



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

DEPARTMENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF

BLUE RIDGE PROPERTIES LLC)	MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
d/b/a BEGIN MOBILE HOME PARK)	ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
SABATTUS, ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY)	
OVERBOARD DISCHARGE)	AND
ME0037010)	WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE
W001622-5C-G-R)	RENEWAL & TRANSFER
	APPROVAL	

In compliance with the applicable provisions of *Pollution Control*, 38 M.R.S. §§ 411 – 424-C, *Water Classification Program*, 38 M.R.S. §§ 464 – 470 and *Federal Water Pollution Control Act*, Title 33 U.S.C. § 1251 *et seq*, and applicable rules of the Department of Environmental Protection (“Department”), The Department has considered the application of Blue Ridge Properties LLC (D.B.A Begin Mobile Home Park)(“permittee”) with its supportive data, agency review comments, and other related materials on file and FINDS THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

APPLICATION SUMMARY

On June 6, 2024, the Department accepted as complete for processing an application for the renewal of Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit #ME0037010/Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) #W001622-5C-E-R (permit) which was issued by the Department on April 5, 2019, for a five-year term, and authorized a year-round daily maximum discharge of 20,000 gallons per day (GPD) of secondary treated wastewater generated by a 68-unit mobile home park to the Sabattus River, Class C, in Sabattus, Maine.

PERMIT SUMMARY

Terms and conditions – This permit carries forward all the terms and conditions of the previous permit except that this permit:

1. Revises the monthly average and daily maximum limitations for Escherichia coli Bacteria to 100 CFU/100mL and 236 CFU/100mL respectively, pursuant to 38 MRS §465(4) *Standards for Classification of Fresh Surface Waters*.
2. Establishes the requirement for the permittee to conduct monitoring of the ambient, upstream total phosphorus and effluent total phosphorus at a frequency of once per month during the months of June through September for calendar years 2026 and 2027.
3. Establishes Special Condition M – Total Phosphorus Sampling for clarity.

CONCLUSIONS

BASED on the findings in the attached PROPOSED DRAFT Fact Sheet dated April 10, 2026, and subject to the Conditions listed below, the Department makes the following CONCLUSIONS:

1. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any classified body of water below such classification.
2. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any unclassified body of water below the classification which the Department expects to adopt in accordance with State law.
3. The provisions of the State's antidegradation policy *Classification of Maine Waters*, 38 M.R.S. §464(4)(F), will be met, in that:
 - (a) Existing in-stream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect and maintain those existing uses will be maintained and protected.
 - (b) Where high quality waters of the State constitute an outstanding national resource, that water quality will be maintained and protected.
 - (c) Where the standards of classification of the receiving water body are not met, the discharge will not cause or contribute to the failure of the water body to meet the standards of classification.
 - (d) Where the actual quality of any classified receiving water body exceeds the minimum standards of the next highest classification that higher water quality will be maintained and protected; and
 - (e) Where a discharge will result in lowering the existing water quality of any water body, the Department has made the finding, following opportunity for public participation, that this action is necessary to achieve important economic or social benefits to the State.
4. The discharges will be subject to effluent limitations that require application of best practicable treatment as defined in *Conditions of licenses*, 38 M.R.S., §414-A(1)(D) and 414-A(1-B).
5. The overboard discharge system was in continuing existence for the 12 months preceding June 1, 1987.
6. A subsurface wastewater disposal system cannot be installed in compliance with the Maine Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules at the time the renewal application was accepted by the Department.
7. A publicly owned sewer line is not located on, or abutting land owned or controlled by the permittee or is not available for the permittee's use.
8. The discharge is not located within the boundaries of a sanitary district or sewer district.

ACTION

THEREFORE, the Department APPROVES the above noted application of Blue Ridge Properties LLC d/b/a Begin Mobile Home Park to discharge a daily maximum flow of 20,000 gpd of secondary treated sanitary wastewater from a 68-unit mobile home park to the Sabattus River, Class C, in Sabattus, Maine, SUBJECT TO THE ATTACHED CONDITIONS, and all applicable standards and regulations including:

1. “*Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Standard Conditions Applicable to All Permits*,” revised July 1, 2002, copy attached.
2. The attached Special Conditions, including any effluent limitations and monitoring requirements.
3. This permit and the authorization to discharge become effective upon the date of signature below and expires at midnight five (5) years from the effective date. If a renewal application is timely submitted and accepted as complete for processing prior to the expiration of this permit, the authorization to discharge and the terms and conditions of this permit and all modifications and minor revisions thereto remain in effect until a final Department decision on the renewal application becomes effective. [*Maine Administrative Procedure Act, 5 M.R.S. § 10002 and Department Rule, Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters, 06-096 CMR Ch. 2(20)(A) (effective September 15, 2024)*]

PLEASE NOTE ATTACHED SHEET FOR GUIDANCE ON APPEAL PROCEDURES

DONE AND DATED AT AUGUSTA, MAINE, THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2026.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BY: _____
for MELANIE LOYZIM, Commissioner

Date of initial receipt of application: June 4, 2024
Date of application acceptance: June 6, 2024

:

