



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

May 14, 2026

Scott Reed
Director of Environmental Compliance
ND Paper, Inc.
35 Hartford Street
Rumford, ME 04276

***Sent via electronic mail
Delivery confirmation requested***

***RE: Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit #ME0002054
Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) #W000955-5N-T-R, #W000955-5N-U-M
Proposed Draft MEPDES Permit Renewal***

Dear Mr. Reed,

Enclosed you will find the proposed draft MEPDES renewal permit and WDL for ND Paper, Inc. in Rumford, Maine. By transmittal of this letter, you are provided the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed draft permit and its special conditions and fact sheet. Please verify that the draft permit accurately represents current conditions and let me know if you find any errors.

By copy of this letter, the Department is also requesting comments on the proposed draft from various state and federal agencies and from any other interested parties.

The comment period begins today, Thursday, May 14, 2026 and ends on Friday June 12, 2026. All comments on the proposed draft permit must be received by the Department of Environmental Protection's office on or before the close of business, **Friday, June 12, 2026**. Failure to submit comments in a timely fashion may result in the proposed draft license document being issued as drafted.

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

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Quality
Division of Water Quality Management
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017

If you have any questions regarding the matter, please contact me at 207-615-6711 or Laura.Crossley@maine.gov.

Letter to ND Paper, Inc
May 14, 2026
Page 2 of 2

Respectfully,

Laura Crossley
Division of Water Quality Management
Bureau of Water Quality

Cc: Shawn Farrington, ND Paper, Inc.
Gregg Wood, DEP
Holly Ireland, DEP
James Knight, DEP
Brad Kelso, DEP
Wendy Garland, DEP
Lori Mitchell, DEP
Michael Cobb, USEPA
Richard Carvalho, USEPA
Kathryn Rosenberg, USEPA
Sean Mahoney, CLF
Dan Kusnierz, Penobscot Indian Nation



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

DEPARTMENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF

ND PAPER, INC)	MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
RUMFORD, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE)	ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
PULP & PAPER MANUFACTURING FACILITY)	AND
ME0002054)	WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE
W000955-5N-T-R & W000955-5N-U-M)	RENEWAL

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 the ND Paper, Inc. (“ND”/“permittee”/“Rumford Mill”), with its supportive data, agency review comments, and other related materials on file and FINDS THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

APPLICATION SUMMARY

On December 2, 2022 the Department accepted as complete for processing the ND application to renew combination Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit #ME0002054/Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) #W000955-5N-Q-R (“permit”) that was issued by the Department on December 04, 2017, for a five-year term. The 12/04/2017 permit was issued in the name of Catalyst Paper Operations Inc., the owner and operator of the mill at the time, to discharge up to 34 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated process waste waters, treated spills of sanitary waste waters, treated landfill leachate, treated stormwater runoff, filter backwash and general housekeeping waste waters associated with a draft pulp and papermaking facility from a single outfall to the Androscoggin River, Class C, in Rumford Maine.

On December 3, 2020, the permit was subsequently modified and transferred to ND Paper, Inc. The modification altered the limits for adsorbable organic halogen (AOX) and chloroform depending on the production of bleached or unbleached product. The permit expired on 12/04/2022 and has been administratively continued since the Department received a timely application for renewal.

On April 22, 2025, ND Paper, Inc. submitted a modification request of Special Condition H. *Gulf Island Pond Oxygen Injection Operation*, to make future changes to oxygen injection rates utilizing a Department approved plan rather than specifying oxygen injection rates by individual

APPLICATION SUMMARY (cont'd)

entity in the permit. A Department approved plan offers more flexibility to alter the distribution of future oxygen injection rates without having to reopen and modify the permit.

The ND Paper mill in Rumford, Maine manufactures bleached kraft market pulp and fine coated paper. The December 4, 2017 permit authorized the discharge of up to a monthly average flow of 34 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated process waste waters, treated spills of sanitary waste waters, treated landfill leachate, treated stormwater runoff, filter backwash and general housekeeping waste waters associated with a kraft pulp and papermaking facility and energy generating equipment from a single outfall to the Androscoggin River in Rumford, Maine. In addition to the aforementioned waste waters discharged, that permit authorized treated discharges associated with or resulting from essential maintenance, regularly scheduled maintenance during start-up and shutdown, treated spills and releases (whether anticipated or unanticipated) from anywhere in the permitted facilities. ND's wastewater collection and treatment systems are also used for elementary neutralization pursuant to Maine law, 38 M.R.S., §1319.1. The permit authorized the permittee to discharge up to 47 MGD of cooling waters via four additional outfalls. The permittee also maintains coverage for eight storm water outfalls under a MEPDES Multi-Sector General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated With Industrial Activity issued by the Department on December 16, 2016, with coverage granted for the mill site on March 24, 2017.

According to the April 23, 2025 application amendment and modification request, the mill produces an average of 1,593 tons per day (TPD) of fine coated paper and 518 tons/day of bleached market pulp and 456 tons per day of ground wood pulp. Pulp production is allocated at approximately 35% softwood and 65% hardwood although the ratio will vary depending on market conditions. In follow-up communication with the permittee regarding the application, the facility confirmed it continues to produce 1,503 tons per day of air-dried pulp. ND is also permitted to treat wastewater from the manufacturing of 300 tons per day of recycle pulp. Though pulp and paper production is up and down based on market conditions, these values are representative of normal production and are therefore being used to derive applicable production-based technology limitations in this permitting action. The Rumford mill has been elemental chlorine free (ECF) since February 1997 and uses chlorine dioxide as the primary bleaching agent.

MODIFICATIONS REQUESTED

The permittee has requested the following modifications to the 12/04/2017 permit and subsequent 12/03/2020 modification:

1. Modify Special Condition H, *Gulf Island Pond Oxygen Injection Operation* to eliminate and replace the fixed table with a condition for a plan subject to Department approval that can be modified without going through a formal permit modification process.

PERMIT SUMMARY

- a. Terms and conditions - This permitting action is carrying forward the terms and conditions of the previous permitting actions 12/4/2017 and the subsequent 12/3/2020 modification and transfer except that this permitting action is;
1. Granting the permittee's request to modify Special Condition H, *Gulf Island Pond Oxygen Injection Operation*, thereby eliminating and replacing the fixed table of oxygen injection rates with a condition for a plan subject to Department approval that can be modified without going through a formal permit modification process.
 2. Updating the outfall numbers in the permit to match what is reported in the discharge monitoring reports and modifying the secondary outfall previously referred to as outfall 001B to now be called outfall 001C.
 3. Adding a requirement to conduct ambient sampling of total phosphorus in accordance with the recent promulgation of Department Rule, 06-096 C.M.R. Ch. 583 and report as a new outfall AM-1.
 4. Adding Special Condition N, *Total Phosphorus Sampling Plan* requirement that is being applied to all applicable permits with ambient sampling.
 5. Reducing the summer testing frequency of BOD₅ from 3 times per week to 2 times per week to match the TSS testing frequency.

CONCLUSIONS

BASED on the findings in the attached DRAFT Fact Sheet dated 5/14/2026 the 2005 EPA approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Gulf Island Pond and ambient water quality monitoring results since issuance of the December 2012 permit, and subject to the terms and conditions contained herein, 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;

CONCLUSIONS (cont'd)

- (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 as defined in *Conditions of licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 414-A(1)(D).

ACTION

THEREFORE, the Department APPROVES the above noted application of the ND PAPER, INC., to discharge up to a monthly average of 34 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated process waste waters, treated spills of sanitary waste waters, treated landfill leachate, treated stormwater runoff, filter backwash and general housekeeping waste waters associated with a kraft pulp and papermaking facility from a single outfall to the Androscoggin River, Class C waters, in Rumford, Maine. In addition to the aforementioned waste waters discharged, this permit authorizes treated discharges associated with or resulting from essential maintenance, regularly scheduled maintenance during start-up and shutdown, treated spills and releases (whether anticipated or unanticipated) from anywhere in the permitted facilities and discharge up to 47 MGD of cooling waters and cooling tower blowdown from four outfalls to the Androscoggin River in Rumford, 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 effluent limitations and monitoring requirements.
3. This permit becomes effective upon the date of signature below and expires at midnight five (5) years thereafter. If a renewal application is timely submitted and accepted as complete for processing prior to the expiration of this permit, the terms and conditions of this permit and all subsequent modifications and minor revisions thereto remain in effect until a final Department decision on the renewal application becomes effective. [*Maine Administrative Procedure Act*, 5 M.R.S. § 10002 and *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters*, 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 2 § 21(A) (effective September 15, 2024)].

PLEASE NOTE ATTACHED FACT SHEET FOR GUIDANCE ON APPEAL PROCEDURES

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BY: _____
Melanie Loyzim, Commissioner

Date of initial receipt of application _____ November 30, 2022 _____.

Date of application acceptance _____ December 2, 2022 _____.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

- The permittee is authorized to discharge treated waste waters as described on page **five** of this permit and storm water from **Outfall #001A, 001B, & 001C⁽¹⁾**, cooling water and/or cooling tower blowdown from **Outfalls #002A, #003A, and #004A, and #005A** and bleach plant effluent (internal waste stream) from **Outfall #100A**, to the Androscoggin River. Such discharges shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below. The italicized numeric values in brackets in the table below and the tables that follow are not limitations but are code numbers used by Department personnel to code Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR's). ⁽²⁾

OUTFALL #001A & 001C – secondary treated waste waters

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations						Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average as specified	Weekly Average as specified	Daily Maximum as specified	Monthly Average as specified	Weekly Average as specified	Daily Maximum as specified	Measurement Frequency as specified	Sample Type as specified
Flow [50050]	34 MGD [03]	---	Report MGD[03]	---	---	---	Continuous [99/99]	Recorder[RC]
<u>BOD₅</u> [00310] (June 1 – Sept. 30)	8,330 #/day	12,500 lbs/day	18,750 #/day	---	---	---	2/Week [03/07]	Composite
	14,400 #/day [26]	---	32,300 #/day [26]	---	---	---	1/Week [01/07]	Composite [24]
<u>TSS</u> [00530] (June 1 – Sept 30)	15,500 #/day	---	40,000 #/day	---	---	---	2/Week [02/07]	Composite [24]
	11,000 #/day ⁽³⁾	---	---	---	---	---	1/Day [01/01]	Calculate [CA]
	32,900 #/day	---	50,000 #/day	---	---	---	1/Week [01/07]	Composite
	15,952 #/day ⁽⁴⁾ [26]	---	---	---	---	---	1/Year [01/YR]	Calculate

Footnotes:

See pages 10-15 of this permit.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

OUTFALL #001A & 001C – secondary treated waste waters

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations						Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Daily Maximum	Monthly Average as	Weekly Average as specified	Daily Maximum as specified	Measurement Frequency as specified	Sample Type as specified
Total Phosphorus [00665] (June 1 – September 30)	152 #/day ⁽⁵⁾ [26]	---	Report #/day ⁽⁵⁾ [26]	Report mg/L [19]	---	Report mg/L [19]	2/Week [02/07]	Composite [24]
Ortho-phosphorus [70507] (June 1 – September 30)	97 #/day ⁽⁵⁾ [26]	---	Report #/day ⁽⁵⁾ [26]	Report mg/L [19]	---	Report mg/L [19]	2/Week [02/07]	Composite [24]
Temperature [00011] (June 1 – Sept. 30) (Oct. 1 – May 31)	---	---	---	---	---	110°F [15] 110 °F [15]	1/Day [01/01] 1/Week [01/07]	Measure [MS] Measure [MS]
Adsorbable Organic Halogen ⁽⁶⁾ (AOX) [03594]	1,873 #/day [26]	---	2,859 #/day [26]	---	---	---	2/Month [02/30]	Composite [24]
Color ⁽⁷⁾ [51201]	150#/ ADTUBP [42]	---	---	---	---	---	1/Week [01/07]	Calculate [CA]
pH (Std. Unit) [00400]	---	---	---	---	---	5.0 – 9.0 SU [12]	1/Day [01/01]	Grab ⁽⁸⁾ [GR]
Mercury (Total) ⁽⁹⁾ [50286]	---	---	---	35.8 ng/L [3M]	---	53.7 ng/L [3M]	1/Year [01/YR]	Grab [R]

Footnotes:

See pages 10-15 of this permit.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

2. **SCREENING LEVEL – Outfalls 001B Secondary treated waste waters:** ⁽²⁾ Beginning 24 months prior to permit expiration and lasting 12 months prior to permit expiration (Year 4 of the permit term) and every five years thereafter if a timely request for renewal has been made and the permit continues in force, or is replaced by a permit renewal containing this requirement.

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations				Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Whole Effluent Toxicity⁽¹⁰⁾						
<u>Acute – NOEL</u>						
<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> (Water flea) [TDA3B]	---	---	---	Report % [23]	2/Year _[02/YR]	Composite [24]
<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> (Brook trout) [TDA6F]	---	---	---	Report % [23]	2/Year _[02/YR]	Composite [24]
<u>Chronic – NOEL</u>						
<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> (Water flea) [TBP3B]	---	---	---	Report % [23]	2/Year _[02/YR]	Composite [24]
<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> (Brook trout) [TBQ6F]	---	---	---	Report % [23]	2/Year _[02/YR]	Composite [24]
Analytical chemistry ^(11,12) [51168]	---	---	---	Report ug/L [28]	1/Quarter _[01/90]	Composite/Grab [24]
Priority Pollutant ^(12,13) [50008]	---	---	---	Report ug/L [28]	1/Year _[01/YR]	Composite/Grab [24]

Footnotes:

See pages 10-15 of this permit.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

3. ***SURVEILLANCE LEVEL – Outfall 001B secondary treated waste waters:*** Beginning upon permit issuance and lasting through 24 months prior to permit expiration (Years 1,2, & 3 of the term of the permit) and commencing again 12 months prior to permit expiration (Year 5 of the permit term).

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations				Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Whole Effluent Toxicity⁽¹⁰⁾						
<u>Acute – NOEL</u>						
<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> (Water flea) [TDA3B]	---	---	---	Report % [23]	1/2 Years ^[01/2Y]	Composite [24]
<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> (Brook trout) [TDA6F]	---	---	---	Report % [23]	1/2 Years ^[01/2Y]	Composite [24]
<u>Chronic – NOEL</u>						
<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> (Water flea) [TBP3B]	---	---	---	Report % ^[23]	1/2 Years ^[01/2Y]	Composite [24]
<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> (Brook trout) [TBQ6F]	---	---	---	Report % [23]	1/2 Years [01/2Y]	Composite [24]
Analytical chemistry ^(11,13) [51168]	---	---	---	Report ug/L [28]	1/2Years [01/2Y]	Composite/Grab [24]

4. ***OUTFALL AM-1 – Ambient Receiving Water Monitoring:*** The permittee must conduct ambient monitoring on a seasonal basis (June 1 – September 30) of the Androscoggin River upstream of the discharge, reporting under the new outfall AM-1. Such sampling must be monitored as specified in the table below and coincide with total phosphorus effluent sampling.⁽²⁾

Ambient Receiving Water Characteristic	Ambient Report	Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average	Measuring Frequency	Sample Type
Total Phosphorus ⁽⁵⁾ (June 1 to September 30, 2026) [00665]	Report (mg/L) [19]	1/Month [01/30]	Grab [GR]

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

Outfalls #001A, 001B, & 001C – Process Waste Waters

Footnotes:

- (1) **Outfall #001A, #001B, & #001C** - Outfall 001A is a 36" diameter pipe which is normally utilized to convey the treated process wastewater from the mill wastewater treatment plant to the Androscoggin River. Outfall 001B is an administratively designated outfall used for reporting Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) analyses when discharging from outfall 001A. During periods of high flow in the river, most common in the spring and fall, discharges from Outfall 001A are hydraulically limited. As a result, the best practicable treatment of wastewater is jeopardized. In those times of hydraulic limitation resulting from high river flows, this license authorizes the facility to discharge from Outfall 001C, a 36" diameter pipe located approximately 300 feet upstream of Outfall 001A. The discharges from Outfall 001C will receive the same degree of treatment as discharges from Outfall 001A and all flows discharged through Outfall 001C are measured and included in the analysis for compliance purposes.

- (2) **Sampling** – Sampling and analysis must be conducted 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. 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 C.M.R. ch. 263 (last amended March 15, 2023). If the permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by the permit using test procedures approved under 40 C.F.R. 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 (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

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

Outfalls #001A, 001B, 001C – Process Waste Waters

Footnotes (cont'd):

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.

Sampling locations

Effluent sampling for Outfall #001A, #001B (administrative outfall), & #001C must be sampled for all parameters at a location just prior to the parshall flume on a year-round basis. Any change in sampling location(s) must be reviewed and approved by the Department in writing.

Ambient sampling for phosphorus (AM-1) must be conducted upstream from the ND discharge point at a location agreed upon by the Department and the permittee.

- (3) **TSS** - 60-day rolling average is defined on each day between June 1st and September 30th as the average of the (previous and including the date reported) sixty consecutive daily TSS discharges. Report the highest 60-day average for each month in the July, August, and September DMRs.
- (4) **TSS** - Annual average defined as the average of all valid results between January 1st – December 31st of each year.
- (5) **Total phosphorus and Ortho-phosphorus** - Report to the nearest pound. See **Attachment A** of this permit for Department protocols.
- (6) **AOX** - The analytical method to be used to determine adsorbable organic halogens must be EPA Method 1650 for which a Minimum Level (ML) must be attained. The ML is defined as the level at which the analytical system gives recognizable signals and an acceptable calibration point as determined in Method 1650. At least two samples must be taken with at least seven (7) days between sampling events.
- (7) **Color** – The limitation is a calendar quarterly average limitation. A color pollution unit is equivalent to a platinum cobalt color unit as described in NCASI Technical Document #253. A pound of color is defined as the number of color pollution units multiplied by the volume of effluent discharged in million gallons per day multiplied by 8.34. Quarterly results must be reported in the monthly DMR's for the months of March, June, September and December of each calendar year. The permittee must monitor the true color (at a pH of 7.6 S.U) in the effluent from Outfall #001A at a minimum of one (1) time per week. The calculated mass discharged, must be

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

Outfalls #001A, 001B, 001C – Process Waste Waters

Footnotes:

expressed as pounds per air-dried ton of unbleached pulp (ADTUBP) produced entering the bleach plant. Where discharge monitoring is required when production is less than 50%, the resulting data must be reported as a daily measurement but not included in computation of averages, unless specifically authorized by the Department.

- (8) **pH** - For Outfall #001A & 001C, criteria found at Department Rule Chapter 525 §§ (4)(VIII)(a)(1&2) regarding pH limitations under continuous monitoring is applicable to these discharges when continuous monitoring is utilized.
- (9) **Mercury** - All mercury sampling (1/Year) required to determine compliance with interim limitations established pursuant to Department Rule Chapter 519, 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 analysis must be conducted in accordance with USEPA Method 1631E, *Determination of Mercury in Water by Oxidation, Purge and Trap, and Cold Vapor Atomic Fluorescence Spectrometry*. For the most up-to-date reporting form, go to [Effluent Mercury Test Report](http://maine.gov/dep/index.html) or DEP website at maine.gov/dep/index.html, search "wastewater reporting forms" and select "*Whole Effluent Toxicity, Chemistry, and Mercury Reporting Forms*" for a reporting form for mercury test results. Compliance with the monthly average limitation established in Special Condition A(1) of this permit will be based on the cumulative arithmetic mean of all mercury tests results that were conducted utilizing sampling Method 1669 and analysis Method 1631E on file with the Department for this facility. Tests must be conducted in a different calendar quarter of each year such that tests are conducted in all four quarters during the term of the permit.
- (10) **Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET)** - Definitive WET testing is a multi-concentration testing event (a minimum of five dilutions set at levels to bracket the critical acute and chronic water quality thresholds of 3.2%), 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. The critical acute and chronic thresholds were derived as the mathematical inverse of the applicable acute and chronic dilution factors of 31.6:1 and 31.6:1, respectively.
 - a. **Surveillance level testing** – Continuing from the previous permit and upon issuance of this permit, the permittee must conduct surveillance level WET testing at a minimum frequency of once every other year (1/2 Years) for both the water flea (*Ceriodaphnia dubia*) and the brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*). Testing must be conducted in a different calendar quarter for each sampling event.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

Outfalls #001A, 001B, 001C – Process Waste Waters

Footnotes:

- b. **Screening level testing** - Beginning 24 months prior to permit expiration and lasting 12 months prior to permit expiration (Year 4 of the permit term) and every five years thereafter if a timely request for renewal has been made and the permit continues in force, or is replaced by a permit renewal containing this requirement, the permittee must conduct screening level WET testing at a minimum frequency of twice per year (2/Year) for both species. Acute and chronic tests must be conducted on both the water flea (*Ceriodaphnia dubia*) and the brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*). Testing must be conducted in a different calendar quarter each sampling event.

