or by contacting:

Robin Johnson  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 1  
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100 (OEP06-1)  
Boston, MA 02109-3912  
Telephone: (617) 918-1045  
E-mail: johnson.robin@epa.gov

The administrative record containing all documents relating to this Draft Permit and Secondary Treatment Waiver Decision, including all data submitted by the applicant, may be inspected at the EPA Boston Office mentioned above between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT AND REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

All persons, including applicants, who believe any condition of this Draft Permit and or Secondary Treatment Waiver Decision, are inappropriate, must raise all issues and submit all available arguments and all supporting material for their arguments in full by **February 1, 2019**, to the address listed above.

Any person, prior to such date, may submit a request in writing to EPA and MEDEP for a public hearing to consider this Draft Permit and/or the Secondary Treatment Waiver Decision. Such requests shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. A public hearing may be held after at least a thirty-day public notice whenever the Regional Administrator finds that the response to this notice indicates significant public interest. In reaching a Final Decision on this Draft Permit and Secondary Treatment Waiver Decision, the Regional Administrator will respond to all significant comments and make the responses available to the public at EPA's Boston Office.

#### FINAL PERMIT DECISION:

Following the close of the comment period, and after a public hearing, if such hearing is held, the Regional Administrator will issue a Final Permit Decision, including a Final Decision for the Secondary Treatment Waiver and forward a copy of the final decisions to the applicant and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice. Within thirty (30) days following the notice of the Final Permit Decision, any interested person may submit petition to the Environmental Appeals Board to reconsider or contest the final decision.

Brian Kavanah, Director  
Division of Water Quality Management  
Bureau of Water Quality  
Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Ken Moraff, Director  
Office of Ecosystem Protection  
EPA-Region 1