This Order prepared by Rod Robert, BUREAU OF WATER QUALITY

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

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

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations						Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Weekly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Weekly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Measurement Frequency</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
Flow <i>[50050]</i>	---	---	20,000 GPD <i>[07]</i>	---	---	---	Continuous <i>[99/99]</i>	Metered <i>[MT]</i>
BOD₅ <i>[00310]</i>	5.0 lbs/day <i>[26]</i>	7.5 lbs/day <i>[26]</i>	8.3 lbs/day <i>[26]</i>	30 mg/L <i>[19]</i>	45 mg/L <i>[19]</i>	50 mg/L <i>[19]</i>	1/ Month ⁽³⁾ <i>[01/30]</i>	Grab <i>[GR]</i>
BOD₅ Percent Removal ⁽²⁾ <i>[81010]</i>	---	---	---	85% <i>[23]</i>	---	---	1/ Month ⁽³⁾ <i>[01/30]</i>	Calculate <i>[CA]</i>
TSS <i>[00530]</i>	5.0 lbs/day <i>[26]</i>	7.5 lbs/day <i>[26]</i>	8.3 lbs/day <i>[26]</i>	30 mg/L <i>[19]</i>	45 mg/L <i>[19]</i>	50 mg/L <i>[19]</i>	1/ Month ⁽³⁾ <i>[01/30]</i>	Grab <i>[GR]</i>
TSS Percent Removal ⁽²⁾ <i>[81011]</i>	---	---	---	85% <i>[23]</i>	---	---	1/ Month ⁽³⁾ <i>[01/30]</i>	Calculate <i>[CA]</i>
Settleable Solids <i>[00545]</i>	---	---	---	---	---	0.3 ml/L <i>[25]</i>	1/ Month <i>[01/30]</i>	Grab <i>[GR]</i>
<u>E. Coli. Bacteria</u> ⁽⁴⁾ <i>(April 15 – Oct. 31) [31633]</i>	---	---	---	100/100CFU or MPN ml ⁽⁵⁾ <i>[13]</i>	---	236/100CFU or MPN ml <i>[13]</i>	1/Month <i>[01/30]</i>	Grab <i>[GR]</i>
Total Residual Chlorine <i>[50060]</i>	---	---	---	---	---	1.0 mg/L ⁽⁶⁾ <i>[19]</i>	2/Week ⁽⁷⁾ <i>[02/07]</i>	Grab <i>[GR]</i>
pH <i>[00400]</i>	---	---	---	---	---	6.0 – 9.0 SU <i>[12]</i>	1/Year <i>[01/YR]</i>	Grab <i>[GR]</i>
The italicized numeric values bracketed in the table and in subsequent text are code numbers Department personnel utilize to code the monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports.								

FOOTNOTES: See pages 6&7of this permit for applicable footnotes.

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

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

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations						Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Daily Maximum	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Daily Maximum	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Effluent Phosphorus (Total)⁽⁸⁾ [00665] <i>(June 1 – Sept. 30, annually beginning in 2026 and lasting through 2027)</i>	Report lbs./day [26]	---	Report lbs./day [26]	Report mg/L [19]	---	Report mg/L [19]	1/Month [01/30]	Composite [24]
Ambient/Background Phosphorus (Total)⁽⁸⁾ [00665] <i>(June 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027)</i>	---	---	---	Report mg/L [19]	---	Report mg/L [19]	1/Month [01/30]	Grab [GR]

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

Footnotes:

1. **Sampling** – Any change in sampling location must be approved by the Department in writing. The permittee must conduct sampling and analysis in accordance with; a) methods approved by 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 136; b) alternative methods approved by the Department in accordance with the procedures in 40 C.F.R. Part 136; or c) as otherwise specified by the Department.

Samples that are sent out for analysis must be analyzed by a laboratory certified by the State of Maine's Department of Health and Human Services for wastewater testing. Samples that are sent to a POTW pursuant to *Waste discharge licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 413 are subject to the provisions and restrictions of *Maine Comprehensive and Limited Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Rules*, 10-144 C.M.R. ch. 263 (amended March 15, 2023). Laboratory facilities that analyze compliance samples in-house are subject to the provisions and restrictions of 10 – 144 C.M.R. ch. 263. If the permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by the license using test procedures approved under 40 C.F.R. Part 136 or as specified in this license, the results of this monitoring must be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the discharge monitoring report (DMR).

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 (except WET). A method is “sufficiently sensitive” when: 1) The method minimum level (ML) is at or below the level of the effluent limitation established in the permit for the measured pollutant or pollutant parameter; or 2) The method has the lowest ML of the analytical methods approved under 40 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 either to the sample concentration equivalent to the lowest calibration point in a method or a multiple of the method detection limit (MDL), whichever is higher. Minimum levels may be obtained in the following ways: they may be published in a method; they may be based on the lowest acceptable calibration point used by a laboratory; or they may be calculated by multiplying the MDL in a method, or the MDL determined by a laboratory, by a factor.

2. **Percent Removal** – The treatment facility must maintain a minimum of 85 percent removal of both BOD₅ and TSS for all flows receiving secondary treatment. This permitting action authorizes the permittee to assume an influent BOD₅ and TSS concentration value of 286 mg/L for purposes of calculating the monthly percent removal value until such time that the infrastructure is modified or replaced such that collection of a representative raw influent sample is practical.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

3. **BOD & TSS** – Numeric limitations are in effect on a year-round basis but 1/Month **monitoring for BOD and TSS is only required from April 15th to October 31st of each year.**
4. **Bacteria limits** – E. coli bacteria limits and monitoring requirements are seasonal and apply between April 15th and October 31st of each year. In accordance with *Conditions of Licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 414-A, the Department may, at any time and with notice to the permittee, modify this permit to establish bacteria limitations on a year r-round basis to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
5. **Bacteria reporting** – The monthly average *E. coli*. bacteria limitation is a geometric mean limitation and sample results shall be reported as such.
6. **Total Residual Chlorine (TRC)** – Limitations and monitoring requirements are in effect any time elemental chlorine or chlorine-based compounds are utilized to disinfect the discharge(s). The permittee must utilize a USEPA-approved test method capable of bracketing the TRC limitations specified in this permitting action. Monitoring for TRC is only required when elemental chlorine or chlorine-based compounds are in use for effluent disinfection. For instances when a facility has not disinfected with chlorine-based compounds for an entire reporting period, the facility must report “N9” for this parameter on the monthly DMR.
7. **2/Week sampling** – There must be at least 1 day between sampling events.
8. **Total Phosphorus** - See Attachment A of this permit for the Department’s sampling and analysis protocol.