Outfalls #001A & #001B

Footnotes:

WET test results must be submitted to the Department no 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 after their availability from the laboratory prior to 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 threshold of 3.2%.

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. USEPA 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 Freshwater Organisms*, 4th ed. USEPA 821-R-02-013. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Washington, D.C., October 2002 (the freshwater chronic method manual).

Results of WET tests must be reported on the “WET Fresh” form each time a WET test is performed. The form can be found in the Excel file labelled *Whole Effluent Toxicity, Chemistry and Mercury Reporting Forms* at: https://www.maine.gov/dep/water/wd/municipal_industrial/index.html

The permittee must also analyze the effluent for the analytical chemistry and priority pollutant parameters specified on the “Toxsheet” form each time a WET test is performed, which can be found on the same Excel file above.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

Outfalls #001A & #001B

Footnotes:

- (11) **Analytical chemistry and priority pollutant testing** – Testing must be conducted on samples collected at the same time as those collected for whole effluent toxicity tests, when applicable, and 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 of detection as specified by the Department.

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 laboratory reports for up to 10 business days after receiving the test results from the laboratory conducting the testing 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 ambient water quality criteria (AWQC) as established in 06-096 C.M.R. Ch. 584 (last amended February 16, 2020). For the purposes of DMR reporting, enter a “1” for yes, testing done this monitoring period or “N-9” monitoring not required this period.

Each time a WET test is performed, the permittee must sample and analyze for the parameters in the WET Chemistry and the Analytical Chemistry sections of this permit. Analytical chemistry is not required for WET tests conducted for a toxicity identification evaluation (TIE), toxicity reduction evaluation (TRE) or for other investigative purposes.

- (12) **Analytical chemistry** – Refers to those pollutants listed in their respective categories on the “WET and Chemical Specific Data Report Form” found at:
https://www.maine.gov/dep/water/wd/municipal_industrial/index.html
- a. **Surveillance level testing** – Continuing from the previous permit and upon issuance of this permit, the permittee must conduct analytical chemistry testing at a minimum frequency of once every other year (1/2 Years). As with WET testing, testing must be conducted in a different calendar quarter of each year.
 - b. **Screening level testing** – Beginning 24 months prior to permit expiration and lasting 12 months prior to permit expiration (Year 4 of the permit term) and every five years thereafter if a timely request for renewal has been made and the permit continues in force, or is replaced by a permit renewal containing this requirement, the permittee must conduct analytical chemistry testing at a minimum frequency of once per calendar quarter (1/Quarter) for four consecutive calendar quarters.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

Outfalls #001A & #001B

- (13) **Priority pollutant testing** – Refers to those pollutants listed in their respective categories on the “Toxsheet” form found in the Excel file labelled *Whole Effluent Toxicity, Chemistry and Mercury Reporting Forms* found at: https://www.maine.gov/dep/water/wd/municipal_industrial/index.html.
- a. **Surveillance level testing** – 06-096 C.M.R. Chapter 530, *Surface Water Toxics Control Program*, does not establish routine surveillance level priority pollutant testing for this facility.
 - b. **Screening level testing** – Beginning 24 months prior to permit expiration and lasting 12 months prior to permit expiration (Year 4 of the permit term) and every five years thereafter if a timely request for renewal has been made and the permit continues in force, or is replaced by a permit renewal containing this requirement, the permittee shall conduct screening level priority pollutant testing at a minimum frequency of once per year (1/Year). Priority pollutants are those listed by the USEPA pursuant to Section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act and published at 40 C.F.R. Part 122, Appendix D, Tables II and III.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

OUTFALL #002A – Non-contact cooling waters

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations				Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average as specified	Daily Maximum as specified	Monthly Average as specified	Daily Maximum as specified	Measurement Frequency as specified	Sample Type as specified
Flow [50050]	---	---	17.0 MGD ⁽¹⁾ [03]	Report MGD [03]	1/Week [01/07]	Measure [MS]
Temperature [00011]	---	---	---	105°F [15]	1/Week [01/07]	Measure [MS]
pH (Effluent) [00400]	---	---	---	5.0 – 9.0 SU ⁽²⁾ [12]	1/Week [01/07]	Grab [GR]
pH (Ambient) [00400]	---	---	---	Report SU ⁽²⁾ [12]	When applicable [02/99]	Grab [GR]

OUTFALL #003A – Non-contact cooling waters

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations				Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average as specified	Daily Maximum as specified	Monthly Average as specified	Daily Maximum As specified	Measurement Frequency as specified	Sample Type as specified
Flow [50050]	---	---	17.0 MGD ⁽¹⁾ [03]	Report MGD [03]	1/Week [01/07]	Measure [MS]
Temperature [00011]	---	---	---	105°F [15]	1/Week [01/07]	Measure [MS]
pH (Effluent) [00400]	---	---	---	5.0 – 9.0 SU ⁽²⁾ [12]	1/Week [01/07]	Grab [GR]
pH (Ambient) [00400]	---	---	---	Report SU ⁽²⁾ [12]	When applicable [02/99]	Grab [GR]

Footnotes:

See page 17 of this permit.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

OUTFALL #004A – Non-contact cooling waters

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations				Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average as specified	Daily Maximum as specified	Monthly Average as specified	Daily Maximum As specified	Measurement Frequency as specified	Sample Type as specified
Flow [50050]	---	---	17.0 MGD ⁽¹⁾ [03]	Report MGD [03]	1/Week [01/07]	Measure [MS]
Temperature [00011]	---	---	---	105°F [15]	1/Week [01/07]	Measure [MS]
pH (Effluent) [00400]	---	---	---	5.0 -9.0 SU ⁽²⁾ [12]	1/Week [01/07]	Grab [GR]
pH (Ambient) [00400]	---	---	---	Report SU ⁽²⁾ [12]	When applicable [02/99]	Grab [GR]

Footnotes:

Outfalls #002A, #003A and #004A

- (1) The discharge flow from Outfalls #002A, #003A and #004A collectively or individually may not exceed a monthly average flow of 17.0 MGD.
- (2) The pH of the discharge must be in the range of 5.0 – 9.0 standard units unless exceedances of this pH range are due to ambient pH levels in the Androscoggin River outside of this range. In such an event, the pH of the discharge may not be more than 0.5 standard units higher or lower than the ambient pH of the river as measured upstream of all the outfalls. In such an event, the permittee must report the pH of both the discharge and the river upstream.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

OUTFALL #005A – Co-generation (Non-contact cooling waters and cooling tower blowdown)

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations				Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average as specified	Daily Maximum as specified	Monthly Average as specified	Daily Maximum As specified	Measurement Frequency as specified	Sample Type as specified
Flow [50050]	---	---	Report MGD [03]	30 MGD [03]	Continuous [99/99]	Record [RC]
Temperature [00011]	---	---	---	105°F [15]	Continuous [99/99]	Record [RC]
pH (Effluent) [00400]	---	---	---	5.0 – 9.0 SU ⁽¹⁾ [12]	1/Month [01/30]	Grab [GR]
pH (Ambient) [00400]	---	---	---	Report SU ⁽¹⁾ [12]	When applicable [02/99]	Grab [GR]

Footnotes:

- (1) The pH of the discharge must be in the range of 5.0 – 9.0 standard units unless exceedances of this pH range are due to ambient pH levels in the Androscoggin River outside of this range. In such an event, the pH of the discharge may not be more than 0.5 standard units higher or lower than the ambient pH of the river as measured upstream of all the outfalls. In such an event, the permittee must report the pH of both the discharge and the river.

Operation of the cooling towers is required as needed to meet these permit limitations between June 1 and September 30 each year when discharging through Outfall #005A.

During the time of required operation of the cooling towers, down-time for the purposes of maintenance of the minimum number of cooling towers needed for compliance must be kept to a minimum and scheduled during times when the thermal discharge will have minimal impact on the receiving waters. **The permittee is required to verbally contact the Department within 24 hours and in writing within 5 days should the cooling tower be off-line for more than a 12-hour period of time during the period of required operation.**

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

OUTFALL #006 – Kinney Strainer – (Filter backwash)

No limitations or monitoring requirements are being established for this outfall due to the nature of the discharge. The discharge must be uncontaminated except for backwashed solids and debris removed from the river.

OUTFALL #00TA – Total thermal load from Outfalls #001A/B, #002A, #003A and #004A

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations					Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average as specified	Daily Maximum as specified	Monthly Average as specified	Weekly Average as specified	Daily Maximum as specified	Measurement Frequency as specified	Sample Type as specified
Thermal Discharge June 1 – Sept. 30 [00017]	---	---	---	---	1.21 EE10 ⁽¹⁾ BTU's/Day [34]	1/Day [01/01]	Calculate [CA]

OUTFALL #00TB – When discharging from Outfall #005A, the total thermal load from Outfalls #001A/B, #002A, #003A, #004A & #005A is limited as follows.

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations					Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average as specified	Daily Maximum as specified	Monthly Average as specified	Weekly Average as specified	Daily Maximum as specified	Measurement Frequency as specified	Sample Type as specified
Thermal Discharge June 1 – Sept. 30 [00017]	---	---	---	---	2.05 EE10 ⁽¹⁾ BTU's/Day [34]	1/Day [01/01]	Calculate [CA]

Footnotes:

The daily maximum thermal limitations are in effect between June 1 and September 30 when the daily average Androscoggin River temperature is $\geq 66^\circ$ F. The permittee must monitor the river temperature at the #1 water treatment plant. At its discretion, the permittee may alternatively monitor the temperature of the river at the Upper Hydro Station or at another alternative site approved by the Department.

(1) 1.21 EE10 and 2.05 EE10 represent 1.21×10^{10} and 2.05×10^{10} . See Special Condition J, *Thermal Load*, of this permit for the equation to calculate the thermal loading.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS
OUTFALL #100A (Combined Bleach Plant)

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations				Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average as specified	Daily Maximum as specified	Monthly Average as specified	Daily Maximum as specified	Measurement Frequency as specified	Sample Type as specified
Flow [50050]	Report MGD [03]	Report MGD [03]	---	---	1/Day ⁽¹⁾ [01/01]	Recorder [RC]
2,3,7,8 TCDD (Dioxin) ⁽²⁾ [34675]	---	---	---	<10 pg/L ⁽³⁾ [3L]	1/Year [01/YR]	Composite [24]
2,3,7,8 TCDF (Furan) ⁽²⁾ [38691]	---	---	---	<10 pg/L ⁽³⁾ [3L]	1/Year [01/YR]	Composite [24]
Trichlorosyringol ⁽³⁾ [73054]	---	---	---	<2.5 ug/L ⁽³⁾ [28]	1/Year [01/30]	Composite [24]
3,4,5-Trichlorocatechol ⁽⁴⁾ [73037]	---	---	---	<5.0 ug/L ⁽³⁾ [28]	1/Year [01/YR]	Composite [24]
3,4,,6- Trichlorocatechol ⁽⁴⁾ [51024]	---	---	---	<5.0 ug/L ⁽³⁾ [28]	1/Year [01/30]	Composite [24]
3,4,5-Trichloroguaiacol ⁽⁴⁾ [61024]	---	---	---	<2.5 ug/L ⁽³⁾ [28]	1/Year [01/YR]	Composite [24]
3,4,6-Trichloroguaiacol ⁽⁴⁾ [51022]	---	---	---	<2.5 ug/L ⁽³⁾ [28]	1/Year [01/30]	Composite [24]
4,5,6-Trichloroguaiacol ⁽⁴⁾ [73088]	---	---	---	<2.5 ug/L ⁽³⁾ [28]	1/Year [01/YR]	Composite [24]
2,4,5-Trichlorophenol ⁽⁴⁾ [61023]	---	---	---	<2.5 ug/L ⁽³⁾ [28]	1/Year [01/YR]	Composite [24]
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol ⁽⁴⁾ [34621]	---	---	---	<2.5 ug/L ⁽³⁾ [28]	1/Year [01/30]	Composite [24]
Tetrachlorocatechol ⁽⁴⁾ [79850]	---	---	---	<5.0 ug/L ⁽³⁾ [28]	1/Year [01/YR]	Composite [24]
Tetrachloroguaiacol ⁽⁴⁾ [73047]	---	---	---	<5.0 ug/L ⁽³⁾ [28]	1/Year [01/30]	Composite [24]
2,3,4,6-Tetrachlorophenol ⁽⁴⁾ [77770]	---	---	---	<2.5 ug/L ⁽³⁾ [28]	1/Year [01/YR]	Composite [24]
Pentachlorophenol ⁽⁴⁾ [39032]	---	---	---	<5.0 ug/L ⁽³⁾ [28]	1/Year [01/YR]	Composite [24]
Chloroform ⁽⁵⁾ [32106]	12.4 #/day [26]	20.8 #/day [26]	---	---	1/Year [01/YR]	Grab [24]

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

Outfall #100A (Combined Bleach Plant)

Footnotes:

- (1) **1/Day Sampling** – The permittee is only required to calculate and report flows on days when sampling is being conducted.
- (2) **2,3,7,8 TCDD (Dioxin) & 2,3,7,8 TCDF (Furan)** – The analytical method to be used to determine the concentrations of dioxin and furan shall be EPA Method 1613B. See Special Condition G, *Dioxin/Furan Certification*, of this permit for annual certification requirements.
- (3) **Minimum Levels (ML's)** - The limitations established in this permitting action for dioxin, furan and the 12 chlorinated phenolic compounds are equivalent to the ML's established for EPA Methods 1613 and 1653 respectively. Compliance will be based on the ML's. For the purposes of reporting test results for on the monthly DMR, the following format shall be adhered to:

Detectable results - All detectable analytical test results must be reported to the Department including results which are detected below the respective ML.

Non-detectable results - If the analytical test result is below the respective ML, the concentration result must be reported as <X where X is the detection level achieved by the laboratory for each respective parameter.

- (4) **12 Chlorinated phenolic compounds** - The analytical method to be used to determine the concentrations of these compounds shall be EPA Method 1653.
- (5) **Chloroform** - The preferred analytical method to be used for chloroform is EPA Method 1624B for which a ML of 20 ug/l shall be attained. Other approved EPA methods are 601 and 624.1, and Standard Method 6210B and 6230B. The permittee must collect separate grab samples from the acid and alkaline bleach plant filtrates for chloroform analysis. Samples to be analyzed for chloroform may be taken over a period not to exceed 32 hours where a minimum of 12 grab samples (6 samples from the acid sewer and 6 samples from the alkaline sewer) are collected, each grab sample being at least three (3) hours apart but no more than 16 hours apart.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

B. NARRATIVE EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS FOR ALL OUTFALLS

1. The permittee must not discharge effluent that contains a visible oil sheen, foam, or floating solids which would impair the uses designated for the classification of the receiving waters. The Veterans Memorial Bridge will serve as an initial observation point for the detection of abnormal levels of foam and floating solids in the river. Should abnormal levels of foam or floating solids be detected at said bridge, the permittee is required to take necessary steps to mitigate or eliminate the source(s) of foam or floating solids. The permittee is required to notify the Department of such events in accordance with Standard Condition D, *Reporting Requirements*, of this permit.
2. The permittee must not discharge effluent that contains materials in concentrations or combinations which are hazardous or toxic to aquatic life; or which would impair the uses designated for the classification of the receiving waters.
3. The discharge must not impart 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 lower the existing quality of any body of water if the existing quality is higher than the classification.

C. TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

The person who has the management responsibility over the treatment facility must hold a **Maine Grade V** Biological Treatment certificate (or higher) or must be a Maine Registered Professional Engineer pursuant to *Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators*, Title 32 M.R.S., Sections 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 approved by the Department before the permittee may engage the services of the contract operator.

D. 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 December 22, 2022 and the modification application accepted for processing on April 23, 2025; 2) the terms and conditions of this permit; and 3) only from the outfalls acknowledged by this permit. Discharges of wastewater from any other point source 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.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

E. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE (O&M) PLAN

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 transport, 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 and or substantial upgrades of the wastewater treatment facility, the permittee must submit the updated pertinent sections of the O&M Plan to their Department inspector for review and comment.

F. STATEMENT FOR REDUCED/WAIVED TOXICS TESTING

In accordance with 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 530(2)(D)(4), and **by December 31** of each calendar year, the permittee must provide the Department with a certification describing any of the following that have occurred since the effective date of this permit [ICIS Code 75305]. See **Attachment B** for an acceptable certification form to satisfy this Special Condition.

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

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

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

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

F. STATEMENT FOR REDUCED/WAIVED TOXICS TESTING (cont'd)

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

G. DIOXIN/FURAN CERTIFICATION

As a totally chlorine-free (TCF) bleaching plant, in lieu of 1/Month monitoring of the bleach plant waste stream for 2,3,7,8 TCDD (dioxin) and 2,3,7,8 TCDF (furan) (40 C.F.R. Part 430), **by December 31 of each calendar year** (*PCS Code 95799*), the permittee must sample at a minimum of 1/Year and report the results for said parameters and provide the Department with a certification stating:

- a. Elemental chlorine gas or hypochlorite was not used in the bleaching of pulp.
- b. The chlorine dioxide (ClO₂) generating plant has been operated in a manner which minimizes or eliminates byproduct elemental chlorine generation per the manufacturers/suppliers recommendations.
- c. Documented and verifiable purchasing procedures are in place for the procurement of defoamers or other additives without elevated levels of known dioxin precursors.
- d. Fundamental design changes that affect the ClO₂ plant and/or bleach plant operation have been reported to the Department prior to their implementation and said reports explained the reason(s) for the change and any possible adverse consequences if any.

H. GULF ISLAND POND OXYGEN INJECTION OPERATION

1. The permittee must, in partnership with Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC and Gorham Paper and Tissue LLC or their successors in interest, operate and maintain a system to inject oxygen into Gulf Island Pond at Upper Narrows and Lower Narrows in such quantities and in such manner as described in this condition.
2. The permittee must, in partnership with Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC and Gorham Paper and Tissue LLC, or their successors-in-interest, inject oxygen at Upper Narrows at a rate of up to 17,125 lbs/day at an oxygen transfer efficiency of 54%, and at Lower Narrows at a rate of up to 28,170 lbs/day, at an oxygen transfer efficiency of 75%, or at equivalent rates and efficiencies:
3. The Gulf Island Pond Oxygenation Project (GIPOP) must be available for operation beginning June 1 annually, or as soon thereafter as river flows recede to 5,000 cfs or less (to allow for safe inspection and maintenance of the oxygen injection system) and ending September 30 annually.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

H. GULF ISLAND POND OXYGEN INJECTION OPERATION (cont'd)

During the operational period defined above, GIPOP must be operated in accordance with the GIPOP Oxygen Injection Operational Plan approved by the Department.

4. All temperature measurements, in degrees Celsius, must be obtained from the continuous temperature monitor at Turner Bridge and must be expressed as a 3-day rolling average. The monitor records maximum and minimum temperatures for a given day. The daily average temperature is defined as the arithmetic mean of the maximum and minimum temperatures for a given day. The 3-day rolling average temperature (T) is defined as the arithmetic mean of three consecutive daily average temperature values.
5. All flow measurements, in cubic feet per second, must be obtained from the USGS gauge at Rumford and must be expressed as a 3-day rolling average. The gauge records hourly flows. The daily average flow is defined as the arithmetic average mean of the hourly flows for a given day. The 3-day rolling average flow (Q) is defined as the arithmetic mean of three consecutive daily average flow values.
6. The permittee must, in partnership with Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC and Gorham Paper and Tissue LLC, or their successors-in-interest, conduct and submit the results of any annual ambient water quality monitoring required by this permit to determine compliance with Class C dissolved oxygen standards in Gulf Island Pond, in accordance with a plan approved by the Department, and any subsequent amendments or modifications thereto.
7. Based on any future revisions to the Department's water quality model for the Androscoggin River and Gulf Island Pond and/or any future modifications to the Department's May 2005 Androscoggin River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report, and after notice to the permittee and opportunity for hearing, the Department reserves the right to re-open and modify the terms of this permit to change the rates of oxygen injection specified herein.
8. The permittee must, in partnership with Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC and Gorham Paper and Tissue LLC, or their successors-in-interest, be responsible for taking such actions as are needed to meet Class C dissolved oxygen standards in Gulf Island Pond, insofar as Gulf Island Dam and wastewater discharges from the upstream paper mills cause or contribute to a violation of these standards. After reviewing the results of monitoring following the installation and operation of the oxygen injection system as required above and the implementation of all upstream point source final effluent limits, and after notice to Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC and Gorham Paper and Tissue LLC or their successors-in-interest, and opportunity for hearing, the Department reserves the right to reopen and modify the terms of the relevant permits and certification as applicable to require reduced effluent limitations and/or changes in oxygen injection

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

H. GULF ISLAND POND OXYGEN INJECTION OPERATION (cont'd)

system(s) and/or oxygen injection rates, or other equivalent measures, as may be deemed necessary to ensure that neither Gulf Island Dam nor wastewater discharges from the upstream paper mills cause or contribute to the violation of Class C dissolved oxygen standards in Gulf Island Pond.

9. The permittee may in partnership with Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC and Gorham Paper and Tissue LLC, or their successors-in-interest, submit proposed changes to the operational plan at any time for review and approval by the Department. When reviewing proposed changes to the operational plan, the Department will take into consideration the depressed DO levels which occur in Gulf Island Pond are the result of historic suspended solids deposition, not current discharges of total suspended solids and the results of inhibited mixing in or near the thermocline combined with topographic isolation. Provided that the permittee demonstrates to the Department that the changes to the operational plan do not cause or contribute to the violation of Class C dissolved oxygen standards in Gulf Island Pond, and the Department approves the operational plan, the permittee may implement the revised operational plan immediately.
10. Failure to inject oxygen at the required rates must be reported verbally to the Department as soon as possible by the permittee or by one or more of the parties operating the GIP oxygenation system on behalf of the permittee. Written notification must be submitted to the Department within five days by the permittee or by one or more of the parties operating the GIP oxygenation system on behalf of the permittee.
11. For the months of June, July, August and September of each calendar year, the permittee must submit a spreadsheet (similar in format to the example below) to the Department as an attachment to the respective monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Temperature (°C)</u>	<u>River Flow (cfs)</u>	<u>Oxygen Injected (lbs/day)</u>
6/1	23°C	3,200 cfs	31,000 lbs/day
↓			
6/30	25°C	2,900 cfs	38,150 lbs/day

I. ZONE OF INITIAL DILUTION & MIXING ZONE

The zone of initial dilution for the thermal discharge from the Rumford mill is described as beginning at Outfall 001 and extending downstream a distance of approximately 2.2 miles to the west end (upstream end) of Burke Island. See **Attachment C** of this permit for a map illustrating the extent of the zone of initial dilution.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

I. ZONE OF INITIAL DILUTION & MIXING ZONE (cont'd)

The mixing zone established by the Department in accordance with 38 M.R.S. § 451 for the thermal discharge from the Rumford mill is described as beginning at Outfall #001 and extending downstream approximately 12 miles to a point where the Dixfield, Canton and Peru town lines intersect at a point in the thread of the Androscoggin River. See **Attachment C** of this permit for a map illustrating the extent of the mixing zone. The receiving waters shall not be tested for temperature violations within the designated zone of initial dilution or the established mixing zone.

J. THERMAL LOAD

The flow and temperature limitations for each outfall are in effect year-round. The daily maximum thermal load limitation of 1.21×10^{10} BTU's/day from Outfall 001A, 001B, 002A, 003A and 004A collectively, is in effect between June 1 and September 30 when the daily average Androscoggin River temperature as measured is $\geq 66^\circ$ F at the #1 water treatment plant, Upper Hydro Station, or an alternative location approved by the Department. When discharging from Outfall #005A during the same applicable period, the facility will be limited to a daily maximum thermal load of 2.05×10^{10} BTU's/Day from Outfalls 001A, 001B, 002A, 003A, 004A and 005A collectively. Between June 1 and September 30 of each year, the Q_e , T_e and T_r must be recorded on a daily basis and the thermal load from the mill must be calculated on a daily basis in accordance with the following formula:

$$[(Q_{e_{001}})(T_{e_{001}} - T_r) + (Q_{e_{002}})(T_{e_{002}} - T_r) + \dots + (Q_{e_{005}})(T_{e_{005}} - T_r)](8.34 \text{ lb/gal}) = \Sigma \text{BTU/day}$$

Q_e = Effluent flow in gallons (each outfall)

T_e = Effluent Temperature in °F (each outfall)

T_r = Upstream River Water Temperature in °F obtained from the #1 water treatment plant, Upper Hydro Station, or an alternative location approved by the Department.

The daily recorded and calculated values must be reported to the Department as an attachment to the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR's) for the months of June, July, August and September of each year.

EXAMPLE - DMR REPORTING FORM ATTACHMENT

Outfall #001

<u>Date</u>	<u>Qe (MGD)</u>	<u>Tr(°F)</u>	<u>Te(°F)</u>	<u>Heat (BTU's)</u>
6/1	30.83	67	91	6.17×10^9
6/2	26.64	67	91	5.33×10^9
6/3	24.63	69	90	4.31×10^9

Heat: $(30.83 \text{ MGD})(8.34 \text{ lbs/gal})(91^\circ\text{F} - 67^\circ\text{F}) = 6.17 \times 10^9 \text{ BTU's/day}$

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

J. THERMAL LOAD (cont'd)

The permittee must continue to investigate water reuse projects within the mill and wastewater treatment technology alternatives to reduce the thermal discharge to the Androscoggin River. **As an exhibit in the application for the next permit renewal**, the permittee must submit a summary of the projects undertaken during the term of this permit to reduce the heat load discharged. The report must list the individual projects and quantify the heat load (expressed in BTU's/day) removed as a result of said projects.

K. COLOR

The permittee is required to report the daily average color discharged for a calendar quarter expressed as pounds of color per ton of unbleached pulp produced. Supporting calculations, in a format similar to the format illustrated below must be submitted to the Department as an attachment to the DMRs for the months of March, June, September and December of each year.

Quarter	#001 Flow	Color Conc	Mass	Unbleached Pulp Production
<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>(mgd)</u>	<u>(cpu)</u>	<u>(lbs/day)</u>	<u>tons/day</u>
xx/xs/xx	31	310	80,147	1,100
xx/xs/xx	30	340	85,069	1,050
.....				
xx/xs/xx	31	315	<u>81,440</u>	<u>1,010</u>
Quarterly Average			X=82,219	X=1,053

Quarterly Average Mass per Ton = $82,219/1,053 = 78$ lbs color/ton

L. FISH ADVISORY PROGRAM

When directed to do so, the permittee is required to participate in the State's most current Surface Water Ambient Toxics (SWAT) program administered by the Department, pursuant to Maine law, 38 M.R.S., §420-B.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

M. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PLAN

1. REQUIREMENT TO IMPLEMENT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES:

- a. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for spent pulping liquor must be developed by the permittee in accordance with federal regulation 40 C.F.R., Part 430.03, best engineering practices and must be implemented in a manner that takes into account the specific circumstances at each facility. See 40 C.F.R. Part 430.03 for specialized definitions.
- b. The mill must return spilled or diverted spent pulping liquors, soap, and turpentine to the process to the maximum extent practicable as determined by the mill, recover such materials outside the process, or discharge spilled or diverted material at a rate that does not disrupt the receiving wastewater treatment system.
- c. The mill must establish a program to identify and repair leaking equipment items. This program must include:
 - (i) Regular visual inspections (e.g., once per day) of process areas with equipment items in spent pulping liquor, soap, and turpentine service;
 - (ii) Immediate repairs of leaking equipment items, when possible. Leaking equipment items that cannot be repaired during normal operations must be identified, temporary means for mitigating the leaks must be provided, and the leaking equipment items repaired during the next maintenance outage;
 - (iii) Identification of conditions under which production will be curtailed or halted to repair leaking equipment items or to prevent pulping liquor, soap, and turpentine leaks and spills; and
 - (iv) A means for tracking repairs over time to identify those equipment items where upgrade or replacement may be warranted based on frequency and severity of leaks, spills, or failures.
- d. The mill must operate continuous, automatic monitoring systems that the mill determines are necessary to detect and control leaks, spills, and intentional diversions of spent pulping liquor, soap, and turpentine. These monitoring systems should be integrated with the mill process control system and may include, e.g., high level monitors and alarms on storage tanks; process area conductivity (or pH) monitors and alarms; and process area sewer, process wastewater, and wastewater treatment plant conductivity (or pH) monitors and alarms.
- e. The mill must establish a program of initial and refresher training of operators, maintenance personnel, and other technical and supervisory personnel who have responsibility for operating, maintaining, or supervising the operation and

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

M. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PLAN (cont'd)

- f. maintenance of equipment items in spent pulping liquor, soap, and turpentine service. The refresher training must be conducted at least annually and the training program must be documented.
- g. The mill must prepare a brief report that evaluates each spill of spent pulping liquor, soap, or turpentine that is not contained at the immediate process area and any intentional diversion of spent pulping liquor, soap, or turpentine that is not contained at the immediate process area. The report must describe the equipment items involved, the circumstances leading to the incident, the effectiveness of the corrective actions taken to contain and recover the spill or intentional diversion, and plans to develop changes to equipment and operating and maintenance practices as necessary to prevent recurrence. Discussion of the reports must be included as part of the annual refresher training.
- h. The mill must establish a program to review any planned modifications to the pulping and chemical recovery facilities and any construction activities in the pulping and chemical recovery areas before these activities commence. The purpose of such review is to prevent leaks and spills of spent pulping liquor, soap, and turpentine during the planned modifications, and to ensure that construction and supervisory personnel are aware of possible liquor diversions and of the requirement to prevent leaks and spills of spent pulping liquors, soap, and turpentine during construction.
- i. The mill must install and maintain secondary containment (*i.e.*, containment constructed of materials impervious to pulping liquors) for spent pulping liquor bulk storage tanks equivalent to the volume of the largest tank plus sufficient freeboard for precipitation. An annual tank integrity testing program, if coupled with other containment or diversion structures, may be substituted for secondary containment for spent pulping liquor bulk storage tanks.
- j. The mill must install and maintain secondary containment for turpentine bulk storage tanks.
- k. The mill must install and maintain curbing, diking or other means of isolating soap and turpentine processing and loading areas from the wastewater treatment facilities.
- l. The mill must conduct wastewater monitoring to detect leaks and spills, to track the effectiveness of the BMPs, and to detect trends in spent pulping liquor losses. Such monitoring must be performed in accordance with [paragraph \(i\)](#) of this section.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

M. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PLAN (cont'd)

2. AMENDMENT OF BMP PLAN

- a. The permittee must amend its BMP Plan whenever there is a change in mill design, construction, operation, or maintenance that materially affects the potential for leaks or spills of spent pulping liquor, turpentine, or soap from the immediate process areas.
- b. The permittee must complete a review and evaluation of the BMP Plan every five years. As a result of this review and evaluation, the permittee must amend the BMP Plan within three months of the review if the mill determines that any new or modified management practices and engineered controls are necessary to significantly reduce the likelihood of spent pulping liquor, soap, and turpentine leaks, spills, or intentional diversions from the immediate process areas. The BMP plan must include a schedule for implementation of such practices and controls.

3. REVIEW AND CERTIFICATION OF BMP PLAN

The BMP Plan, and any amendments, must be reviewed by the senior technical manager at the mill and approved and signed by the mill manager. Any person signing the BMP Plan or its amendments must certify to the Department under penalty of law that the BMP Plan (or its amendments) has been prepared in accordance with good engineering practices and in accordance with federal regulation 40 CFR, Part 430.03. The mill is not required to obtain approval from the Department of the BMP Plan or any amendments.

4. RECORD KEEPING

- a. The permittee must maintain on its premises a complete copy of the current BMP Plan and associated records. The BMP Plan and records must be made available to the Department for review upon request.
- b. The mill must maintain the following records for three years from the date they are created:
 - i. Records tracking the repairs performed in accordance with the repair program;
 - ii. Records of initial and refresher training conducted in accordance with the plan;
 - iii. Records of all leaks and spills as required by the plan;
 - iv. Records of all monitoring required by the plan;
 - v. Reports prepared in accordance with the plan.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

M. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PLAN (cont'd)

5. ESTABLISHMENT OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM INFLUENT ACTION LEVELS
 - a. The permittee must conduct a monitoring program for the purpose of defining wastewater treatment system influent characteristics (or action levels) that will trigger requirements to initiate investigations on BMP effectiveness and to take corrective action.
 - b. The permittee must employ the following procedures in order to develop required action levels:
 - (i) Monitoring parameters. The permittee must collect 24-hour composite samples and analyze the samples for a measure of organic content (e.g., Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) or Total Organic Carbon (TOC)). Alternatively, the permittee may use a measure related to spent pulping liquor losses measured continuously and averaged over 24 hours (e.g., specific conductivity or color).
 - (ii) Monitoring locations. For direct dischargers, monitoring must be conducted at the point influent enters the wastewater treatment system. For the purposes of this requirement, the permittee may select alternate monitoring point(s) in order to isolate possible sources of spent pulping liquor, soap, or turpentine from other possible sources of organic wastewaters that are tributary to the wastewater treatment facilities (e.g., bleach plants, paper machines and secondary fiber operations).
 - c. A wastewater treatment influent action level is a statistically determined pollutant loading determined by a statistical analysis of six months of daily measurements. The initial action levels must remain in effect until replaced by revised action levels. The action levels must consist of a lower and a higher action level, which if exceeded will trigger investigative requirements and corrective actions.
 - d. Action levels developed must be revised using six months of monitoring data after any change in mill design, construction, operation, or maintenance that materially affects the potential for leaks or spills of spent pulping liquor, soap, or turpentine from the immediate process areas.
6. MONITORING, CORRECTIVE ACTION, AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
 - a. The permittee must conduct daily monitoring of the influent to the wastewater treatment system in accordance with the procedures described in paragraph (7) for the purpose of detecting leaks and spills, tracking the effectiveness of the BMPs, and detecting trends in spent pulping liquor losses.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

M. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PLAN (cont'd)

- b. Whenever monitoring results exceed the lower action level for the period of time specified in the BMP Plan, the permittee must conduct an investigation to determine the cause of such exceedance. Whenever monitoring results exceed the upper action level for the period of time specified in the BMP Plan, the permittee must complete corrective action to bring the wastewater treatment system influent mass loading below the lower action level as soon as practicable.
- c. Although exceedance of the action levels will not constitute violations of the permit, failure to investigate and take necessary remedial actions as soon as practicable may be a violation of this permit.
- d. The permittee must report to the Department the results of the daily monitoring conducted pursuant to paragraph (7). Such reports must include a summary of the monitoring results, the number and dates of exceedance of the applicable action levels, and brief descriptions of any corrective actions taken to respond to such exceedance. **Submission of such reports must be at least 1/year with the December DMR [PCS Code 34599].**

N. TOTAL PHOSPHORUS SAMPLING PLAN

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.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

O. 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.

Toxics reporting must be done using the Department 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. Documentation submitted electronically to the Department 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.

P. REOPENING OF PERMIT FOR MODIFICATIONS

In accordance with 38 M.R.S. § 414-A(5) and upon evaluation of the tests 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 anytime and with notice to the permittee, modify this permit to: 1) include effluent limits necessary to control specific pollutants or whole effluent toxicity where there is a reasonable potential that the effluent may cause water quality criteria to be exceeded; (2) require additional monitoring if results on file are inconclusive; or (3) change monitoring requirements or limitations based on new information considering ambient water quality conditions.

Q. 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 must be construed and enforced in all aspects as if such unlawful provision, or part thereof, had been omitted, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

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.

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

Approved Analytical Methods: EPA 300.0 (Rev. 2.1), 300.1 (Rev. 1.0), 365.1 (Rev. 2.0), 365.3; SM 4110 B, 4110 B-00, 4500-P E, 4500-P F; ASTM D515-88(A), D4327-97, 03; D6508 (Rev. 2); USGS I-4601-85; OMAAOAC 973.55, 973.56, 993.30

Sample Collection: The Maine DEP is requesting that orthophosphate analysis be conducted on composite effluent samples unless a facility's Permit specifically indicates 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. The sampler hoses should be cleaned, as needed. Commercially purchased, pre-cleaned sample containers and or syringe type filtering apparatus are acceptable. If bench top filtering apparatus is being used this should be cleaned, as described above, before each use.

Sample Preservation: During compositing the sample must be at 0-6 degrees C (without freezing). The sample must be filtered immediately (within 15 minutes) after collection using a pre-washed 0.45-um membrane filter. Be sure to follow one of the pre-washing procedures described in the approved methods unless your commercial lab is providing you with pre-washed filters and filtering apparatus. If the sample is being sent to a commercial laboratory or analysis cannot be performed within 2 hours after collection then the sample must be kept at 0-6 degrees C (without freezing). There is a 48-hour holding time for this sample although analysis should be done sooner, if possible.

Laboratory QA/QC: Laboratories must follow the appropriate QA/QC procedures that are described in each of the approved methods. Additionally, laboratories providing filters or filter apparatus for sampling are required to submit blank data for each lot of filters/filtering apparatus to the facility.

Sampling QA/QC:

Filter Blank- if a facility is using a pre-cleaned filter and or filtering apparatus provided by a commercial laboratory then the commercial laboratory must run a filter/filtering apparatus blank on each lot. The results of that analysis must be provided to the facility.

If a facility is using their own filters and filtering apparatus then a filter blank must be included with every sample set that does not include a composite sampler (composite jug and sample line) blank.

Composite Sampler Blank- If a composite sample is being collected using an automatic composite sampler, then once per month run a blank on the composite sampler. A separate filter blank does not have to be done along with the composite sampler blank. When running a composite sampler blank, 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 filter and analyze for orthophosphate. Preserve these samples as described above.

ATTACHMENT B

RE-ASSESSMENT OF TECHNICALLY BASED INDUSTRIAL DISCHARGE LIMITS

Pursuant to federal regulation 40 CFR §122.21(j)(4) and Department rule *Chapter 528*, all Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) with approved Industrial Pretreatment Programs (IPPs) shall provide the Department with a written evaluation of the need to revise local industrial discharge limits under federal regulation 40 CFR §403.5(c)(1) and Department rule *Chapter 528, 6*.

Below is a form designed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA - New England) to assist POTWs with approved IPPs in evaluating whether their existing Technically Based Local Limits (TBLLs) need to be recalculated. The form allows the permittee and Department to evaluate and compare pertinent information used in previous TBLLs calculations against present conditions at the POTW.

Please read the directions below before filling out the attached form.

ITEM I.

- * In Column (1), list what your POTW's influent flow rate was when your existing TBLLs were calculated. In Column (2), list your POTW's present influent flow rate. Your current flow rate should be calculated using the POTW's average daily flow rate from the previous 12 months.
- * In Column (1) list what your POTW's SIU flow rate was when your existing TBLLs were calculated. In Column (2), list your POTW's present SIU flow rate.
- * In Column (1), list what dilution ratio and/or 7Q10 value was used in your previous NPDES permit. In Column (2), list what dilution ratio and/or 7Q10 value is presently being used in your new/reissued MEPDES permit.