B. ANNUAL DISCHARGE FEES

Pursuant to *Annual waste discharge license fees*, 38 M.R.S. §353-B, the permittee is required to pay an applicable annual fee for discharges authorized by this permit. Failure to pay an annual fee within 30 days of the billing date of a license/permit is sufficient grounds for revocation of the permit under *Board responsibilities and duties*, 38 M.R.S. §341-D, (3) and is subject to penalties for non-payment.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

C. NARRATIVE EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

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

D. DISINFECTION

If chlorination is used as the means of disinfection, an approved chlorine contact tank providing the proper detention time consistent with good engineering practice must be utilized followed by a dechlorination system if the imposed total residual chlorine (TRC) limit cannot be achieved by dissipation in the detention tank. The total residual chlorine in the effluent shall at no time cause any demonstrable harm to aquatic life in the receiving waters. The dose of chlorine applied must provide a TRC concentration that will effectively reduce E. Coli bacteria levels to or below those specified in Special Condition A, "Effluent Limitation and Monitoring Requirements," of this permit.

E. AUTHORIZED DISCHARGES

The permittee is authorized to discharge only in accordance with 1) the permittee's General Application for Waste Discharge Permit, accepted for processing on June 6, 2024, 2) the terms and conditions of this permit; and 3) from Outfall #001A only. Discharges of wastewater from any other point source(s) are not authorized under this permit and must be reported in accordance with Standard Condition D(1)(F), *Twenty-four-hour reporting*, of this permit.

F. TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

The person who has the management responsibility over the treatment facility must hold a Maine **Grade II** (or higher) Biological Treatment certificate (or higher) or must be a Maine Registered Professional Engineer pursuant to *Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators*, 32 M.R.S. § 4171-4182 and *Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification*, 06-096 C.M.R. Ch. 531 (effective July 24, 2023). All proposed contracts for facility operation by any person must be reviewed by the Department before the Permittee may engage the services of the contract operator.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

G. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

In accordance with Standard Condition D, the permittee shall notify the Department of the following.

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

H. REQUIREMENTS TO ELIMINATE OVERBOARD DISCHARGES

The owners of the overboard discharges subject to this permit are required to install a technologically proven alternative and properly abandon the overboard discharges when any of the following actions are initiated.

1. ***Transfer of Ownership of Property or Significant Action.*** Prior to transfer of ownership of property containing an overboard discharge (*i.e.*, change in the legal entity that owns a property, facility or structure that is the subject of a permit), the parties to the transfer shall determine the feasibility of technologically proven alternatives¹ to the overboard discharge. Prior to completing a significant action (*i.e.*, single construction project performed on a primary residence with an overboard discharge when the total material and labor cost of the construction project exceeds \$50,000), the owner shall determine the feasibility of technologically proven alternatives to the overboard discharge.
 - a) If an alternative to the overboard discharge is available, the alternative system must be installed within 90 days of property transfer or significant action, unless otherwise provided by *Waste discharge licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 413(3-A).
 - b) If an alternative to the overboard discharge is not available, the new owner shall, no later than two weeks after any transfer of ownership, submit an application to the Department for transfer of this permit.

¹ Feasibility of technologically proven alternatives are based on determinations by a licensed site evaluator's application of plumbing standards adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Title 22, section 42.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

H. REQUIREMENTS TO ELIMINATE OVERBOARD DISCHARGES

2. **Permit Renewal.** Waste Discharge Permits for overboard discharges are issued for a five-year term. The permittee shall submit a complete application for permit renewal prior to the expiration date of this permit to continue the discharge beyond the expiration date of this permit. If a technologically proven alternative system is available and;
 - a) The overboard discharge owner is eligible for grant funding², the alternative system must be installed within 180 days of written notification from the Department, unless otherwise provided by *Conditions of licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 414-A(1-B); or
 - b) The overboard discharge owner is not eligible for grant funding, the alternative system must be installed prior to the expiration date of this permit.
3. **Abandonment of Overboard Discharge.** When an overboard discharge is no longer necessary or is replaced by technologically proven alternative system, it must be properly abandoned within 90 days following the requirements of *Overboard discharges: licenses and abandonment*, 06-096 CMR Ch. 596(8), including submission of Overboard Discharge Abandonment Certification Form #DEPLW0653A.

I. SEPTIC TANKS

1. Septic tanks and other treatment tanks must be regularly inspected (at least once per calendar year) and maintained to ensure that they are providing best practicable treatment. The licensee must maintain logs of inspections/maintenance that records the date, notes on observations, repairs conducted etc. The logs must be maintained on site at all times and made available to Department personnel upon request.
2. Tank contents must be removed whenever the sludge and scum occupy one-third of the tank's liquid capacity or whenever levels approach maximum design capacity. Following pumping, the tanks shall be checked for damage at key joints and the inlet and outlet baffles and repaired promptly if damaged. The licensee must keep a pumping log including the date of pumping, quantity of material removed, name and number of licensed contractors, pumping frequency and other relevant observations.

J. CONNECTION TO MUNICIPAL SEWER

All wastewaters designated by the Department as treatable in a municipal treatment system will be co-signed to that system within 180 days of the system becoming available, unless this time is extended by the Department in writing.

² Grant eligibility is based on the cost-share schedule under *State contribution to residential overboard discharge replacement projects*, 38 M.R.S. § 411-A.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

K. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE (O&M) PLAN

This facility must have a current written comprehensive Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Plan. The plan must provide a systematic approach by which 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.

By December 31 of each year, or within 90 days of any process changes or minor equipment upgrades, the permittee must evaluate and modify the O&M Plan including site plan(s) and schematic(s) for the wastewater treatment facility to ensure that it is up to date. The O&M Plan must be kept on-site at all times and made available to Department and EPA personnel upon request.

Within 90 days of completion of new or substantial upgrades of the wastewater treatment facility, the permittee must submit the updated O&M Plan to their Department inspector for review and comment.

L. MONITORING AND REPORTING

Electronic Reporting

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

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

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

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

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

M. TOTAL PHOSPHORUS SAMPLING

The Department generally conducts sampling for the purpose of making decisions on the attainment of designated uses or maintenance of existing uses. In accordance with Nutrient Criteria for Class AA, A, B, and C Fresh Surface Waters, 06-096 C.M.R. Ch. 583(4)(E)(1), the Department may request or require a holder of a Waste Discharge License to conduct sampling of effluent and ambient conditions. This permitting action is establishing a requirement to monitor effluent and ambient total phosphorous. The permittee must develop and adhere to a phosphorous sampling plan to ensure data integrity.

The phosphorous sampling plan must be submitted to the Department for review and acceptance before collecting data. The plan must include but is not limited to:

1. Designation of responsibilities for the data preparation, collection, analysis (including lab and analytical method to be used), and reporting;
2. Sampling procedures including the location;
3. Any training needed for sample collection; and
4. Quality control procedures.

Sampling must be performed by qualified persons based on considerations such as relevant education, training, and experience.

N. REOPENING OF PERMIT FOR MODIFICATIONS

In accordance with *Conditions of licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 414-A(5) and upon evaluation of the test results specified by the Special Conditions of this permitting action, new site specific information, or any other pertinent test results or information obtained during the term of this permit, the Department may, at any time and with notice to the permittee, modify this permit to: (1) include effluent limitations necessary to control specific pollutants or whole effluent toxicity where there is a reasonable potential that the effluent may cause water quality criteria to be exceeded; (2) require additional monitoring if results on file are inconclusive; or (3) change monitoring requirements or limitations based on new information.

O. SEVERABILITY

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

ATTACHMENT A

Protocol for Total Phosphorus Sample Collection and Analysis for Waste Water and Receiving Water Monitoring Required by Permits

Approved Analytical Methods: EPA 200.7 (Rev. 44), 365.1 (Rev. 2.0), (Lachat), 365.3, 365.4; SM 3120 B, 4500-P B.5, 4500-P E, 4500-P F, 4500-P G, 4500-P H; ASTM D515-88(A), D515-88(B); USGS I-4471-97, I-4600-85, I-4610-91; OMAAOAC 973.55, 973.56

Sample Collection: The Maine DEP is requesting that total phosphorus analysis be conducted on composite effluent samples, unless a facility's Permit specifically designates grab sampling for this parameter. Facilities can use individual collection bottles or a single jug made out of glass or polyethylene. Bottles and/or jugs should be cleaned prior to each use with dilute HCL. This cleaning should be followed by several rinses with distilled water. Commercially purchased, pre-cleaned sample containers are an acceptable alternative. The sampler hoses should be cleaned, as needed.

Sample Preservation: During compositing the sample must be at 0-6 degrees C (without freezing). If the sample is being sent to a commercial laboratory or analysis cannot be performed the day of collection then the sample must be preserved using H₂SO₄ to obtain a sample pH of <2 su and refrigerated at 0-6 degrees C (without freezing). The holding time for a preserved sample is 28 days.

Note: Ideally, Total P samples are preserved as described above. However, if a facility is using a commercial laboratory then that laboratory may choose to add acid to the sample once it arrives at the laboratory. The Maine DEP will accept results that use either of these preservation methods.

Laboratory QA/QC: Laboratories must follow the appropriate QA/QC procedures that are described in each of the approved methods.

Sampling QA/QC: If a composite sample is being collected using an automated sampler, then once per month run a blank on the composite sampler. Automatically, draw distilled water into the sample jug using the sample collection line. Let this water set in the jug for 24 hours and then analyze for total phosphorus. Preserve this sample as described above.

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

FACT SHEET

Date: **April 10, 2026**

MEPDES PERMIT: **ME0037010**
WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE: **W001622-5C-G-R**

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

**Blue Ridge Properties LLC
575 Middle Rd
Sabattus, ME 04280**

COUNTY: **Androscoggin County**

NAME AND ADDRESS WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

**d/b/a BEGIN MOBILE HOME PARK
58 Webster Corner Road
Sabattus, ME 04280**

RECEIVING WATER / CLASSIFICATION: **Sabattus River/Class C**

COGNIZANT OFFICIAL AND TELEPHONE NUMBER: **Mr. Christopher Ames, Owner**
(207) 240-0444
michelleames@gmail.com

1. APPLICATION SUMMARY

On June 6, 2024, the Department accepted as complete an application t for the renewal of Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit #ME0037010/Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) #W001622-5C-E-R (permit)which was issued by the Department on April 5, 2019, for a five-year term, and authorized a year-round daily maximum discharge of 20,000 gallons per day (GPD) of secondary treated wastewater generated by a 68-unit mobile home park to the Sabattus River, Class C, in Sabattus, Maine. See **Attachment A** of this Fact Sheet for a location map.