The 7Q10 value is the lowest seven day average flow rate, in the river, over a ten year period. The 7Q10 value and/or dilution ratio used by the Department in your MEPDES permit can be found in your MEPDES permit "Fact Sheet."

- * In Column (1), list the safety factor, if any, that was used when your existing TBLLs were calculated.
- * In Column (1), note how your bio-solids were managed when your existing TBLLs were calculated. In Column (2), note how your POTW is presently disposing of its biosolids and how your POTW will be disposing of its biosolids in the future.

ITEM II.

- * List what your existing TBLLs are - as they appear in your current Sewer Use Ordinance (SUO).

ITEM III.

- * Identify how your existing TBLLs are allocated out to your industrial community. Some pollutants may be allocated differently than others, if so please explain.

ITEM IV.

- * Since your existing TBLLs were calculated, identify the following in detail:
 - (1) if your POTW has experienced any upsets, inhibition, interference or pass-through as a result of an industrial discharge.
 - (2) if your POTW is presently violating any of its current MEPDES permit limitations - include toxicity.

ITEM V.

- * Using current sampling data, list in Column (1) the average and maximum amount of pollutants (in pounds per day) received in the POTW's influent. Current sampling data is defined as data obtained over the last 24 month period.

All influent data collected and analyzed must be in accordance with federal regulation 40 CFR §136. Sampling data collected should be analyzed using the lowest possible detection method(s), e.g. graphite furnace.

- * Based on your existing TBLLs, as presented in Item II., list in Column (2) each Maximum Allowable Industrial Headworks Loading (MAIHL) value corresponding to each of the local limits derived from an applicable environmental criteria or standard, e.g. water quality, sludge, NPDES, inhibition, etc. For each pollutant, the MAIHL equals the calculated Maximum Allowable Headwork Loading (MAHL) minus the POTW's domestic loading source(s). For more information, please see p., 3-28 in EPA's Guidance Manual on the Development and Implementation of Local Limits Under the Pretreatment Program, 12/87.

ITEM VI.

- * Using current sampling data, list in Column (1) the average and maximum amount of pollutants (in micrograms per liter) present your POTW's effluent. Current sampling data is defined as data obtained during the last 24 month period.

All effluent data collected and analyzed must be in accordance with federal regulation 40 CFR §136. Sampling data collected should be analyzed using the lowest possible detection method(s), e.g. graphite furnace.

- * List in Column (2A) what the Water Quality Standards (WQS) were (in micrograms per liter) when your TBLLs were calculated, please note what hardness value was used at that time. Hardness should be expressed in milligram per liter of Calcium Carbonate.

List in Column (2B) the current WQSs or "Chronic Gold Book" values for each pollutant multiplied by the dilution ratio used in your new/reissued MEPDES permit. For example, with a dilution ratio of 25:1 at a hardness of 20 mg/l - Calcium Carbonate (copper's chronic WQS equals 2.99 ug/l) the chronic MEPDES permit limit for copper would equal 75 ug/l.

ITEM VII.

- * In Column (1), list all pollutants (in micrograms per liter) limited in your new/reissued MEPDES permit. In Column (2), list all pollutants limited in your old/expired NPDES permit.

ITEM VIII.

- * Using current sampling data, list in Column (1) the average and maximum amount of pollutants in your POTW's biosolids. Current data is defined as data obtained during the last 24 month period. Results are to be expressed as total dry weight.

All biosolids data collected and analyzed must be in accordance with federal 40 CFR §136.

In Column (2A), list current State and/or Federal sludge standards that your facility's biosolids must comply with. Also note how your POTW currently manages the disposal of its biosolids. If your POTW is planning on managing its biosolids differently, list in Column (2B) what your new biosolids criteria will be and method of disposal.

In general, please be sure the units reported are correct and all pertinent information is included in your evaluation. If you have any questions, please contact your pretreatment representative at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Land & Water Quality, Division of Engineering, Compliance & Technical Assistance, State House Station #17, Augusta, ME. 04333. The telephone number is (207) 287-3901.

**REASSESSMENT OF TECHNICALLY BASED LOCAL LIMITS
(TBLLs)**

POTW Name & Address _____

NPDES PERMIT # _____

Date EPA approved current TBLLs _____

Date EPA approved current Sewer Use Ordinance _____

ITEM I.

In Column (1) list the conditions that existed when your current TBLLs were calculated. In Column (2), list current conditions or expected conditions at your POTW.

	Column (1) <u>EXISTING TBLLs</u>	Column (2) <u>PRESENT CONDITIONS</u>
POTW Flow (MGD)	_____	_____
SIU Flow (MGD)	_____	_____
Dilution Ratio or 7Q10 from the NPDES and MEPDES Permit)	_____	_____
Safety Factor	_____	_____
Biosolids Disposal Method(s)	_____	_____

ITEM II.

EXISTING TBLLs

<u>POLLUTANT</u>	<u>NUMERICAL LIMIT</u> (mg/l)	<u>POLLUTANT</u>	<u>NUMERICAL LIMIT</u> (mg/l)
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

ITEM III.

Note how your existing TBLLs, listed in Item II., are allocated to your Significant Industrial Users (SIUs), i.e. **uniform concentration**, contributory flow, mass proportioning, other. Please specify by circling. –

ITEM IV.

Has your POTW experienced any upsets, inhibition, interference or pass-through from industrial sources since your existing TBLLs were calculated?

If yes, explain _____

Has your POTW violated any of its MEPDES permit limits and/or toxicity test requirements?

If yes, explain _____

ITEM V.

Using current POTW influent sampling data fill in Column (1). In Column (2), list your Maximum Allowable Industrial Headwork Loading (MAIHL) values used to derive your TBLs listed in Item II. In addition, please note the environmental criteria for which each MAIHL value was established, i.e. water quality, sludge, MEPDES etc.

<u>Pollutant</u>	Column (1)		Column (2)	
	<u>Influent</u>	<u>Data</u>	<u>MAIHL Values</u>	<u>Criteria</u>
	<u>Analyses</u>			
	<u>Maximum</u>	<u>Average</u>		
	(lb/day)	(lb/day)	(lb/day)	
Arsenic	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cadmium	_____	_____	_____	_____
Chromium	_____	_____	_____	_____
Copper	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cyanide	_____	_____	_____	_____
Lead	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mercury	_____	_____	_____	_____
Nickel	_____	_____	_____	_____
Silver	_____	_____	_____	_____
Zinc	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other (List)	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

ITEM VI.

Using current POTW effluent sampling data, fill in Column (1). In Column (2A) list what the Water Quality Standards (Gold Book Criteria) were at the time your existing TBLLs were developed. List in Column (2B) current Gold Book values multiplied by the dilution ratio used in your new/reissued NPDES permit.

<u>Pollutant</u>	Column (1)		Columns (2A) (2B)	
	<u>Effluent Data Analyses</u> <u>Maximum</u> (ug/l)	<u>Average</u> (ug/l)	<u>Water Quality Criteria</u> <u>(Gold Book)</u> <u>From TBLLs</u> (ug/l)	<u>Today</u> (ug/l)
Arsenic	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cadmium*	_____	_____	_____	_____
Chromium*	_____	_____	_____	_____
Copper*	_____	_____	_____	_____
Cyanide	_____	_____	_____	_____
Lead*	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mercury	_____	_____	_____	_____
Nickel*	_____	_____	_____	_____
Silver	_____	_____	_____	_____
Zinc*	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other (List)	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

*Hardness Dependent (mg/l-CaCO3)

ITEM VII.

In Column (1), identify all pollutants limited in your new/reissued MEPDES permit. In Column (2), identify all pollutants that were limited in your old/expired NPDES permit.

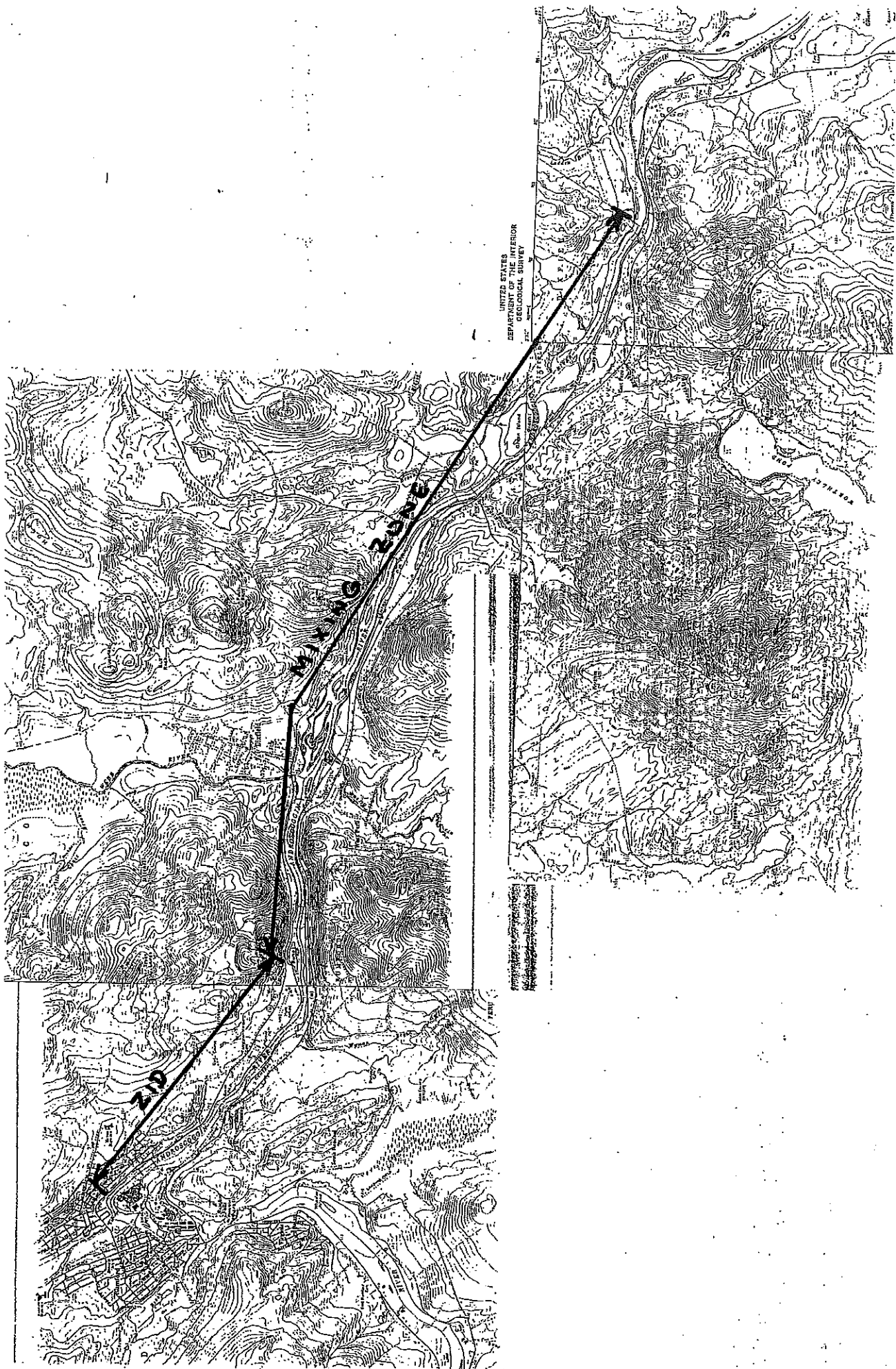
Column (1) NEW PERMIT		Column (2) OLD PERMIT	
<u>Pollutants</u>	<u>Limitations</u> (ug/l)	<u>Pollutants</u>	<u>Limitations</u> (ug/l)
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

ITEM VIII.

Using current POTW biosolids data, fill in Column (1). In Column (2A), list the biosolids criteria that was used at the time your existing TBLLs were calculated. If your POTW is planning on managing its biosolids differently, list in Column (2B) what your new biosolids criteria would be and method of disposal.

Pollutant	Column (1)	(2A)	Columns (2B)
	Biosolids Data Analyses <u>Average</u> (mg/kg)	Biosolids Criteria From TBLLs <u>(mg/kg)</u>	New <u>(mg/kg)</u>
Arsenic	_____	_____	_____
Cadmium	_____	_____	_____
Chromium	_____	_____	_____
Copper	_____	_____	_____
Cyanide	_____	_____	_____
Lead	_____	_____	_____
Mercury	_____	_____	_____
Nickel	_____	_____	_____
Silver	_____	_____	_____
Zinc	_____	_____	_____
Molybdenum	_____	_____	_____
Selenium	_____	_____	_____
Other (List)	_____	_____	_____

ATTACHMENT C



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

FACT SHEET

Date: **May 14, 2026**

PERMIT NUMBER: **ME0002054**

LICENSE NUMBER: **W000955-5N-T-R/W000955-5N-U-M**

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

**ND PAPER, INC.
35 Hartford Street
Rumford, Maine 04276**

COUNTY: **Oxford County**

NAME AND ADDRESS WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

**Rumford Mill
35 Hartford Street
Rumford, Maine 04276**

RECEIVING WATER AND CLASSIFICATION: **Androscoggin River/ Class C**

COGNIZANT OFFICIAL AND TELEPHONE NUMBER: **Shawn Farrington**

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1. APPLICATION SUMMARY

- a. Application – On December 2, 2022, ND Paper Inc. (“ND,” ”permittee,” or “Rumford Mill”) filed a timely and complete application with the Department to renew combination Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit #ME0002054/Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) #W000955-5N-Q-R (“permit”) that was issued by the Department on December 4, 2017, for a five-year term. The 12/04/2017 permit was issued in the name of Catalyst Paper Operations Inc, the owner and operator of the mill at the time, to discharge up to 34 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated process waste waters, treated spills of sanitary waste waters, treated landfill leachate, treated stormwater runoff, filter backwash and general housekeeping waste waters associated with a draft pulp and papermaking facility from a single outfall to the Androscoggin River, Class C, in Rumford Maine.

On December 3, 2020, the permit was modified and transferred to ND Paper, Inc. The modification altered the limits for adsorbable organic halogen (AOX) and chloroform depending on the production of bleached or unbleached product. The permit expired on

1. APPLICATION SUMMARY (cont'd)

12/04/2022 and has been administratively continued since the Department had received a timely application for renewal.

The 12/02/2022 application included a summary of projects undertaken during the permit term to reduce the heat load discharged as required under Special Condition J – Thermal Load. The summary included:

- the conversion of a portion of the product to manufacture unbleached grades and the cessation of softwood bleach plant operations,
- 2021 repair and replacement of 2 digester blow gas heat exchangers, and
- 2022 recovery economizer ash hopper improvements.

The ND mill in Rumford, Maine (see **Attachment A**) of this Fact Sheet for a location map) manufactures bleached kraft market pulp and fine coated paper. The 12/04/2017 permit authorized the discharge up to a monthly average flow of 34 million gallons per day (MGD) of treated process waste waters, treated spills of sanitary waste waters, treated landfill leachate, treated stormwater runoff, filter backwash and general housekeeping waste waters associated with a kraft pulp and papermaking facility and energy generating equipment from a single outfall to the Androscoggin River in Rumford, Maine. In addition to the aforementioned waste waters discharged, this permit authorized treated discharges associated with or resulting from essential maintenance, regularly scheduled maintenance during start-up and shutdown, treated spills and releases (whether anticipated or unanticipated) from anywhere in the permitted facilities. ND's wastewater collection and treatment systems are also used for elementary neutralization pursuant to Maine law, 38 M.R.S. § 1319.1. The permit authorized ND to discharge up to 47 MGD of cooling waters via four additional outfalls. The permittee also maintains coverage for eight storm water outfalls under a MEPDES Multi-Sector General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated With Industrial Activity issued by the Department on December 16, 2016, with coverage granted for the mill site on March 24, 2017.

According to the April 23, 2025 application amendment and modification request, the mill produces an average of 1,593 tons per day (TPD) of fine coated paper and 518 tons/day of bleached market pulp and 456 tons per day of ground wood pulp. Pulp production is allocated at approximately 35% softwood and 65% hardwood although the ratio will vary depending on market conditions. In follow-up communication with the permittee regarding the application, the facility confirmed it continues to produce 1,503 tons per day of air-dried pulp. ND is also permitted to treat wastewater from the manufacturing of unbleached grades, including the manufacturing of unbleached pulp and paper and 300 tons per day of recycle pulp. Though pulp and paper production is up and down based on market conditions, these values are representative of normal production and are therefore being used to derive applicable production-based technology limitations in this permitting action. The ND mill has been elemental chlorine free (ECF) since February 1997 and uses chlorine dioxide as the primary bleaching agent.

1. APPLICATION SUMMARY (cont'd)

- b. Permit Modifications Requested – In the April 22, 2025, modification request, the permittee requested the following permit modifications to the 12/04/2017 permit and subsequent 12/03/2020 modification:
1. Modify Special Condition H, *Gulf Island Pond Oxygen Injection Operation* to eliminate and replace the fixed table with a condition for a plan subject to Department approval that can be modified without going through a formal permit modification process.
- c. Source Description: The Rumford Mill is an integrated pulp and paper manufacturing plant, owned and operated by ND Paper, Inc. Operations at the mill include a full range of manufacturing and supporting activities designed to produce a variety of pulp and paper products. The manufacturing processes that generate wastewater in the Rumford Mill complex generally include: the pulp mill and bleach plant area, the paper machines, and the steam plant and utilities area.

The pulp mill produces groundwood pulp (also referred to as “mechanical pulp”) and bleached softwood and hardwood kraft pulp. The chemical pulp mill operations include separate Line A and Line B pulp bleaching process lines, as well as a chemical preparation process used to produce chemicals used in the bleaching processes. Groundwood pulp is produced in a separate mechanical pulping process line. Pulping operations consist of a continuous Kamyr digester producing softwood kraft pulp, and ten batch digesters producing hardwood kraft pulp. Four of the batch digesters have the capability to process either softwood or hardwood pulp. The kraft pulp is bleached in a three stage D₀ E_{0P} D₁ bleach plant utilizing chlorine dioxide and hydrogen peroxide for bleaching, with separate bleaching lines for softwood and hardwood pulp. The Rumford Mill has been elemental chlorine free (ECF) since February 1997.

The primary sources of wastewater and pollutants in these processes are digester blow condensing, pulp washing, screening and thickening. The sources of wastewater in the bleach plant are thickening and washing.

The paper mill process area consists of all the equipment and operations used to convert pulp to paper. More specifically, this includes stock (pulp) preparation, additives preparation, coating preparation, starch handling, finishing, storage, and four paper machines (R-9, R-10, R-12, and R-15) and a tissue machine. The pulp used in the production of paper consists primarily of the bleached kraft pulp produced in the pulp mill; for certain applications, pulp obtained from outside suppliers (including recycled fiber) is employed as well. Of the four paper machines, R-10, R-12, and R-15 produce coated papers, while R-9 operates as a pulp dryer to produce market pulp.

Water system flows and mill water usage is summarized in the following section. Most mill water comes from the Androscoggin and Swift Rivers.

1. APPLICATION SUMMARY (cont'd)

The mill has 6 water systems as follows:

- #1 water system provides 12 – 15 MGD of sand filtered/chlorinated water to the mill as process makeup water further divided into hot and cold #1 water.
- #2 water system provides 15 – 20 MGD of filtered water to the pulp mill/ bleach plant. It is also used for seal water.
- Old #3 water system supplies 6-9 MGD of filtered water for cooling water, and is the water discharged from the thermal sewers.
- New #3 water supplies 14 to 30 MGD of filtered water for cooling purposes in the recovery boiler, #15 paper machine, and R-8 ClO₂ plant. Some of this water is also discharged from the thermal sewers.
- Cogeneration water supplies 20 to 35 MGD of cooling water strictly to cogeneration and is primarily closed loop when the system is utilizing “once through mode”. This water is discharged from Outfall #005A.
- 0.25 MGD of potable water is supplied by the Town of Rumford via hard pipe. Bottled water is supplied for drinking.