2. PERMIT SUMMARY

- a. Terms and Conditions – This permit carries forward all the terms and conditions of the previous permit, except that this permit:
1. Revises the monthly average and daily maximum limitations for Escherichia coli Bacteria to 100 CFU/100mL and 236 CFU/100mL respectively, pursuant to 38 MRS §465(4) Standards for Classification of Fresh Surface Waters.
 2. Establishes the requirement for the permittee to conduct monitoring of the ambient, upstream total phosphorus and effluent total phosphorus at a frequency of once per month during the months of June through September for calendar years 2026 and 2027.
 3. Establishes Special Condition M – Total Phosphorus Sampling for clarity.
- b. Facility History - This section provides a summary of the most significant historical events for the Begin Mobile Home Park.
- April 6, 1987* – The Department issued WDL #W001622-41-A-R to Gerard Begin for a five-year term.
- September 12, 1996* – The Department issued WDL #W001622-5C-B-R to Gerard Begin for a five-year term.
- March 19, 2009* – The Department issued combination MEPDES permit ME0037010 / WDL #W001622-5C-C-R to Gerard Begin d/b/a Begin Mobile Home Park for a five-year term.
- January 17, 2014* - The Department issued combination MEPDES permit ME0037010 / WDL #W001622-5C-D-R to Gerard Begin d/b/a Begin Mobile Home Park for a five-year term.
- February 4, 2019* – Christopher Ames d/b/a Begin Mobile Home Park applied for renewal and transfer of combination MEPDES permit ME0037010 / WDL #W001622-5C-D-R. The application was accepted for processing on February 7, 2019, and assigned WDL #W001622-5C-E-R.
- April 5, 2019* - The Department issued combination MEPDES permit ME0037010 / WDL #W001622-5C-E-R to Christopher Ames d/b/a Begin Mobile Home Park for a five-year term.
- April 22, 2019* - The Department issued a Minor Revision to combination MEPDES permit ME0037010 / WDL #W001622-5C-E-R. The Minor revision was assigned WDL #W001622-5C-F-M.
- June 4, 2024* – Blue Ridge Properties LLC d/b/a Begin Mobile Home Park applied for renewal and of combination MEPDES permit ME0037010 / WDL #W001622-5C-E-R. The application was accepted for processing on June 6, 2024, and assigned WDL #W001622-5C-G-R.

2. PERMIT SUMMARY (cont'd)

- c. Source Description and Wastewater Treatment – The Begin Mobile Home Park facility consists of 68 mobile home units. Wastewater generated receives a primary level of treatment via an 20,000-gallon septic tank followed by secondary treatment via four sandfilters each measuring 74 feet x 74 feet for a total area of approximately 22,000 square feet. The treated wastewater is seasonally (April 15 – October 31) disinfected via a tablet chlorinator and discharged to the Sabattus River, Class C, via a pipe measuring 6 inches in diameter that extends out into the thread of the river with approximately three feet of water over the crown of the pipe under low stream flow conditions.
- d. Replacement Options – The applicant has submitted a site evaluation report (HHE-200) performed by Michael Deyling, C.G, LSE and dated November 19, 2018, indicating that replacement options are not feasible at this location. Department rule Chapter 596, *Overboard Discharges: Licensing and Abandonment*, Section 5(A)(2) states in part “...the Department may approve an overboard discharge only if all of the following criteria are met.” *Except when it has been demonstrated within 5 years prior to a transfer, or some other time period acceptable to the department, that there is no technologically proven alternative to an overboard discharge pursuant to 38 M.R.S., §413 (3)(A)(1).*

3. CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

Conditions of licenses, 38 M.R.S. § 414-A, requires that the effluent limitations prescribed for discharges, including, but not limited to, effluent toxicity, require the application of best practicable treatment (BPT), be consistent with the U.S. Clean Water Act, and ensure that the receiving waters attain the State water quality standards as described in Maine's Surface Water Classification System. In addition, *Certain deposits and discharges prohibited*, 38 M.R.S. § 420 and Department rule *Surface Water Toxics Control Program*, 06-096 CMR ch. 530 (effective March 21, 2012), require the regulation of toxic substances not to exceed levels set forth in *Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants*, 06-096 CMR ch. 584 (effective February 16, 2020), and that ensure safe levels for the discharge of toxic pollutants such that existing and designated uses of surface waters are maintained and protected.

4. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Classification of major river basins, 38 M.R.S., § 467(1)(D)(3) classifies the Sabattus River from Sabattus Lake to the limits of the Lisbon urban area, including the point of discharge as a Class C waterway. *Standards for classification for fresh surface waters* 38 M.R.S. § 465(4) describes the standards for Class C waters as follows:

4. *Class C waters. Class C shall be the 4th highest classification.*

A. Class C waters must be of such quality that they are suitable for the designated uses of drinking water supply after treatment; fishing; agriculture; recreation in and on the water; industrial process and cooling water supply; hydroelectric power generation, except as prohibited under Title 12, section 403; navigation; and as a habitat for fish and other aquatic life.

4. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS (cont'd)

B. Class C waters must be of sufficient quality to support all species of fish indigenous to those waters and to maintain the structure and function of the resident biological community. The dissolved oxygen content of Class C water may not be less than 5 parts per million or 60% of saturation, whichever is higher, except that in identified salmonid spawning areas where water quality is sufficient to ensure spawning, egg incubation and survival of early life stages, that water quality sufficient for these purposes must be maintained. In order to provide additional protection for the growth of indigenous fish, the following standards apply.

- (1) The 30-day average dissolved oxygen criterion of a Class C water is 6.5 parts per million using a temperature of 22 degrees centigrade or the ambient temperature of the water body, whichever is less, if:
 - (a) A license or water quality certificate other than a general permit was issued prior to March 16, 2004, for the Class C water and was not based on a 6.5 parts per million 30-day average dissolved oxygen criterion; or*
 - (b) A discharge or a hydropower project was in existence on March 16, 2005 and required but did not have a license or water quality certificate other than a general permit for the Class C water.**

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

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

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

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

4. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS (cont'd)

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

5. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS

The 2018/2020/2022 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report(Report), prepared by the Department pursuant to Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, lists the Sabattus River from Sabattus Pond to the limits of the Lisbon urban area (Assessment Unit ID ME0104000210_418R01) which includes the receiving water at the point of discharge as, *Category 5-A: Rivers and Streams Impaired By Pollutants Other Than Those Listed in 5-B Through 5-D (TMDL Required)* due to non-attainment causes of nutrient/eutrophication biological indicators and dissolved oxygen (DO). The Report states, “10/21/21: continuous data collected at two locations in 2016 during critical conditions showed only brief, marginal non-attainment of DO criteria but significant diurnal DO swings suggest nutrient enrichment.

The Report also lists all of Maine’s fresh waters as *Category 4-A: Rivers and Streams Impaired by Atmospheric Deposition of Mercury*. Impairment in this context refers to a statewide fish consumption advisory due to elevated levels of mercury in some fish tissues. The Report states, “All freshwaters are listed in Category 4-A (TMDL Completed) due to US EPA approval of a Regional Mercury TMDL in December 2007. Maine has a fish consumption advisory for fish taken from all freshwaters due to mercury. Many waters, and many fish from any given water, do not exceed the action level for mercury. However, because it is impossible for someone consuming a fish to know whether the mercury level exceeds the action level, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services decided to establish a statewide advisory recommending limits on consumption for all freshwater fish. Maine has instituted statewide programs for removal and reduction of mercury sources.”

The Department has no information that the discharge from the permittee, as conditioned, causes or contributes to non-attainment of applicable Class C water quality standards.

6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS & MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

- a. Best Practicable Treatment (BPT) - The Department will find that the discharge meets the requirements of best practicable treatment pursuant to 38 M.R.S. § 414-A(1-B) for purposes of permitting when it finds that there are no technologically proven alternative methods of wastewater disposal consistent with the plumbing code adopted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Title 22, section 42 that will not result in an overboard discharge. Pursuant to *Overboard Discharges: Licensing and Abandonment*, 06-096 CMR Ch.596(9), *Criteria and Standards for Waste Discharge Licenses* 06-096 CMR Ch. 524(2) (effective January 12, 2001) and 06-096 CMR Ch. 525(3)(III), BPT for overboard discharges is secondary treatment.

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

- b. Flow: The previous permitting action established a daily maximum discharge flow limitation of 20,000 gallons per day (gpd) based on the design flow for the treatment system and established a monitoring frequency of 1/Month on a year-round basis. A review of the daily maximum discharge flow data as reported on the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) submitted to the Department for the period May 2019 – October 2024 indicates the following:

Flow (N = 63)

Value	Limit (gpd)	Range (gpd)	Mean (gpd)
Daily maximum	20,000	4,982-10,692	6,810

This permit carries forward the daily maximum discharge flow limit of 20,000 gpd ..

- b. Dilution Factors - The Department established applicable dilution factors for the discharge in accordance with freshwater protocols established in Department Rule Chapter 530, *Surface Water Toxics Control Program*. River flows at the permittee’s outfall during the summer are controlled by the minimum flow release requirement (3.7 cfs) for Sabattus Pond’s outlet dam and the inflow from Maxwell Brook (estimated 7Q10 = 0.54 cfs). For the combined river and brook flows and a monthly average flow limit of 0.020 MGD for the discharge, the dilution factors are as follows:

Acute: 1Q10 = 4.16 cfs⁽¹⁾ ⇒
$$\frac{(4.16 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + (0.020 \text{ MGD})}{(0.020 \text{ MGD})} = 135:1$$

Chronic: 7Q10 = 4.24 cfs ⇒
$$\frac{(4.24 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + (0.020 \text{ MGD})}{(0.020 \text{ MGD})} = 138:1$$

Human Health Harmonic Mean: = 12.7 cfs⁽²⁾ ⇒
$$\frac{(12.7 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + (0.020 \text{ MGD})}{(0.020 \text{ MGD})} = 411:1$$

Footnotes:

- (1) The 1Q10 is the sum of the minimum release from the Sabattus Pond’s outlet dam (3.7 cfs) and 85% of the 7Q10 for Maxwell Brook (0.85 x 0.54 cfs = 0.46 cfs). 06-096 C.M.R. 530(4)(B)(1) states that analyses using numeric acute criteria for aquatic life must be based on one-fourth of the 1Q10 stream design flow to prevent substantial acute toxicity within any mixing zone. The regulation goes on to say that where it can be demonstrated that a discharge achieves rapid and complete mixing with the receiving water by way of an efficient diffuser or other effective method, analyses may use a greater proportion of the stream design, up to including all of it. The department has determined that the permittee’s submerged outfall at the center of the river receives rapid and complete mixing with the receiving water; therefore, the department is using the full 1Q10 in the acute evaluations for this discharge.
- (2) As there is no flow gauge on the Sabattus River, the harmonic mean dilution factor is approximated by multiplying the chronic receiving water flow (7Q10) by a factor of three (3). This multiplying factor is based on guidelines for estimation of human health dilution presented in the USEPA publication "Technical Support Document for Water Quality-Based Toxics Control" (Office of Water; EPA/505/2-90-001, page 88) and represents an estimation of harmonic mean flow on which human health dilutions are based in a riverine 7Q10 flow situation

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

- c. Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD₅) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS): This permit carries forward technology based monthly average, weekly average and daily maximum BOD₅ and TSS concentration limits of 30 mg/L, 45 mg/L and 50 mg/L. The monthly average and weekly average concentration limits are based on secondary treatment requirements as defined in Department rule, 06-096 CMR Chapter 525(3)(III) and the daily maximum concentration limit of 50 mg/L is based on a best professional judgment by the Department of best practicable treatment (BPT). This permit carries forward all three technology-based concentration limits.