Some of these water systems handle water that is recycled from other water systems in the mill. Not all of the nominal capacity of each water system is for water withdrawal.

Sources contributing to process wastewater include pulp and paper manufacturing operations, electric power generation, landfill leachate, and stormwater. Sanitary sewage is transported off-site and treated at the Rumford-Mexico Sewerage District. Process wastewater is pumped to the mill's effluent treatment plant where it is treated prior to discharge. Non-contact cooling water and strainer/filter backwash water is discharged untreated. It is estimated that approximately 1.5 MGD of water is lost to the atmosphere and/or contained in final products.

The steam plant operation encompasses the area associated with #3 Power Boiler which provides steam and electric power for mill operations. Utilities operations include the combustion, feedwater treatment, fuel oil storage tanks, and a steam turbine generator associated with this power boiler.

The Cogeneration Plant encompasses the operational area associated with #6 Boiler and #7 Boiler, which provide steam and electric power for mill operations. The Cogen plant operations include the combustion, feedwater treatment, and steam generation systems associated with these boilers, as well as multi-fuel handling and storage equipment, ash handling and storage equipment, three cooling towers, and a steam turbine generator.

1. APPLICATION SUMMARY (cont'd)

The chemical recovery operation encompasses the operational area associated with C-Recovery boiler, steam stripper, the lime kiln, and causticizing.

Sources of wastewater from the utilities operations include the evaporator system and recovery boiler. Sources of water and solids losses are from the scrubber systems of #3 boiler, the scrubber for the lime kiln, and purge from the cogeneration and other boiler feedwater systems.

Outfall #001A, Outfall #001B, & Outfall #001C

Treated process wastewater is discharged from Outfall 001A into the Androscoggin River via a 36-inch steel pipe. The top-of-pipe outfall elevation is approximately 414 feet above mean sea level (MSL) and is located between the lower hydroelectric station tailrace discharge points. There is no diffuser, mixer, or similar structure associated with this outfall. Outfall 001B is an administratively designated outfall used for reporting Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) analyses when discharging from outfall 001A. During periods of high flow in the river, most commonly occurring in the spring and fall, discharges from Outfall 001A are hydraulically limited. As a result, the wastewater treatment facility experiences hydraulic limitations and best practicable treatment of the wastewater is jeopardized. During such times, the facility discharges from Outfall 001C (referred to as Outfall 001B in previous permits), a 36-inch diameter pipe located slightly upstream of Outfall 001A. The discharges from Outfall 001C receive the same degree of treatment as discharges from Outfall 001A. There is no diffuser, mixer, or similar structure associated with this outfall.

Outfall 002A

Outfall #002A consists of non-contact cooling water from heat exchangers located in the pulp mill and paper mill (north end) and is discharged into the Androscoggin River via a 12-inch diameter stainless steel pipe. The top-of-pipe elevation is approximately 413 feet Mean Sea Level (MSL) and the summer low water level at this point is approximately 412 feet MSL. There is no diffuser, mixer, or similar structure associated with this outfall.

Outfall 003A

Outfall #003A consists of non-contact cooling water from the recovery boiler condenser system and discharges into the Androscoggin River via a 24-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipe. The top-of-pipe elevation is approximately 445 feet MSL and the summer low water level is approximately 417 feet MSL. There is no diffuser, mixer, or similar structure associated with this outfall.

1. APPLICATION SUMMARY (cont'd)

Outfall 004A

Outfall #004A consists of non-contact cooling water from heat exchangers located at R-15 paper machine and the pulp dryer (R-9) and is discharged into the Androscoggin River via a 24-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipe. (Non-contact cooling water from heat exchangers located at specialty paper machines 7, 8, and 9 were directed to this outfall until December 1999, when these machines were subsequently shut down permanently. R-9 was then converted to a pulp dryer.) The top-of-pipe elevation is approximately 418 feet MSL and the summer low river level is approximately 412 feet MSL. There is no diffuser, mixer, or similar structure associated with this outfall.

Outfall 005A

Outfall #005A consists of non-contact cooling water from the cogeneration plant turbine condenser and enters the Androscoggin River via the penstocks which exit the Rumford Falls Hydro LLC hydroelectric station. The two steel penstocks are 12 feet in diameter, and the top-of-pipe elevation is approximately 416 feet MSL. The summer river levels at this point are approximately 420 feet MSL. There is no diffuser, mixer, or similar structure associated with this outfall.

Outfall 006

Outfall #006 consists of backwash water from the cogeneration plant's Kinney strainers (filtered river water) and is discharged into the Androscoggin River via an 18-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipe. The top-of-pipe elevation is approximately 413 feet MSL and the summertime river elevation is approximately 414 feet MSL. There is no diffuser, mixer, or similar structure associated with this outfall.

- d. Wastewater Treatment – The wastewater treatment facility for the mill receives and treats process wastewater from the Rumford Mill, leachate from Farrington Mountain Landfill, and stormwater from around the mill site. The effluent treatment process at the Rumford Mill uses activated sludge and includes screening, primary clarification, sludge dewatering and disposal, aeration, and secondary clarification. Simplified process flow diagrams of the effluent treatment process are included with this application as **Attachment B** of this Fact Sheet.

1. *Wastewater Collection, Screening, and Pumping*

The pulp and paper mill sewers are combined in an interceptor sewer which discharges to a collection box located at the riverbank. From the collection box, the wastewater flows into the bar screen room and through the bar screen. The screen is comprised of parallel bars placed on a vertical incline to the direction of flow and spaced at one-inch intervals. Coarse solids are caught on the bars and, after removal by the mechanical scrapers, are discharged to an outside pad for storage prior to landfill disposal. A second, smaller bar screen is also operated in conjunction with the primary screen.

1. APPLICATION SUMMARY (cont'd)

After the screen, the wastewater passes through a rectangular mix tank. After the mix tank, wastewater flows into two interconnected tailrace tunnels which run underneath the mill basement. These tunnels are approximately 300 feet long and 10 feet wide, with a water depth of 6 to 8 feet (maximum depth is approximately 18 feet). They serve as a large sump for the three lift pumps. The lift pump motors are controlled by variable frequency drives which allows the pump to speed up or slow down depending on tailrace level. At 100% speed and under good conditions, each lift pump is capable of pumping 17 to 20 MGD (11,800 to 13,600 GPM). The pumps are located in the mill basement, with suction piping extended 16 feet into the tunnels. The pumps are primed with a common automatic vacuum priming system. A level controller controls pump operation by regulating the pump speed or the number of pumps in use based on the tunnel level. Mill effluent then flows through a 36-inch fiberglass-reinforced plastic (FRP) line approximately one-third of a mile to the former disk screen building, located beside the primary clarifier. At this point, pH adjustment may be made as needed. Wastewater then flows to the primary clarifier centerwell.

- *Primary Clarifier*

Waste streams from the pulp mill, paper mill, and utilities area are pumped to a single primary clarifier. The clarifier is 220 feet in diameter and has a total capacity of 5.5 million gallons for a detention time of about 3.5 hours. The drive assembly is comprised of a motor and reducer for each of the two wheels which ride along the rim of the clarifier. Helical rakes plow the sludge in toward the center wall of the clarifier. The rakes are designed to ride up over hard, dense areas and gradually work through compacted sludge. A sludge depth target of 2 feet is desired for optimum sludge consistency and dewatering properties.

Settled sludge is withdrawn from the clarifier center well through three 8-inch suction lines to one of three variable speed pumps. The three pumps manifold in to either of the two 6-inch discharge lines which extend underground to the blend tanks in the control building. The speed of the pumps is controlled by the treatment plant operator in the filter building. The pumps can be back-flushed with high pressure water when necessary.

- *Blend Tanks*

Mixing of primary and secondary waste occurs in the blend tanks, which also provide surge capacity between the pumps and the dewatering equipment. The pumps can be valved to allow them to pump to either blend tank. The blend tanks, equipped with agitators, also mix the material coming from the clarifier bottom, dampening the effect of localized pockets in the clarifier. Sludge is supplied to the dewatering equipment by three variable speed pumps. These pumps draw from a manifold connecting the two blend tanks. The manifold is valved to allow multiple pumping combinations from either or both tanks.

1. APPLICATION SUMMARY (cont'd)

- *Sludge Dewatering*

Sludge dewatering is accomplished by three gravity tables and screw presses. Polymer is added to the process as a flocculation aid via three variable speed pumps. The polymer is added to each sludge line prior to a mixer. The mixer provides mixing of the polymer and sludge before reaching the gravity table headbox. Polymer dilution and polymer to sludge ratios are maintained by flow ratio controllers that control the polymer pump speeds and dilution water control valves.

Sludge from the blend tanks is pumped to a variable speed gravity table. The sludge enters at a typical consistency of 3 to 5 % solids and is dewatered to approximately 10% solids.

The partially dewatered sludge drops through a chute into the headbox of the screw press. Each variable speed screw press has a production capacity of 40 tons of dry sludge per day. Constant level in the headbox is maintained by a level controller that dictates the speed of the sludge pumps. Steam is added to the center of the screw to aid in dewatering. Sludge is dewatered to approximately 50% solids and is discharged onto individual belt conveyors that carry the sludge to the diked concrete holding pad. The mill may also divert sludge to a belt press for dewatering. The dewatered sludge is stored on the concrete holding pad.

- *Sludge Disposal*

Approximately 75% of the dewatered sludge generated is then burned for energy recovery. Dewatered sludge is mixed with biomass from the mill's debarking operation and fed to the two Cogeneration boilers. Both dewatered sludge and boiler ash are trucked to the landfill by either mill vehicles or an independent contractor. The landfill site is located at Farrington Mountain, approximately three miles south of the mill. Leachate from the landfill is collected and held in two ponds at the south end of the site. From here, the leachate is pumped back to the mill through an underground pipeline, where it is treated in the effluent treatment plant.

- *Aeration Basin*

The primary clarifier overflow empties into an outfall box where urea and phosphoric acid are added as nutrients. From there, the overflow travels by gravity to a mix box where recycle sludge is mixed with primary sludge. From this point, the effluent is channeled into four 24-inch FRP pipelines into two discharge points within each of the two aeration basins. The combined capacity of the basins is 8.85 million gallons.

1. APPLICATION SUMMARY (cont'd)

Liquid depth varies between 12.0 to 12.5 feet. Air is supplied through six 500-HP centrifugal blowers (each blower has a capacity of 8,500 standard cubic feet per minute (scfm) and four 350-HP positive displacement blowers (each blower has a capacity of 6000 scfm). The average continuous air flow of these two independent systems is approximately 50,000 scfm.

During September of 2023, a major rebuild was performed on the aeration basin. The existing system was demolished to install 24 new HDPE laterals in each of the aeration basins. The new floating laterals were installed with submerged coarse bubble diffusers. The coarse bubble diffusers are each surrounded by ten medium bubble diffusers and sit 9" above the aeration basin bottom.

Aeration is also supplied to the headbox of the final clarifiers via 30 laterals which supply approximately 1000 scfm of air.

Recycle sludge is transported from the secondary clarifiers to the mix box where it is mixed with primary sludge utilizing a combination of four recycle sludge pumps. Recycle flow rate is maintained depending on incoming flow, mixed liquor concentration (mg/l), current secondary sludge inventory, and microbiology. Waste sludge is withdrawn from the recycle sludge line and pumped to one or two blend tanks. The sludge flow is measured by a magnetic flow meter and can be controlled by an automatic valve.

- *Secondary Clarifiers*

Mixed liquor feeds by gravity from the aeration basins into three 65 foot wide by 290 foot long by 15-foot-deep rectangular syphon clarifiers. Total capacity is 6.3 million gallons. Settled activated sludge is removed by syphoning through six 8-inch header pipes per clarifier that traverse the bottom of a clarifier as the bridge moves. All syphons empty into a seal box, which then discharges thickened sludge into the sludge trough running lengthwise along the clarifier. The sludge trough feeds the recycle pumps previously described. Recycle rate to aeration is controlled by throttling the recycle pump discharge.

Sludge blanket levels are checked daily by one of the effluent treatment plant operators. Filamentous and non-filamentous bulking may result at times in higher blanket levels but chemical addition is available to control filamentous bulking.

2. PERMIT SUMMARY

- a. Terms and conditions – This permitting action is carrying forward the terms and conditions of the previous permitting action except that this permitting action is;
1. Modifying Special Condition H, *Gulf Island Pond Oxygen Injection Operation* to eliminate and replace the fixed table of oxygen injection rates with a condition for a plan subject to Department approval that can be modified without going through a formal permit modification process.
 2. Updating the outfall numbers in the permit to match what is reported in the discharge monitoring reports and modifying the secondary outfall previously referred to as outfall 001B to now be called outfall 001C.
 3. Adding a requirement to conduct ambient sampling of total phosphorus in accordance with the recent promulgation of Department Rule, 06-096 C.M.R. Ch. 583 and reported as a new outfall AM-1.
 4. Adding Special Condition N, *Total Phosphorus Sampling Plan* that is being added to all applicable permits with ambient sampling.
 5. Reducing the summer testing frequency of BOD₅ from 3 times per week to 2 times per week to match the TSS testing frequency.
- b. History: - The most recent significant and relevant regulatory actions for the ND Paper Rumford mill are as follows:

September 26, 1986 – The EPA issued NPDES permit #ME0023264 for a five-year term. The permit regulated the discharge of non-contact cooling water from the Boise Cascade Corporation's co-generation facility.

March 30, 1992 – The EPA issued a renewal of NPDES permit #ME0002054 for a five-year term. The permit was issued in the name of the Boise Cascade Corporation, former owner and operator of the Rumford Mill.

April 30, 1992 - The Boise Cascade Corporation appealed the EPA's March 30, 1992 permit and requested an evidentiary hearing in regard to limitations and monitoring requirements for dioxin, furan, color, AOX, pH, whole effluent toxicity, fish analysis, and a narrative condition regarding PCB discharges contained in the permit. EPA neither denied nor granted such a hearing and thus the permit never became effective and the permit and the appeal have since expired. It is noted that the EPA and Boise Cascade reached a settlement agreement on September 28, 1994 to address the appeal but the EPA never formally signed off on the agreement. In order to resolve the appeal that was pending before the EPA's Environmental Appeals Board and to ensure the contested conditions of the NPDES permit remained in abeyance until the State of Maine issued a MEPDES permit, the EPA withdrew the contested permit conditions pursuant to federal

regulation, 40 CFR Part 124.19(d). The remaining terms and conditions of 4/30/1992 NPDES permit remained in effect until the MEPDES permit was issued by the State. The Order to accept the removal of the contested permit conditions from the 1992 NPDES permit was accepted by the federal Environmental Appeals Board judge on May 30, 2001.

June 1, 1995 – The Department issued WDL #W000955-44-C-R for a five-year term. As with the NPDES permit issued by the EPA, the WDL was issued in the name of the Boise Cascade Corporation. It is noted this WDL action incorporated limitations and monitoring requirements for the non-contact cooling water discharge(s) from the co-generation facility.

February 27, 1996 - The Department issued WDL #W00955-51-A-N that established a thermal mixing zone in the Androscoggin River for discharges from the Rumford mill.

November 18, 1996 – The Department issued an Order transferring permits and licenses from the Boise Cascade Corporation to the Mead Oxford Corporation.

April 1998 – The EPA promulgated new National Effluent Guidelines (NEGS) for a portion of the pulp and paper industry. The NEG's applicable to the Rumford mill are found at 40 CFR Part 430, commonly referred to as the Cluster Rule.

October 18, 1998 - The Department issued WDL modification #W000955-5N-D-M to incorporate limitations for dioxin, furan and color.

June 10, 1999 - The Department issued WDL modification #W000955-5N-E-M to incorporate the terms and conditions of a new operational plan for the Gulf Island Pond Oxygenation Project (GIPOP).

July 23, 1999 – The Department issued WDL modification #W000955-5N-F-M which established a schedule of compliance and interim quarterly average limits for color.

January 12, 1999 – The permittee submitted a timely application to the Department to renew the 6/1/95 WDL.

May 23, 2000 – Pursuant to Maine law, 38 M.R.S. §420 and Department Rule, 06-096 CMR Chapter 519, *Interim Effluent Limitations and Controls for the Discharge of Mercury*, the Department issued a *Notice of Interim Limits for the Discharge of Mercury* to the permittee thereby administratively modifying WDL # W000955-44-C-R by establishing interim monthly average and daily maximum effluent concentration limits of 10.6 parts per trillion (ppt) and 15.9 ppt, respectively, and a minimum monitoring frequency requirement of four tests per year for mercury.

January 12, 2001 - The Department received authorization from the EPA to administer the NPDES program in Maine.

2. PERMIT SUMMARY (cont'd)

March 2, 2001 – The Department issued a letter to the Mead Oxford Corporation that recalculated the interim mercury limits based on additional testing and established an average effluent concentration limit of 35.81 ng/L and a maximum limit of 53.71 ng/L.

December 18, 2002 – The Department was notified that the name of Mead Oxford Corporation was changed to MeadWestvaco Oxford Corporation.

May 25, 2005 – The Department was notified that the name MeadWestvaco Oxford Corporation was changed to Rumford Paper Company (“RPC”).

May 2005 – The Department finalized a total maximum daily load TMDL for portions of the Androscoggin River above the Gulf Island Pond Dam.

July 18, 2005 – The EPA approved a TMDL entitled, May 2005 TMDL, Final for the Androscoggin River.

September 21, 2005 – The Department issued MEPDES permit #ME0002054/WDL #W000955-5N-G-R for a five-year term.

October 12, 2005 – The Department promulgated two new rules; Chapter 530, *Surface Water Toxics Control Program*, and Chapter 584, *Surface Water Quality Criteria For Toxic Pollutants*.

October 21, 2005 - Timely appeals of the Department’s September 21, 2005 decision were filed by RPC, Verso Paper, FPL Energy, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, the Conservation Law Foundation, Maine Rivers, Androscoggin River Alliance, and Androscoggin Lake Improvement Association.

April 10, 2006 – The Department modified the 9/21/05 MEPDES permit by establishing monitoring requirements for whole effluent toxicity (WET) and chemical specific testing pursuant to Department Rule Chapter 530.

August 7, 2006 – The Department issued WDL Modification W000955-5N-H-M. The permitting action eliminated the schedule to come into compliance with 60-day rolling average water quality-based limits for total suspended solids (TSS) and accelerated the final date in the schedule of compliance for summertime total phosphorus and ortho-phosphorus mass limitations from June 1, 2010 to June 1, 2008.

2. PERMIT SUMMARY (cont'd)

February 7, 2008 – The Maine Board of Environmental Protection issued a Board Order in response to the appeals of the 9/21/05 MEPDES permit filed on 10/21/05. The Board Order modified several of the terms and conditions of the 9/21/05 MEPDES permit and ordered the Department to revise and re-calibrate its water quality model following the correction of a dispersive mixing error (which could affect additional oxygen injection requirements) and a recalculation of the sediment area that is contributing phosphorus to

the pond (which could affect final effluent limits for total phosphorus and/or ortho-phosphorus).

June 30, 2008 – The Department issued a minor revision to the 9/21/05 permit that reduced the monitoring frequencies for AOX, chloroform and the twelve chlorinated phenolic compounds in accordance with guidance provided by the EPA in a document entitled, “*Interim Guidance for Performance Based Reductions of NPDES Permit Monitoring Frequencies*” (USEPA 1996).

June 8, 2010 – The Department issued a modification of the 9/21/05 permit that modified the oxygen injection requirement for the Gulf Island Pond Oxygen Injection System.

July 1, 2010 – The permittee filed a timely and complete application with the Department to renew the 9/21/05 MEPDES permit.

July 30, 2010 – The Department issued an Order to FPL Energy Maine Hydro LLC approving a new GIPOP operating Plan. The July 30 Order constitutes compliance with Special Condition K(3) of the June 8, 2010 modification of the 9/21/05 permit.

February 7, 2012 – The Department issued a minor revision to the 9/21/05 permit that reduced the monitoring frequency for mercury from 4/Year to 1/Year pursuant to Maine law, 38 M.R.S., §420, sub-§1-B, ¶F.