This permit carries forward mass limitations for BOD₅ and TSS pursuant to Department rule Chapter 523, *Waste Discharge License Conditions*, Section 6, *Calculating NPDES permit conditions*, subsection f (1) states that, "all pollutants limited in permits shall have limitations, standards or prohibitions expressed in terms of mass...." Therefore, this permitting action is carrying forward the monthly average, weekly average and daily maximum BOD₅ and TSS mass limitations based on calculations using the design flow for the facility of 20,000 gpd (0.020 MGD) and the applicable concentration limits as follows:

Monthly Average Limit: $(30 \text{ mg/L})(8.34 \text{ lbs./gallon})(0.020 \text{ MGD}) = 5.0 \text{ lbs/day}$

Weekly Average Limit: $(45 \text{ mg/L})(8.34 \text{ lbs./day})(0.020 \text{ MGD}) = 7.5 \text{ lbs/day}$

Daily Maximum Limit: $(50 \text{ mg/L})(8.34 \text{ lbs./day})(0.020 \text{ MGD}) = 8.3 \text{ lbs/day}$

This permit carries forward a requirement for a minimum of 85% removal of BOD₅ and TSS pursuant to Chapter Ch.525(3)(III)(a)(3) and (b)(3) of the Department's rules along with a 1/Month monitoring and reporting frequency. The wastewater treatment system does not have an influent sampling port location that is representative of raw wastewater conditions. According to the USEPA's Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems Manual, dated February 2002, table 3-7 entitled "*Constituent Mass Loadings and Concentrations in Typical Residential Wastewater*" a reasonable influent value for BOD₅ and TSS may be assumed to be 286 mg/L. Therefore, this permit authorizes the permittee to assume an influent BOD₅ and TSS concentration value of 286 mg/L if required to calculate the monthly percent removal rate.

A review of the daily maximum discharge flow data as reported on the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) submitted to the Department for the period May 2019 – October 2024 indicates the following:

BOD concentration (N = 38)

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Average (mg/L)
Monthly Average	30	1.0 - 28	2.72
Weekly Average	45	1.0 - 28	2.72
Daily Maximum	50	1.0 - 28	2.72

TSS concentration (N = 38)

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Average (mg/L)
Monthly Average	30	2.5 – 9.0	2.93
Weekly Average	45	2.5 – 9.0	2.93
Daily Maximum	50	2.5 – 9.0	2.93

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

BOD Mass (N = 38)

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Average (lbs/day)
Monthly Average	5.0	0.0	0.0
Weekly Average	7.5	0.0	0.0
Daily Maximum	8.3	5.0 – 8.3	8.13

TSS Mass (N = 38)

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Average (lbs/day)
Monthly Average	5.0	0.0	0.0
Weekly Average	7.5	0.0	0.0
Daily Maximum	8.3	8.3 – 8.3	8.3

- d. Settleable Solids: A This permit carries forward a Department BPT based daily maximum concentration limit of 0.3 ml/L with a reporting frequency for Settleable Solids of 1/Month to be consistent with monitoring and reporting for BOD₅ & TSS.

A review of the daily maximum discharge flow data as reported on the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) submitted to the Department for the period May 2019 – October 2024 indicates the following:

Settleable Solids (N = 63)

Value	Limit (ml/L)	Range (ml/L)	Average (ml/L)
Daily Maximum	0.3	<0.1-0.2	<0.1

- e. Escherichia coli: *Standards for the Classification of Fresh Surface Waters*, 38 M.R.S. §465(4), establishes monthly average and daily maximum ambient water quality-based E. coli thresholds of 100 CFU or MPN/100 mL and 236 CFU or MPN/100 mL, respectively. This permit revises the previously established monthly average of 126 CFU or MPN per mL and daily maximum E. coli limitation of 947 CFU or MPN per mL pursuant to *Standards for the Classification of Fresh Surface Waters*, 38 M.R.S. §465(4).

A review of the daily maximum discharge flow data as reported on the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) submitted to the Department for the period May 2019 – October 2024 indicates the following:

Escherichia coli (N = 37)

Value	Limit (CFU)	Range (CFU)	Average (CFU)
Monthly Average	126	0.0- 56.0	<3.8
Daily Maximum	947	0.0 – 687.0	21.6

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

- f. Total Residual Chlorine (TRC): A BPT based concentration limit of 1.0 mg/L for TRC with a monitoring frequency of 2/Week is carried forward in this permit. Limitations on TRC are specified to ensure that ambient water quality standards are maintained and that BPT technology is being applied to the discharge. Department permitting actions impose the more stringent of either a water quality-based or BPT-based limit. With dilution factors calculated in Section 6(b) of this Fact Sheet, end-of-pipe (EOP) water quality-based concentration thresholds for TRC may be calculated as follows:

Acute (A) Criterion	Chronic (C) Criterion	A & C Dilution Factors		Calculated	
				Acute Limit	Chronic Limit
0.019 mg/L	0.011 mg/L	135:1 (A)	138:1 (C)	2.6 mg/L	1.5 mg/L

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. For facilities that need to dechlorinate the discharge to meet water quality-based thresholds, the Department has established daily maximum and monthly average BPT limits of 0.3 mg/L and 0.1 mg/L, respectively unless the water quality-based thresholds calculated are lower than the BPT limits. The permittee’s facility does not need to dechlorinate the effluent prior to discharge to consistently achieve compliance with the calculated acute water quality-based threshold. This permit carries forward a year-round daily maximum technology-based concentration limit of 1.0 mg/L.

A review of the daily maximum data as reported on the DMRs submitted to the Department for the period May 2019 – October 2024 indicates the maximum TRC discharged has been as follows:

Total Residual Chlorine (N = 38)

Value	Limit (ml/L)	Range (ml/L)	Average (ml/L)
Daily Maximum	1.0	1.0 - <1.0	<1.0

- g. pH: This permit carries forward a technology-based pH range limit of 6.0 – 9.0 standard units (SU) with a once per year monitoring frequency, pursuant to Department rule found at 06-096 CMR Chapter 525(3)(III)(c).

pH (N = 5)

Value	Limit (SU)	Range (SU)	Average (SU)
Daily Maximum	6 - 9	6.0 – 7.11	6.86

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

- h. Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET), Priority Pollutant, and Analytical Chemistry Testing: *Conditions of Licenses*, 38 M.R.S., §414-A and *Certain Deposits and Discharges Prohibited*, 38 M.R.S §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 rule, 06-096 CMR Chapter 530, *Surface Water Toxics Control Program* (toxics rule) sets forth effluent monitoring requirements and procedures to establish safe levels for the discharge of toxic pollutants such that existing and designated uses of surface waters are maintained and protected, and narrative and numeric water quality criteria are met. Department rule 06-096 CMR Chapter 584, *Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants*, sets forth ambient water quality criteria (AWQC) for toxic pollutants and procedures necessary to control levels of toxic pollutants in surface waters.

Chapter 530 Section (2)(A) specifies the dischargers subject to the rule as, “...all licensed dischargers of industrial process wastewater or domestic wastes discharging to surface waters of the State must meet the testing requirements of this section. Dischargers of other types of wastewater are subject to this subsection when and if the Department determines that toxicity of effluents may have reasonable potential to cause or contribute to exceedances of narrative or numerical water quality criteria.”

Chapter 530 Section 2.A specifies the criteria for exemption of certain discharges from toxics testing as follows:

- (1) *Discharges from individual discharge points licensed to discharge less than 50,000 gallons per day of solely domestic wastewater and with a chronic dilution factor of at least 50 to 1, provided no holding tank wastes containing chemicals are accepted by the facility;*
- (2) *Discharges from residential overboard discharge systems; or*
- (3) *Discharges from combined sewer overflow discharge points, provided the owner of the sewerage system is conducting or participating in a discharge abatement program.*

The permittee's facility is exempt from the Chapter 530 requirements as it permitted to discharge less than 50,000 gpd, the chronic dilution factor is greater than 50:1 and the wastewater has domestic-like characteristics. However, should there be a substantial change in the characteristics of the discharge in the future, the Department may reopen this permit pursuant to Special Condition J, *Reopening of Permit for Modifications*, to incorporate the applicable whole effluent toxicity (WET), priority pollutant or analytical testing requirements cited above.

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

- i. Total Phosphorus: Waste Discharge License Conditions, 06-096 CMR Ch.523 specifies that water- quality-based limits are necessary when a discharge has the potential to cause or contribute to an excursion above any state water quality standard, including narrative standards. In addition, 06-096 CMR 523 specifies that water-quality-based limits may be based upon criterion derived from a proposed state criterion or from an explicit state policy or regulation interpreting a narrative water quality criterion. On June 11, 2025, U.S. EPA Region 1 approved the State of Maine's Nutrient Criteria for Class AA, A, B, and C Fresh Surface Waters (CMR 06-096 Chapter 583). This rule includes criteria for the protection of fresh surface waters from eutrophication impacts due to the discharge of total phosphorus (TP). Under this rule, the Sabattus River at the point of discharge, a Class C water, has an in-stream TP limit of 44 µg/liter (0.044 mg/liter) during August median flow conditions. The potential for the discharge to cause or contribute to a total phosphorus excursion in the Sabattus River will be assessed using this limit.

Given that there are no available upstream ambient TP data or effluent TP data, no RP analysis could be completed. To enable future analyses of the exceedance potential due to the river's current phosphorus levels and the discharge, this permitting action is establishing once per month (1/month) monitoring of the ambient, upstream total phosphorus and once per month (1/month) monitoring of the effluent total phosphorus by the permittee during the summer (June – September) for two years of this 5-year permit renewal.

7. ANTI-BACKSLIDING

Federal regulation 40 C.F.R. §122.44(1) contains the criteria for what is often referred to as the anti-backsliding provisions of the *Federal Water Pollution Control Act* (Clean Water Act). In general, the regulation states that except for provisions specified in the regulation, effluent limitations, standards, or conditions must be at least as stringent as the final effluent limitations, standards or conditions in the previous permit. Applicable exceptions include: (1) material and substantial alterations or additions to the permitted facility occurred after permit issuance which justify the application of a less stringent effluent limitation and (2) information is available which was not available at the time of the permit issuance (other than revised regulations, guidance, or test methods) and which would justify the application of less stringent effluent limitations at the time of permit issuance. All limitations in this permit are equally or more stringent than those in the previous permit.

8. ANTI-DEGRADATION

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

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public notice of this application will be made in the Lewiston Sun Journal newspaper on or about May 31, 2024. The Department receives public comments on an application until the date a final agency action is taken on the application. Those persons receiving copies of draft permits shall have at least 30 days in which to submit comments on the draft or to request a public hearing, pursuant to *Application Processing Procedures for Waste Discharge Licenses*, 06-096 C.M.R. Ch. 522 (effective January 12, 2001).

9. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

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

Rodney Robert
Division of Water Quality Management
Bureau of Water Quality
Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017 Telephone: (207) 680-0576
e-mail: rodney.robert@maine.gov

10. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Reserved until the end of the formal thirty-day comment period.

ATTACHMENT A

Attachment A – Location Map – Begin Mobile Home Park
ME0037010_2026