December 20, 2012, – The Department issued MEPDES permit #ME0002054/WDL #W000955-5N-K-R for a five-year term.

December 23, 2014 - MEPDES permit #ME0002054/WDL #W000955-5N-K-R was transferred from Rumford Paper Company to Catalyst Paper Operations Inc.

May 18, 2015 – The Department issued a modification of the 12/20/12 permit that extend the date by which Catalyst needed to come into compliance with the water quality-based mass limit for total cadmium from December 19, 2015, to June 19, 2016.

January 27, 2016 – The Department issued a modification of the 12/20/12 permit that extended the date by which Catalyst needed to come into compliance with the water quality-based mass limit for total cadmium from June 19, 2016, to December 19, 2017.

2. PERMIT SUMMARY (cont'd)

June 6, 2017 – The Department issued a modification of the 12/20/12 permit to acknowledge the addition of a tissue machine by Pacific Falcon Corporation and associated equipment and buildings.

December 7, 2017 – The Department issued MEPDES permit #ME0002054/WDL #W000955-5N-Q-R for a five-year term

December 3, 2020 – The Department issued a modification of the 2017 permit to account for the manufacturing of unbleached pulp and paper and recycle pulp and modify the limitations for AOX (Outfall #001) chloroform (Outfall #100) and to transfer the permit to ND Paper, Inc.

November 30, 2022 – ND Paper, Inc submitted a timely and complete application to the Department to renew the 12/07/2017 permit.

April 22, 2025 – ND Paper, Inc submitted a request to modify the permit by eliminating the fixed table under Special Condition H, thereby allowing a more flexible plan for Gulf Island Pond Oxygen Injection to be approved by the Department on an as needed basis.

3. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

The Androscoggin River is one of the four major New England river basins. The basin extends from the Canadian border to the Atlantic Ocean covering a 3,450 square mile section of eastern New Hampshire and southwestern Maine. New Hampshire has classified the main stem of the river as Class B above and below the Gorham Paper and Tissue LLC's paper mill in Gorham N.H. Maine has classified the river as Class B [Maine law, 38 M.R.S. §467(1)(A)(1)] from the Maine-New Hampshire boundary to its confluence with the Ellis River and Class C [Maine law, 38 M.R.S. §467(1)(A)(2)] below the Ellis River in Rumford to the Worumbo dam in Lisbon Falls, and as Class B [38 M.R.S §467(1)(A)(3) from the Worumbo Dam in Lisbon Falls to the confluence with Merrymeeting Bay in Brunswick. The river above and below the ND Paper mill is classified as a Class C waterway.

Standards for classification of 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.

3. 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.*

This standard codifies the 6.5 mg/L criteria utilized by the Department in historic modeling practices and is consistent with the EPA publication, *Quality Criteria for Water, 1986*, (Gold Book) that establishes a dissolved oxygen criteria with a 30-day mean of 6.5 mg/L to protect and support all species of fish indigenous to the receiving waters and maintain the structure and function of the biological community. On July 18, 2005, the EPA formally approved the Department's May 2005 TMDL for the Androscoggin River which utilized the 30-day average dissolved oxygen standard of 6.5 mg/L at a temperature of 22°C in its analysis.

The use of a 30-day average criterion that considers temperature is premised on the fact that a monthly average criterion is designed to protect for those conditions for which only an insignificant amount of salmonid growth and production is lost. The EPA's "Gold Book" provides a maximum weekly average temperature for growth of Atlantic salmon (20°C), brook trout (19°C) and rainbow trout (19°C) as the optimum temperatures for growth plus 1/3 of the difference between the optimum growth and the ultimate incipient lethal temperature just above the temperature of zero growth. Some growth occurs up to 23-24 °C for these species.

The Maine legislature decided that a temperature threshold of 22°C is an acceptable amount of growth relative to dissolved oxygen [38 M.R.S. §465(4)(B)(1)] in the Androscoggin and St. Croix rivers. Consequently, the 30-day average dissolved oxygen (DO) criterion applies only when temperatures are 22°C or below.

Therefore, based on a best professional judgment by the Department and EPA's approval of the TMDL to protect and support all species of fish indigenous to the receiving waters and maintain the structure and function of the biological community, this permitting action is utilizing a 30-day average ambient dissolved oxygen criteria

of 6.5 mg/L at 22°C in establishing monthly average biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) limitations.

Maine law 38 M.R.S. §465(4)(C) also states in part *Discharges to Class C waters may cause some changes to aquatic life, provided that the receiving waters shall 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.*

Maine law 38 M.R.S. §464(13) *Measurement of dissolved oxygen in riverine impoundments states, (c) compliance with dissolved oxygen criteria in existing riverine impoundments must be measured as follows.*

- A. *Compliance with dissolved oxygen criteria may not be measured within 0.5 meters of the bottom of existing riverine impoundments*
- B. *Where mixing is inhibited due to thermal stratification in an existing riverine impoundment, compliance with numeric dissolved oxygen criteria may not be measured below the higher of:*

- (1) *The point of thermal stratification when such stratification occurs; or*

- (2) *The point proposed by the department as an alternative depth for a specific riverine impoundment based on all factors included in section 466, subsection 11-A and for which a use attainability analysis is conducted if required by the United States Environmental Protection Agency*

For purposes of this paragraph, "thermal stratification" means a change of temperature of at least one degree Celsius per meter of depth, causing water below this point in an impoundment to become isolated and not mix with water above this point in the impoundment.

- C. *Where mixing is inhibited due to natural topographical features in an existing riverine impoundment, compliance with numeric dissolved oxygen criteria may not be measured within that portion of the impoundment that is topographically isolated. Such natural topographic features may include, but not be limited to, natural deep holes or river bottom sills.*

3. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS (cont'd)

Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, dissolved oxygen concentrations in existing riverine impoundments must be sufficient to support existing and designated uses of these waters. For purposes of this subsection, "existing riverine impoundments" means all impoundments of rivers and streams in existence as of January 1, 2001, and not otherwise classified as GPA.

The Gulf Island Pond Partnership (GIPOP) conducts water quality monitoring at one-meter intervals of depth every other hour throughout the summer season, resulting in over 22,000 measurements each year. The 2024 monitoring season has resulted in 99.84% compliance of applicable measurements meeting or exceeding minimum oxygen requirements for Gulf Island Pond (GIP). The 2024 results are consistent with the success experienced over the last fifteen monitoring seasons since the oxygen diffuser was upgraded and new discharge licenses became effective. These positive results continue to demonstrate that remaining measurements of low DO in GIP are primarily the result of inhibited mixing and topographic isolation and not the result of current point source discharges.

Algal blooms have not been observed since 2004. Dissolved oxygen (DO), levels have steadily improved since monitoring GIP was initiated in 2004. Historically there have been documented depressed DO concentrations below the minimum criteria (5.0 ppm) and the monthly average criteria (6.5 ppm when and where temperatures were 22°C or lower) below the new Lower Narrows oxygen injection diffuser. The oxygen injection diffuser was upgraded in 2010 to transfer oxygen into the receiving water more efficiently. The depressed DO levels were usually restricted vertically to 1-3 meters in or near the thermocline and in the deeper parts of the impoundment where mixing is inhibited. Generally higher DO levels were observed above the thermocline.

Algal settling - GIP had historically been prone to phytoplankton (free-floating algae) blooms as a result of excessive nutrient loadings from upstream discharges. A substantial portion of the historic algal biomass that originated in GIP eventually settled to the bottom of the pond providing a particularly labile source of sediment oxygen demand (SOD).

Total suspended solids (TSS) settling - The slow-moving nature of the GIP impoundment provides a good opportunity for suspended solids to settle out. As a result, TSS that originated from upstream point and non-point source discharges provided another significant source of SOD.

SOD has been the primary cause of reduced DO levels in the hydraulically isolated deeper areas of GIP. The Department has concluded the depressed DO levels are related to SOD resulting primarily from the settling of organic matter. The sediments in the GIP include historic sources of TSS and settled algae due from past blooms, but these sources are not believed to be the primary driver of present-day exertion of SOD. With the absence of algal blooms for the last 20 years, and the reduction in BOD and TSS discharge levels realized by the two mills in the last 17 years, the Department concludes the depressed DO levels in the hydraulically isolated portion of the deep hole are from primarily naturally recurring origins and not the result of current discharges of total suspended solids.

3. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS (cont'd)

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.

4. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS

- a. *The State of Maine 2018/2020/2022 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 Androscoggin River at the point of discharge as Assessment Unit ID, ME0104000204_422R – Androscoggin River, Main stem from Virginia Bridge to Webb R, Class C. This segment is listed under the following categories:
- b. *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.”
- c. Maine law 38 M.R.S., §420 and Department Rule, Chapter 519, *Interim Effluent Limitations and Controls For the Discharge of Mercury*, establishes controls of mercury to surface waters of the State and United States through interim effluent limitations and implementation of pollution prevention plans. Maine law 38 M.R.S. §420(1-B)(B)(1) states that a facility is not in violation of the AWQC for mercury if the facility is in compliance with an interim discharge limit established by the Department pursuant to Section 413, subsection 11. A review of the Department’s database for the period November 1998 through the present indicates the permittee has been in compliance with the interim limits for mercury. See Section 5(1) of this Fact Sheet.

4. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS (cont'd)

- d. *Category 4-A: Rivers and Streams With Impaired Use Other than Mercury, TMDL Completed*, applies to 8.19-mile section of the Androscoggin River designated as a Class C waterbody upstream of the Gulf Island Pond Dam. Impairment in this context refers to algal blooms (none since 2004) and depressed dissolved oxygen levels caused by the discharges of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solids (TSS), and phosphorus by both point and non-point sources. See the discussion in Section 4 and Sections 5(e) and 5(j) of this Fact Sheet.
- e. *Category 4-B: Rivers and Streams Impaired By Pollutants – Pollution Control Requirements Reasonably Expected To Result in Attainment*. Impairment in this context refers to non-attainment of water quality criteria due to dioxin levels in fish tissue.
- f. *Category 5-D: Rivers and Streams Impaired by Legacy Pollutants*. Impairment in this context refers to non-attainment of water quality criteria due to the presence of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in fish tissue.
- g. The Gulf Island Pond Partnership (GIPOP) conducts water quality monitoring at one-meter intervals of depth every other hour throughout the summer season, resulting in over 22,000 measurements each year. The 2024 monitoring season has resulted in 99.84% compliance of applicable measurements meeting or exceeding minimum oxygen requirements for Gulf Island Pond (GIP). The 2024 results are consistent with the success experienced over the last fifteen monitoring seasons since the oxygen diffuser was upgraded and new discharge licenses became effective. These positive results continue to demonstrate that remaining measurements of low DO in GIP are primarily the result of inhibited mixing and topographic isolation and not the result of current point source discharges.
- h. SOD has been the primary cause of reduced DO levels in the hydraulically-isolated deeper areas of GIP. The Department has concluded the depressed DO levels are related to sediment oxygen demand (SOD) resulting primarily from the settling of organic matter. The sediments in GIP include historic sources of total suspended solid (TSS) and settled algae from past blooms, but these sources are not believed to be the primary driver of present day exertion of SOD. With the absence of algal blooms for the last 20 years, and the reduction in BOD and TSS discharge levels realized by the two mills in the last 17 years, the Department concludes the depressed DO levels in the hydraulically-isolated portion of the deephole are from primarily naturally recurring origins not the result of current discharges of total suspended solids.
- i. The nearest upstream biological monitoring station from the ND Paper Rumford mill outfalls is station 1186, which is immediately below the dam of the second Rumford Falls impoundment. Station 1186 was last sampled in 2020 and met class A biological criteria for macroinvertebrates.

4. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS (cont'd)

- j. The nearest downstream biological monitoring station from the ND Paper Rumford mill outfalls is station 41, which is also downstream of the Rumford-Mexico Sewer District Wastewater Treatment facility outfall. Station 41 was last sampled in 2018 and met class A biological criteria for both algae and macroinvertebrates.
- k. The Department data does not indicate the discharge is having a negative impact on aquatic life that is leading to a failure to meet class.

5. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS & MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

OUTFALL #001A, 001B, & 001C (final Effluent)

- a. Regulatory Basis: The discharge from the ND mill is subject to National Effluent Guidelines (NEG) found in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 430 – *Pulp, Paper and Paperboard Manufacturing Point Source Category*. The regulation was revised on April 15, 1998 and reorganized 26 sub-categories in the previous regulation into 12 sub-categories by grouping mills with similar processes. Applicable Subparts of the regulation for the ND facility are limited to Subpart B, *Bleached Papergrade Kraft and Soda*. The NEG's establish applicable limitations representing; 1) best practicable control technology currently available (BPT) for toxic and conventional pollutants for existing dischargers, 2) best conventional pollutant technology economically achievable (BCT) for conventional pollutants for existing dischargers, and 3) best available technology economically achievable (BAT) for toxic and non-conventional pollutants for existing dischargers. The regulation establishes limitations and monitoring requirements on the final outfall to the receiving waterbody as well as internal waste stream(s) such as the bleach plant effluent. The regulation also establishes limitations based on several methodologies including monthly average and or daily maximum mass limits based on production of pulp and paper produced or concentration limitations based on BPT, BCT or BAT.
- b. Production: According to the 2025 permit modification application, the ND mill produced an average of 1,593 tons per day (TPD) of fine coated paper, 518 tons per day bleached kraft market pulp and 456 tons per day of ground wood pulp. These production values are being used to calculate BPT limitations for BOD and TSS in accordance with the NEG's. For AOX and chloroform limitations in this permitting action, a production value of 1,503 tons of air-dried unbleached pulp per day is being utilized.
- b. Flow: The previous permitting action contained a monthly average limit of 34.0 MGD that is being carried forward in this permitting action that represents the design flow of the wastewater treatment facility. A review of the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates the permittee has been in compliance with said limitation 100% of the time as values have been reported as follows:

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

OUTFALL #001A, 001B & 001C (final Effluent)

Flow (N = 59)

Value	Limit (MGD)	Range (MGD)	Mean (MGD)
Monthly Average	34	11.5 – 33.8	29.9
Daily Maximum	Report	24.2 – 40.4	33.8

- d. Dilution Factors: Dilution factors associated with the discharge from the mill's wastewater treatment facility were derived in accordance with freshwater protocols established in Department Rule Chapter 530, *Surface Water Toxics Control Program*, effective March 21, 2012. With a permitted flow of 34.0 MGD, dilution calculations are:

$$\text{Dilution Factor} = \frac{\text{River Flow (cfs)}(\text{Conv. Factor})}{\text{Plant Flow}}$$

$$\text{Acute: } 1\text{Q}10^{(1)} = 1,663 \text{ cfs} \Rightarrow \frac{(1,663 \text{ cfs})(0.6464)}{34.0 \text{ MGD}} = 31.6:1$$

$$\text{Chronic: } 7\text{Q}10 = 1,663 \text{ cfs} \Rightarrow \frac{(1,663 \text{ cfs})(0.6464)}{34.0 \text{ MGD}} = 31.6:1$$

$$\text{Harmonic Mean: } = 2,861 \text{ cfs} \Rightarrow \frac{(2,861 \text{ cfs})(0.6464)}{34.0 \text{ MGD}} = 54.4:1$$

Footnotes:

- (1) Chapter 530(4)(B)(1) states that analyses using numeric acute criteria for aquatic life must be based on 1/4 of the 1Q10 stream design flow to prevent substantial acute toxicity within any mixing zone. The 1Q10 is the lowest one-day flow over a ten-year recurrence interval. 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 made the determination in the previous permitting action that the discharge does receive rapid and complete mixing with the receiving water, therefore 100% of the 1Q10 is applicable in acute statistical evaluations pursuant to Chapter 530.

- e. Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅) & Total suspended solids (TSS):

The following table contains the monthly average and daily maximum BOD and TSS limitations as calculated utilizing the BPT effluent limitations in the NEGs found at 40 CFR Part 430, Subpart B, *Bleached Papergrade and Soda Subcategory* and Sub-part G, *Mechanical Pulp Subcategory* for continuous dischargers. (Note that there are 2,000 lbs/ton used in the conversion to lbs/day and the kg/kkg = kg/1000kg)

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

OUTFALL #001A, 001B & 001C (final Effluent)

Final Prod. (t/d)	Subpart B	BOD Avg		BOD Max		TSS Avg		TSS Max	
		kg/kkg	lbs/day	kg/kkg	lbs/day	Kg/kkg	lbs/day	kg/kkg	lbs/day
1,593	Kraft Fine Paper	5.5	17,523	10.6	33,772	11.9	37,913	22.15	70,570
518	B-Mkt Kraft	8.05	8,340	15.45	16,006	16.4	16,990	30.4	31,494
456	Ground Pulp	3.6	3,283	6.85	6,247	6.3	5,745	11.75	10,716
2,567	Totals	---	29,146	---	56,025	---	60,648	---	112,780

Summary of NEG calculated BPT Limitations

BOD Avg.	BOD Max.	TSS Avg.	TSS Max.
29,146 lbs/day	56,025 lbs/day	60,468 lbs/day	112,780 lbs/day

BOD

The 12/04/2017 permitting action contained BOD water quality-based limitations that are more stringent than the technology-based limits derived above and which are being carried forward in this permitting action as follows;

	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Daily Maximum
June 1 – Sept 30	8,330 lbs/day	12,500 lbs/day	18,750 lbs/day
Oct 1 – May 31	14,400 lbs/day	---	32,300 lbs/day

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

OUTFALL #001A, 001B & 001C (final Effluent)

The monthly average summertime (June 1 – September 30) mass limit of 8,330 lbs/day was established based on a recommendation in the May 2005 TMDL to maintain compliance with the 30-day rolling average dissolved oxygen threshold of 6.5 mg/L at 22 °C. This limitation is being carried forward in this permitting action.

The summer weekly average and daily maximum water quality-based limitations of 12,500 lbs/day and 18,750 lbs/day respectively, were established to maintain compliance with the instantaneous dissolved oxygen standard of 5 mg/L and are based on a TMDL recommendation. The daily maximum limitation was derived by multiplying the TMDL recommended weekly average of 12,500 lbs/day limitation by a statistically derived factor of 1.5. This factor was derived based on a statistical evaluation of the mills historic effluent variability. The non-summer monthly average and daily maximum limitations of 14,400 lbs/day and 32,300 lbs/day respectively were carried forward from a 1995 licensing action pursuant to anti-backsliding provisions of Department Rule (Chapter 523 §5(1) and federal regulation (USC §1342(o)).

A review of the DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 is summarized as follows:

BOD Mass

(N=59)

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Average (lbs/day)
Weekly average	12,500	1,076 – 9,548	3,449

(June 1 – September 30)

(N=19)

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Average (lbs/day)
Monthly Average	8,330	799 – 6,330	2,039
Daily Maximum	18,750	1,422 – 17,051	6,553

This permit is establishing a 2/week monitoring frequency for the period June 1 – September 30, based on the effluent data gathered to date and to match the TSS sample frequency. The permittee is consistently below the monthly average limit for BOD and is allowed a one-time reduction of no more than 50% the parameter frequency.

BOD (October 1 – May 31)

BOD Mass (DMRs=40)

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Average (lbs/day)
Monthly Average	14,400	1,006 – 13,336	4,030
Daily Maximum	32,300	1,506 - 37,597	14,784

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

OUTFALL #001A, 001B & 001C (final Effluent)

There were four excursions of the BOD daily maximum limit during this reporting period. This permit is carrying forward the 1/week monitoring frequency for the period October 1 – May 31.

TSS

The 12/04/2017 permitting action contained TSS limitations which are being carried forward in this permitting action as follows;

	Monthly Avg.	60-Day Avg.	Annual Avg.	Daily Maximum
June 1 – Sept 30	15,500 lbs/day	11,000 lbs/day	15,952 lbs/day	40,000 lbs/day
Oct 1 – May 31	32,900 lbs/day	N/A	15,952 lbs/day	50,000 lbs/day

The summertime 60-day average (June 1 – September 30) limitation of 11,000 lbs/day was established as a TMDL recommended limit to mitigate the adverse effects of settleable solids on the macro-invertebrate community in the Livermore Falls impoundment downstream. In a letter dated January 25, 2011, from the Department to Verso's Hydro facility agent, the Department concluded that compliance had been demonstrated with applicable Class C aquatic life standards in the Livermore Falls impoundment under critical water quality conditions.

The summertime monthly average limit of 15,500 was established based on a data review and discussion between the Department and the permittee concerning the treatment plant performance, process control and impact to the receiving water. The non-summertime monthly average limitation of 32,900 lbs/day is being carried forward from a 2005 permitting action. The summertime and non-summertime daily maximum limitations of 40,000 lbs/day and 50,000 lbs/day respectively, are being carried forward from the previous permitting action and were established based on a data review and discussion between the Department and the permittee concerning the treatment plant performance, process control and impact to the receiving water. The annual average limitation of 15,952 lbs/day is a TMDL recommended limit and was established to reduce the contribution of sediment oxygen demand to dissolved oxygen non-attainment in GIP.

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

OUTFALL #001A, 001B & 001C (Final effluent)

A review of the DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 is summarized as follows:

TSS (June 1 – September 30)

TSS Mass (N=19)

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Average (lbs/day)
Monthly Average	15,500	1,807 – 13,187	4,936
Daily Maximum	40,000	4,028 – 43,236	16,122
60 Rolling Average	11,000	2,448 – 7,996	4,775

There were two violations of the daily maximum limit for the reporting period. This permit is carrying forward the 2/week monitoring frequency for the period June 1 – September 30.

TSS (October 1 – May 31)

TSS Mass (N=40)

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Average (lbs/day)
Monthly Average	32,900	2,363 – 26,206	9,075
Daily Maximum	50,000	4,338 – 115,569	32,246

There were six violations of the TSS daily maximum limit for the reporting period. This permit is carrying forward the 1/week monitoring frequency for the period October 1 – May 31.

TSS (Year-round)

TSS Mass (N=4)

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Average (lbs/day)
Annual Average	15,952	6,389 – 8,395	7,576

- f. Temperature: The previous permitting action contained a year-round daily maximum temperature limit of 110° F that is being carried forward in this permitting action. See the discussion regarding thermal load limitations in the section *Outfall 00T* of this Fact Sheet.

A review of the DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates the permittee has been in compliance with the seasonal limits as values have been reported as follows:

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

OUTFALL #001A, 001B & 001C (Final effluent)

Temperature

Temperature (N= 59)

Value	Limit (°F)	Range (°F)	Average (°F)
Daily Maximum	110	90 – 108	101

This permit is carrying forward the 1/Day monitoring frequency for the period June 1 – September 30 and 1/Week monitoring frequency during October 1 – May 31.

- g. pH Range: The previous permitting action contained a pH range limit of 5.0 – 9.0 standard units that was based on federal regulation 40 CFR, Part 430. This permitting action is carrying the limit forward and continues to be consistent with the federal NEGs.

A review of the DMR data for the period September 2020 - 2025 indicates there were three excursions of the upper pH limit. The data is summarized as follows:

pH (DMRs 41)

Value	Limit (su)	Lower Limit Range (su)	Upper Limit Range
Daily Maximum	5.0 – 9.0	6.6 – 7.3	7.1 – 9.4

- h. Adsorbable organic halogens (AOX): The 12/04/2017 permitting action contained monthly average and daily maximum technology-based mass limits for AOX based on federal regulation found at 40 CFR Part 430.24 along with a 2/Month monitoring requirement. The regulation establishes production-based BAT monthly average and daily maximum allowances of 0.623 kg/kkg and 0.951 kg/kkg (lbs per 1000 pounds or metric tons) of unbleached kraft pulp production. With a representative unbleached kraft pulp production figure of 1,503 tons/day at this time (2022 renewal application) the limits are calculated as follows:

Monthly average: 1,503 tons/day X 0.623 lbs/1000 lbs X 2000 lbs/ton = 1,873 lbs /day
Daily maximum: 1,503 tons/day X 0.951 lbs/1000 lbs X 2000 lbs/ton = 2,859 lbs /day

Email communication with the facility regarding the current renewal application indicates kraft pulp production remains at 1,503 tons/day

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

OUTFALL #001A, 001B & 001C (Final effluent)

A review of the monthly DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates values have been reported as follows:

AOX (N=59)

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Mean (lbs/day)
Monthly Average	1,873	27 – 1,068	333
Daily Maximum	2,859	27 – 1,175	395

The 2/Month monitoring frequency with at least 7 days between sampling events is being carried forward in this permit.

- i. Color: The previous permit contained a quarterly average technology-based limitation of 150 lbs/day of color per ton of air dried unbleached pulp produced that is being carried forward in this permitting action.

A review of the monthly DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates values have been reported as follows:

Color (N = 20)

Value	Limit (lbs/ton)	Range (lbs/ton)	Mean (lbs/ton)
Quarterly Average	150	42 - 109	67

- j. Total phosphorus and Ortho-phosphorus – *Waste Discharge License Conditions, 06-096 C.M.R. 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 C.M.R. Ch. 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 (06-096 C.M.R. Ch. 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 Androscoggin 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.

There is recent effluent data but there is no available upstream ambient TP data to complete an RP analysis. 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 that coincides with monitoring of the effluent total phosphorus by the permittee during the summer (June – September) for two years of this 5-year permit renewal.

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

OUTFALL #001A, 001B & 001C (Final effluent)

The previous permitting action contained seasonal (June 1 – September 30) monthly average total phosphorus and ortho-phosphorus mass limitations along with a 2/Week monitoring frequency. The final limitations of 152 lbs/day and 97 lbs/day respectively, were based on the recommendations in the May 2005 final TMDL and were derived based on mass discharge values for both parameters for the period May 1 – September 30, 2004. The 12/04/2017 permitting action also contained seasonal (June 1 – September 30) monthly average and daily maximum reporting requirements for concentration for both parameters to track discharge performance. The limitations and monitoring requirements are being carried forward in this permitting action.

A review of the monthly DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates the permittee has reported values as follows:

Mass

Total phosphorus (N=19)

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Mean (lbs/day)
Monthly Average	152	40 - 122	75
Daily Maximum	Report	71 - 197	134

Mass

Ortho-phosphorus (N=19)

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Mean (lbs/day)
Monthly Average	97	8 - 72	40
Daily Maximum	Report	8 - 160	82

Concentration

Total phosphorus (N=19)

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Monthly Average	Report	0.14 – 0.50	0.30
Daily Maximum	Report	0.25 – 1.07	0.53

Ortho-phosphorus (DMRs=14)

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Monthly Average	Report	0.03 – 0.27	0.15
Daily Maximum	Report	0.17 – 0.63	0.33

- k. Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) & Chemical-Specific Testing – Maine law, 38 M.R.S., 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*

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

OUTFALL #001A, 001B & 001C (Final effluent)

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 to fully characterize the effluent. This permit also provides for reconsideration of effluent limits and monitoring schedules after evaluation of toxicity testing results. The monitoring schedule includes consideration of results currently on file, the nature of the wastewater, existing treatment and receiving water characteristics.

WET monitoring is required to assess and protect against impacts upon water quality and designated uses caused by the aggregate effect of the discharge on specific aquatic organisms. Acute and chronic WET tests are performed on invertebrate and vertebrate species. Priority pollutant and analytical chemistry testing is required to assess the levels of individual toxic pollutants in the discharge, comparing each pollutant to acute, chronic, and human health AWQC as established in Chapter 584.

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 <math><20:1</math>.
- 2) Level II – chronic dilution factor of $\geq 20:1$ but <math><100:1</math>.
- 3) Level III – chronic dilution factor $\geq 100:1$ but <math><500:1</math> 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 (1)(D) specifies the criteria to be used in determining the minimum monitoring frequency requirements for WET, priority pollutant and analytical chemistry testing. Based on the Chapter 530 criteria, the permittee's facility falls into the Level II frequency category as the facility has a chronic dilution factor of $\geq 20:1$ but <math><100:1</math>. Chapter 530(1)(D)(1) specifies that **routine** screening and surveillance level testing requirements are as follows:

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

Level	WET Testing	Priority pollutant testing	Analytical chemistry
II	2 per year	1 per year	4 per year

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

OUTFALL #001A, 001B & 001C (Final effluent)

Surveillance level testing – Beginning upon issuance of the permit, except for the year that screening level testing occurs, the permittee must conduct testing as follows:

Level	WET Testing	Priority pollutant testing	Analytical chemistry
II	1 per year	None required	2 per year

See **Attachment C** of this Fact Sheet for a summary of the WET test results and **Attachment D** of this Fact Sheet for a summary of the chemical-specific test dates.

Department rule Chapter 530(D)(3)(b) states in part, *Dischargers in Level II may reduce surveillance testing to one WET or specific chemical series every other year 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.*”

Chapter 530 §3 states, “*In determining if effluent limits are required, the Department shall consider all information on file and effluent testing conducted during the preceding 60 months. However, testing done in the performance of a Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) approved by the Department may be excluded from such evaluations.*”

WET evaluation

The 12/04/2017 permit did not establish WET limits for any test species as no exceedances or reasonable potential (RP) to exceed water quality criteria was found in the evaluation of 60 months of data prior to the 2017 permit renewal. On 6/16/2025, the Department conducted a statistical evaluation on the most recent 60 months of WET data that indicates that the discharge does not exceed or have RP to exceed either the acute or chronic critical ambient water quality criteria (AWQC) threshold (3.2% – mathematical inverse of the applicable dilution factors) for any of the WET species tested to date.

Given the absence of exceedances or reasonable potential to exceed critical WET thresholds, the permittee meets the surveillance level monitoring frequency reduction criteria found at Department Rule Chapter 530(D)(3)(b). Therefore, surveillance level WET testing is being established at once every other year (1/2 Years). Routine screening

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

OUTFALL #001A, 001B & 001C (Final effluent)

level testing of 2/Year must be completed in Permit Year 4 and every five years thereafter if a timely request for renewal has been made and the permit continues in force, or is replaced by a permit renewal containing this requirement.

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

Chemical evaluation

Chapter 530 (effective as of March 21, 2012) §4(C), states *“The background concentration of specific chemicals must be included in all calculations using the following procedures. The Department may publish and periodically update a list of default background concentrations for specific pollutants on a regional, watershed or statewide basis. In doing so, the Department shall use data collected from reference sites that are measured at points not significantly affected by point and non-point discharges and best calculated to accurately represent ambient water quality conditions. The Department shall use the same general methods as those in section 4(D) to determine background concentrations. For pollutants not listed by the Department, an assumed concentration of 10% of the applicable water quality criteria must be used in calculations.”* The Department has limited information on the background levels of metals in the water column in the Androscoggin River in the vicinity of the permittee’s outfall. Therefore, a default background concentration of 10% of the applicable water quality criteria is being used in the calculations of this permitting action.

Chapter 530 4(E), states *“In allocating assimilative capacity for toxic pollutants, the Department shall hold a portion of the total capacity in an unallocated reserve to allow for new or changed discharges and non-point source contributions. The unallocated reserve must be reviewed and restored as necessary at intervals of not more than five years. The water quality reserve must be not less than 15% of the total assimilative quantity.”* However, in May 2012, Maine law 38 M.R.S. §464(4)(J) was enacted which reads as follows, *“For the purpose of calculating waste discharge license limits for toxic substances, the department may use any unallocated assimilative capacity that the department has set aside for future growth if the use of that unallocated assimilative capacity would avoid an exceedance of applicable ambient water quality criteria or a determination by the department of a reasonable potential to exceed ambient water quality criteria..”*

Chapter 530 §(3)(E) states *“... 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.”*

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

OUTFALL #001A, 001B & 001C (Final effluent)

On March 31, 2026, the Department conducted statistical evaluations based on an assumed 10% background concentration of the ambient water quality criteria (Report ID 1690) and zero % reserve of the total assimilative capacity to determine if permittee would avoid an exceedance or avoid a reasonable potential to exceed applicable ambient water quality criteria for toxic pollutants. Report ID 1690 indicates there is no reasonable potential to exceed any measured pollutant parameter.

On January 18, 2013, Catalyst Paper and the Verso Corporation (permittees) submitted a draft work plan to the Department entitled, *Androscoggin River Water Effects Ratio Work Plan – Determinations for Copper, Aluminum and Cadmium*. Both the Department and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) reviewed and commented on the draft plan. The permittee responded to and addressed the comments on the draft plan entitled, *Draft Revision – Androscoggin River Water Effects Ratio Work Plan – Determinations for Aluminum, Cadmium and Copper*. On June 12, 2013, the USEPA stated in writing it had no additional comment on the revised plan and the Department issued a letter to the permittees approving the revised plan.

The permittees commenced implementation of the approved work plan beginning in the fall of 2013 and concluded all sampling and laboratory testing by the end of the summer 2014. On February 11, 2015, the permittees submitted a document entitled, *Androscoggin River Water Effects Ratio Work Plan – Determinations for Aluminum, Cadmium and Copper*. The Department provided comments that resulted in revisions to the report.

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

OUTFALL #001A, 001B & 001C (Final effluent)

On April 13, 2015, the permittees submitted a final report to the Department with a proposed Water Effect Ratio (WER) and site-specific ambient water quality criteria (SSC) values for aluminum, cadmium and copper. In accordance with the report and C.M.R. 06-096 Ch. 584, the values proposed are as follows:

	WER		SSC	
	<u>Acute</u>	<u>Chronic</u>	<u>Acute</u>	<u>Chronic</u>
Aluminum	1.3	3.7	975 ug/L	322 ug/L
Cadmium	1.3	3.0	0.52 ug/L	0.66 ug/L
Copper	2.5	2.5	7.68 ug/L	7.68 ug/L ¹

On April 12, 2016, the Department issued a letter to the USEPA stating the Department believed the study was consistent with the approved study plan and that the approved study plan was consistent with Department regulation 06-096 CMR Chapter 584, *Surface Water Quality Criteria For Toxic Pollutants* and consistent with the longstanding implementation practices of the DeTox program.

The Department supports the site-specific AWQC cited above for the following reasons:

1. The site-specific AWQC are consistent with USEPA’s revised freshwater aquatic life criteria for cadmium (USEPA 2016);
2. The site-specific AWQC are consistent with USEPA’s draft freshwater aquatic life criteria for aluminum (USEPA 2017);
3. The site-specific AWQC are also supported by a decade of historical WET testing submitted to the Department.

The Department has the authority to implement site-specific criteria in the permitting process, effective November 2, 2017, pursuant to Maine 2017 P.L. Ch. 137.

In a letter dated August 24, 2017, the USEPA stated it reviewed the WER study and, for purposes of its analysis, assumed the highest WER for aluminum to be an outlier. The agency indicated it would be reasonable to calculate a site-specific aluminum criterion based on the geometric mean of the remaining two lower WER values for chronic aluminum criterion. Based on this value, the USEPA conducted a reasonable potential calculation for both ND Paper (then called “Catalyst”) and Verso and determined that

¹ The permittees noted in the April 13, 2015 report that the chronic SSC for copper was set at 7.68 ug/L so that it would not exceed the acute SSC. Additionally, Department Rule C.M.R. 06-096 Ch. 584, Appendix A, Footnote nn states in relevant part, “The final WER for chronic copper was determined to be 3.5, however, 2.5 is used to prevent the chronic criteria from exceeding the acute criteria.” Additionally, this permit corrects a typo from the previous permit for the cadmium acute and chronic SSC.

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

OUTFALL #001A, 001B & 001C (Final effluent)

neither facility exceeds or has a reasonable potential to exceed the site-specific chronic aluminum criterion. Therefore, the USEPA would not include a limit for total aluminum in either of the permits for Verso or Catalyst.

On March 31, 2026, the Department conducted statistical evaluations (DeTox Report 1690) on the most current 60-months of chemical specific data and determined none of data points in the 60-month evaluation period exceeded or had a reasonable potential to exceed applicable site specific ambient water quality criteria based on the WERs for Aluminum, Cadmium, and Copper listed on page 33 of this Fact Sheet. Therefore, permit limits for these metals are not required.

In addition, this permitting action is establishing reduced surveillance level reporting and monitoring frequency for analytical chemistry and priority pollutant testing. As with reduced WET testing, the permittee must file an annual certification with the Department pursuant to Chapter 530 §2(D)(3) and Special Condition F of this permit to demonstrate potential impacts to the facility's chemical characteristics in the discharge.

1. Mercury

Pursuant to Maine law, 38 M.R.S. §420 and Department Rule, 06-096 CMR Chapter 519, *Interim Effluent Limitations and Controls for the Discharge of Mercury*, the Department issued a *Notice of Interim Limits for the Discharge of Mercury* to the permittee thereby administratively modifying WDL # W000955-44-C-R by establishing interim average and maximum effluent concentration limits of 35.8 parts per trillion (ppt) and 53.7 ppt, respectively, and a minimum monitoring frequency requirement of four tests per year for mercury. The interim mercury limits were scheduled to expire on October 1, 2001. However, effective June 15, 2001, the Maine Legislature enacted Maine law, 38 M.R.S. §413, sub-§11 specifying that interim mercury limits and monitoring requirements remain in effect. Maine law 38 M.R.S., §420 (1-B)(B)(1) states that a facility is not in violation of the AWQC for mercury if the facility is in compliance with an interim discharge limit established by the Department pursuant to section 413, subsection 11. A review of the Department's database for the period November 1998 – March 2017 indicates the permittee has been in substantial compliance with the interim limits for mercury as results have been reported as follows;

Mercury (N=4)

Value	Limit (ng/L)	Range (ng/L)	Mean (ng/L)
Monthly Average	35.8	10.0 – 10.6	10.4
Maximum	53.7	0.50 – 10.0	3.6

Being carried forward in this permit and pursuant to Maine law 38, M.R.S. §420(1-B)(F) a minor revision of the 9/21/05 permit was issued on 2/07/2012, that reduced the monitoring frequency for mercury from 4/Year to 1/Year.

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

OUTFALL #100A (Bleach Plant)

In accordance with federal regulation 40 C.F.R. Part 430, this permitting action is establishing limitations and monitoring requirements for an internal point source, the combined bleach plant filtrate effluents.

- n. Flow: The previous permitting action contained a monthly average and daily maximum reporting requirement for flow from the bleach plant that is being carried forward in this permitting action. The permittee has installed a flow meter on the combined bleach plant effluent line such that flow is measured continuously. This permitting action carries over a monthly average and daily maximum monitoring requirement that applies when sampling is being conducted for the remaining parameters for Outfall #100.

A review of the monthly DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates the permittee has reported values as follows:

Flow (N=6)

Value	Limit (MGD)	Range (MGD)	Mean (MGD)
Monthly Average	Report	1.9 – 31.5	9.5
Daily Maximum	Report	1.9 – 31.6	9.6

- o. 2,3,7,8-TCDD (Dioxin): The previous permitting action continued with a daily maximum concentration limit of <10 ppq (parts per quadrillion or pg/L) with a monitoring frequency of 1/Year for dioxin based on Maine law, 38 M.R.S., §420. The limit of 10 pg/L is also the ML (Minimum Level - the level at which the analytical system gives recognizable signals and an acceptable calibration point) for EPA Method 1613. Federal regulation 40 C.F.R. Part 430 establishes the same limitation and is therefore being carried forward in this permitting action.

Federal regulation 40 C.F.R. Part 430 establishes a default monitoring frequency of 1/Month for both dioxin and furan. The regulation also authorizes the permitting authority to modify the monitoring frequency for dioxin and furans after five years of monitoring data (60 data points) for dioxin and furan has been collected. ND Paper. (formerly known as Catalyst) has been monitoring the bleach plant effluent for dioxin and furan since 1997 and had more than 75 data points at the time of permit renewal in 2012. The data collected to date at that time indicated dioxin and furan levels had been less than the respective MLs of 10 ppq since the transition to the elimination of elemental chlorine from the bleaching process was completed in late 1996. Therefore, on 2/07/2012 the Department reduced the 1/Month monitoring requirement to 1/Year for dioxin and furan in the administratively continued 9/21/2005 permit. The 1/Year monitoring requirement is being carried forward in this permitting action. In lieu of the 1/Month monitoring requirement, Special Condition H, *Dioxin/Furan Certification*, of the 12/20/2012 permit required the permittee to submit an annual certification indicating the bleaching process has not changed from previous practices and therefore the formation of dioxin/furan compounds is highly unlikely. The permittee has done so to date and Special Condition G of this permit maintains the requirement to submit said annual certification.

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

OUTFALL #100A (Bleach Plant)

The permittee has been in compliance with this requirement as it has submitted said certifications annually.

- p. 2,3,7,8 TCDF (Furan): The previous permitting action perpetuated a daily maximum concentration limit of 10 pg/L which is also the ML for furan for EPA Method 1613. Federal regulation 40 C.F.R. Part 430 establishes a daily maximum concentration limit of 31.9 pg/L. Being that Maine law is more stringent, the limit of <10 pg/L is being carried forward in this permitting action. As with dioxin, in lieu of the 1/Month monitoring requirement, Special Condition H, *Dioxin/Furan Certification*, of the 12/20/2012 permit required the permittee to submit an annual certification indicating the bleaching process has not changed from previous practices and therefore the formation of dioxin/furan compounds is highly unlikely. The permittee has done so to date and Special Condition G of this permit maintains the requirement to submit said annual certification. The permittee has been in compliance with this requirement as it has submitted said certifications annually.

Maine law 38 M.R.S., §420(2)(I)(3) states that - *After December 31, 2002, a mill may not discharge dioxin into its receiving waters. For purposes of this subparagraph, a mill is considered to have discharged dioxin into its receiving waters if 2, 3, 7, 8 - tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin or 2, 3, 7, 8 - tetrachlorodibenzo-p-furan is detected in any of the mill's internal waste streams of its bleach plant and in a confirmatory sample at levels exceeding 10 picograms per liter, unless the Department adopts a lower detection level by rule, which is a routine technical rule pursuant to Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A, or a lower detection level by incorporation of a method in use by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, or if levels of dioxin, as defined in section 420-B, subsection 1-A, paragraph A detected in fish tissue sampled below the mill's wastewater outfall are higher than levels in fish tissue sampled at an upstream reference site not affected by the mill's discharge or on the basis of a comparable surrogate procedure acceptable to the commissioner. The commissioner shall consult with the technical advisory group established in section 420-B, subsection 1, paragraph B, subparagraph (5) in making this determination and in evaluating surrogate procedures. The fish-tissue sampling test must be performed with differences between the average concentrations of dioxin in the fish samples taken upstream and downstream from the mill measured with at least 95% statistical confidence. If the mill fails to meet the fish-tissue sampling-result requirements in this subparagraph and does not demonstrate by December 31, 2004 and annually thereafter to the commissioner's satisfaction that its wastewater discharge is not the source of elevated dioxin concentrations in fish below the mill, then the commissioner may pursue any remedy authorized by law.*

On May 3, 2005, the Department presented a report to the Natural Resources Committee of the Maine Legislature reporting on the status of each mill regarding the “above/below” test. In the report, the Department made the determination that dioxin levels in the fish tissue from fish collected above and below the Rumford mill, though detectable, were not

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

OUTFALL #100A (Bleach Plant)

statistically different. As a result, the Department made the determination that ND (known at the time as Catalyst) was in compliance with Maine law 38 M.R.S., §420(2)(I)(3).

If required to do so, the permittee must continue to participate in the State’s Fish Advisory Program as required by Special Condition L, *Fish Advisory Program*, of this permitting action in accordance with Maine law 38 M.R.S. §420-B. This statute directs the Department to conduct a monitoring program in order to determine the need for fish advisories on affected waters. The permittee is required to participate in the program even though there is no statistical difference in the dioxin levels in fish tissue in the fish collected upstream and downstream of the mill as the statute authorizes the Department to select participants from among publicly owned treatment works, bleached kraft mills or other sources.

- q. Twelve Chlorophenolics: The 12/04/2017 permitting action contained limitations and monitoring requirements for the chlorophenolic compounds pursuant to federal regulation 40 C.F.R. Part 430 along with a 1/Year monitoring requirement. The technology-based limitations varied from 2.5 ug/L to 5.0 ug/L and are equivalent to the ML for each parameter using EPA Method 1653 and are being carried forward in this permitting action. It is noted none of the twelve compounds have ever been reported in a detectable concentration since monitoring for the parameters began with promulgation of 40 C.F.R. Part 430 in April 1998.
- r. Chloroform: The previous permitting action established monthly average and daily maximum mass limits for chloroform based on federal regulation found at 40 C.F.R. Part 430 along with a 1/Year monitoring frequency. The regulation establishes production-based BAT monthly average and daily maximum allowances of 4.14 and 6.92 g/kg of unbleached pulp production. With an unbleached kraft pulp production of 1,503 tons/day the monthly average (MA) and daily maximum (DM) limits were calculated as follows:

MA: 1,503 tons/day x 4.14 g/kg x 0.907 kkg/ton x 1.0 lbs/ 454g = 12.4 lbs /day
DM: 1,503 tons/day x 6.92 g/kg x 0.907 kkg/ton x 1.0 lbs/ 454g = 20.8 lbs /day

Department communication with the permittee in 2025 regarding the renewal application indicates kraft pulp production remains at 1,503 tons/day

A review of the monthly DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates the permittee has reported values as follows:

Chloroform (DMRs=3)

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Mean (lbs/day)
Monthly average	12.4	0.26 – 0.76	0.57
Daily maximum	20.8	0.27 – 0.75	0.58

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

OUTFALL #100A (Bleach Plant)

Both the limitations and 1/year monitoring requirement are being carried forward in this permit.

OUTFALL #002A – (Non Contact Cooling Water)

- s. Flow - The 12/04/2017 permitting action contained a monthly average flow limitation of 17.0 MGD for Outfall #002A along with a 1/Week monitoring requirement that are being carried forward in this permit. A review of the monthly DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates the permittee has reported values as follows:

Flow (N=59)

Value	Limit (MGD)	Range (MGD)	Mean (MGD)
Monthly average	17.0	0.8 – 3.7	2.1
Daily maximum	Report	1.0 – 3.9	2.5

- t. Temperature: The previous permitting action contained a year-round daily maximum temperature limit of 105° F along with a 1/Week monitoring that are being carried forward in this permitting action. See the discussion regarding thermal load limitations in the section *Outfall 002A* of this Fact Sheet.

A review of the DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates the permittee has been in compliance with the limit as values have been reported as follows:

Temperature

Temperature (N=59)

Value	Limit (°F)	Range (°F)	Average (°F)
Daily Maximum	105	63 – 102	82

- u. pH Range: The previous permitting action contained a pH range limit of 5.0 – 9.0 standard units that was based on federal regulation 40 C.F.R., Part 430 along with a 1/Week monitoring requirement. This permitting action is carrying the limit forward and continues to be consistent with the federal NEGs.

A review of the DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates the permittee has reported values as follows:

pH (N=59)

Value	Limit (su)	Lower Limit Range (su)	Upper Limit Range (su)
Daily Maximum	5.0 – 9.0	5.4 – 7.1	5.8 – 9.3*

*There was one violation in the reporting period.

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

OUTFALL #003A – (Non Contact Cooling Water)

- v. Flow - The previous permitting action contained a monthly average flow limitation of 17.0 MGD along with a 1/Week monitoring requirement for Outfall #003A that are being carried forward in this permit. A review of the monthly DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates the permittee has reported values as follows:

Flow (N=59)

Value	Limit (MGD)	Range (MGD)	Mean (MGD)
Monthly average	17.0	0.1 – 3.9	0.37
Daily maximum	Report	0.1 – 7.0	1.0

- w. Temperature: The previous permitting action contained a year-round daily maximum temperature limit of 105° F along with a 1/Week monitoring requirement that are being carried forward in this permitting action. See the discussion regarding thermal load limitations in the section *Outfall 00TA* of this Fact Sheet.

A review of the DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates the permittee has been in compliance with the limit as values have been reported as follows:

Temperature

Temperature (N=59)

Value	Limit (°F)	Range (°F)	Average (°F)
Daily Maximum	105	48 - 102	73

- x. pH Range: The previous permitting action established a pH range limit of 5.0 – 9.0 standard units that was based on federal regulation 40 C.F.R. Part 430 along with a 1/Week monitoring requirement. This permitting action is carrying the limit and monitoring frequency requirement forward and continues to be consistent with the federal NEGs.

A review of the DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates the permittee has been in compliance with the limits as values have been reported as follows:

pH (N = 41)

Value	Limit (su)	Lower Limit Range (su)	Upper Limit Range (su)
Daily Maximum	5.0 – 9.0	5.5 – 6.7	6.0 – 7.9

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

OUTFALL #004A – (Non Contact Cooling Water)

- y. Flow - The previous permitting action contained a monthly average flow limitation of 17.0 MGD for Outfall #004A along with a 1/Week monitoring requirement that are being carried forward in this permitting action. A review of the monthly DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates the permittee has reported values as follows:

Flow (N=18)

Value	Limit (MGD)	Range (MGD)	Mean (MGD)
Monthly average	17.0	0.0 – 0.7	0.27
Daily maximum	Report	0.0 – 0.8	0.38

- z. Temperature: The previous permitting action contained a year-round daily maximum temperature limit of 105° F along with a 1/Week monitoring requirement that are being carried forward in this permitting action. See the discussion regarding thermal load limitations in the section *Outfall 004A* of this Fact Sheet.

A review of the DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates the permittee has been in compliance with the limitation as values have been reported as follows:

Temperature (N=18)

Value	Limit (°F)	Range (°F)	Average (°F)
Daily Maximum	105	55 - 99	78

- aa. pH Range: The previous permitting action contained a pH range limit of 5.0 – 9.0 standard units that was based on federal regulation 40 C.F.R. Part 430 along with a monitoring frequency of 1/Week. This permitting action is carrying the limit forward and continues to be consistent with the federal NEGs along with the 1/Week monitoring requirement.

A review of the DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates the permittee has been in compliance with the limits as values have been reported as follows:

pH (N=18)

Value	Limit (su)	Lower Limit Range (su)	Upper Limit Range
Daily Maximum	5.0 – 9.0	5.6 – 6.7	5.9 – 9.8

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

OUTFALL #005A – (Non-Contact Cooling Water)

bb. Flow - The previous permitting action contained a monthly average flow reporting requirement and a daily maximum limitation of 30.0 MGD for Outfall #005A along with a continuous monitoring requirement that are being carried forward in this permitting action. A review of the monthly DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates there was no flow data to report for this outfall.

cc. Temperature: The previous permitting action contained a year-round daily maximum temperature limit of 105° F along with a continuous monitoring requirement that are being carried forward in this permitting action. See the discussion regarding thermal load limitations in the section *Outfall 00T* of this Fact Sheet.

A review of the DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates there was no temperature data to report for this outfall.

dd. pH Range: The previous permitting action established a pH range limit of 5.0 – 9.0 standard units that was based on federal regulation 40 C.F.R. Part 430 along with a 1/Month monitoring requirement.

A review of the DMR data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates there was no pH data to report for this outfall.

OUTFALL #00TA & #00TB (Seasonal thermal load limitation)

These “outfalls” are not physical outfall structures discharging to a receiving water but are administrative “outfalls” utilized to track thermal loadings discharged collectively by Outfalls 001A-C, 002A, 003A, and 004A (#00TA) and Outfalls 001A-C, 002A, 003A, 004A and 005A (#00TB) from the mill to the Androscoggin River.

A 1996 license modification established a seasonal daily maximum thermal load limitation of 1.43×10^{10} British Thermal Units (BTU's)/Day for Outfall 001, 002, 003 and 004 collectively. The license modification also provided for a discharge from Outfall #005 should the cooling towers from the Cogeneration facility be off-line. It is noted the license modification required the cooling towers to be operated between May 15th and September 30th of each year. In the event of a discharge from Outfall #005, the facility was limited to a daily thermal load of 2.16×10^{10} BTU's/Day from Outfalls 001, 002, 003, 004 and 005 collectively. The daily maximum thermal limitation for the mill was established in accordance with the past demonstrated performance methodology established in Maine law, 38 M.R.S., §464(4)(I)(since repealed) that stated the amount of heat discharged on any single day may not exceed 1.15 times the maximum 7-day average heat discharged in any 7-day period between January 1, 1989 and January 1, 1995. The 1996 licensing action also established a formal thermal mixing zone, which was carried

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

OUTFALL #00TA & #00TB (Seasonal thermal load limitation)

forward in the 12/20/12 permitting action and is being carried forward in this permitting per Special Condition I, *Zone of Initial Dilution and Mixing Zone*.

Department Rule Chapter 582, *Regulations Relating To Temperature*, limits thermal discharges to an in-stream temperature increase (ΔT) of 0.5° F above the temperature that would naturally occur outside a mixing zone established by the Board when the weekly average temperature of the receiving water is greater than or equal to 66° F or when the daily maximum temperature is greater than or equal to 73° F. The temperature thresholds are based

on EPA water quality criterion for the protection of brook trout and Atlantic salmon (both species indigenous to the Androscoggin River). The weekly average temperature of 66° F was derived to protect for normal growth of the brook trout and the daily maximum threshold temperature of 73° F protects for the survival of juveniles and adult Atlantic salmon during the summer months. As a point of clarification, the Department interprets the term "weekly average temperature" to mean a seven (7) day rolling average. To promote consistency, the Department also interprets the ΔT of 0.5° F as a weekly rolling average criterion when the receiving water temperature is $\geq 66^\circ$ F and $< 73^\circ$ F. When the receiving water temperature is $\geq 73^\circ$ F compliance with the ΔT of 0.5° F is evaluated on a daily basis.

Maine law, 38 M.R.S., §464(4)(I) (since repealed) stated in part that dischargers must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Department that they are unable to meet the standards in the existing temperature rule after application of best practicable treatment (BPT). In supplemental information to their 1996 application for establishing the mixing zone and their 1999 application for license renewal (supplemented in November of 2004), MeadWestvaco (former owner/operator of the ND mill) identified numerous temperature reduction projects and waste water treatment minimization practices

Maine law, 38 M.R.S., §451 states that after adoption of any classification by the Legislature for surface waters or tidal flats or sections thereof, it is unlawful for any person, firm, corporation, municipality, association, partnership, quasi-municipal body, state agency or other legal entity to dispose of any pollutants, either alone or in conjunction with another or others, in such manner as will, after reasonable opportunity for dilution, diffusion or mixture with the receiving waters or heat transfer to the atmosphere, lower the quality of those waters below the minimum requirements of such classifications, or where mixing zones have been established by the department, so lower the quality of those waters outside such zones, notwithstanding any exemptions or licenses which may have been granted or issued under sections 413 to 414-B.

Section 451 also states that, after opportunity for hearing, the Department may establish by order a mixing zone with respect to any discharge for which a license has been issued pursuant to section 414.

Section 451 also states that the purpose of a mixing zone is to allow a reasonable opportunity for dilution, diffusion or mixture of pollutants with the receiving waters before the receiving

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

OUTFALL #00TA & 00TB (Seasonal thermal load limitation)

waters below or surrounding a discharge will be tested for classification violations. In determining the extent of any mixing zone to be established under this section, the Department may require from the applicant testimony concerning the nature and rate of the discharge; the nature and rate of existing discharges to the waterway; the size of the waterway and the rate of flow therein; any relevant seasonal, climatic, tidal and natural variations in such size, flow, nature and rate; the uses of the waterways in the vicinity of the

discharge, and such other and further evidence as in the Department's judgment will enable it to establish a reasonable mixing zone for such discharge. An order establishing a mixing zone may provide that the extent thereof varies in order to take into account seasonal, climatic, tidal and natural variations in the size and flow of, and the nature and rate of, discharges to the waterway.

Boise Cascade (permittee at that time) submitted extensive instream temperature monitoring data that was collected in accordance with Department guidance between 1992 and 1994. A final report titled "Thermal Impacts to the Androscoggin River" was submitted to the Department on December 13, 1994. In addition, the permittee conducted an instream dye study on November 11 & 12, 1994 to determine the point downstream where complete mixing of the mill discharges takes place. It was determined that Outfalls 001, 002, 003 & 004 completely mix with the receiving waters at the Hunt's airfield transect which is approximately 2.2 miles downstream of Outfall 004. The Department and MeadWestvaco agreed that this segment of the receiving water was to be considered the zone of initial dilution.

Boise Cascade's report concluded that at the downstream end of the zone of initial dilution, instream temperature monitoring data collected between 1992 and 1994 demonstrated that the thermal discharge from the mill was in compliance with the Chapter 582 regulation. Boise Cascade maintained the position that diurnal fluctuations are responsible for instream ΔT 's of greater than 0.5° F.

The Department reviewed Boise Cascade's thermal report and disagreed with their conclusion. In a memorandum of February 16, 1995, the Bureau of Land and Water Quality's Division of Environmental Assessment concluded that long- term averages indicate that the ΔT at the Hunts airfield transect is 1.5°F. The memorandum went on to say that the temperature data indicates that the discharge would not be in compliance with the Chapter 582 regulation's ΔT threshold of 0.5°F until 12 miles downstream of Outfall 004 or nearly 10 miles below the zone of initial dilution.

In a meeting on November 29, 1995 between representatives of the Department and Boise Cascade, Boise Cascade maintained its position that diurnal fluctuations were principally responsible for the elevated instream ΔT 's. A consensus was reached however, that it is extremely difficult to separate out what portion of the ΔT is due to the thermal discharge from the mill and what portion is due to diurnal fluctuations. As a result, it was agreed that

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

OUTFALL #00TA & 00TB (Seasonal thermal load limitation)

establishment of a formal mixing zone would be the preferred option to address the thermal discharge issue. On February 27, 1996, the Department issued #W000955-51-A-N that established a zone of initial dilution and a mixing zone that are being carried forward in this permitting action. The WDL stated that the receiving waters are not to be tested for temperature violations within the designated zone of initial dilution or the established mixing zone.

The zone of initial dilution for the thermal discharge from the Rumford mill is described as beginning at Outfall 001 and extending downstream a distance of approximately 2.2 miles to the west end (upstream end) of Burke Island. See **Attachment C** of this permit for map illustrating the extent of the zone of initial dilution.

The mixing zone established by the Department for the thermal discharge from the Rumford mill is described as beginning at the west end of Burke Island and extending downstream approximately 10 miles to a point where the Dixfield, Canton and Peru Town lines intersect at a point in the thread of the Androscoggin River. See **Attachment C** of this permit for a map illustrating the extent of the mixing zone.

The Department finds the 1996 licensing action that established a Board approved mixing zone and a daily maximum thermal limitation to be in compliance with Maine law 38 M.R.S., §451 and Department Rule Chapter 582. However, the Department's goal is to reduce thermal discharges through continuous improvement where feasible for facilities with thermal mixing zones. Therefore, the thermal mixing zone established in the 1996 licensing action and subsequent permitting actions is being carried forward in this permitting action.

On November 2004, MeadWestvaco submitted updated thermal calculations to the Department. The calculations indicated that for the summer months (June – September) between June 2001 and September of 2004, the highest 7-day quantity of heat collectively discharged was 1.05×10^{10} BTU/day. Therefore, in keeping with the methodology established in the Maine law, 38 M.R.S., §464(4)(I) (since repealed) and utilized in the 1996 licensing action, the Department reduced the daily maximum heat load limitation from 1.43×10^{10} BTU/day to 1.21×10^{10} BTU/day for Outfalls 001, 002, 003 and 004 collectively. As with the 1996 licensing action, the daily maximum limitation was derived by multiplying the weekly average heat load of 1.05×10^{10} BTU/day by a factor of 1.15. If the co-generation cooling towers were off-line and a discharge from Outfall #005 became necessary, the permittee was limited to a daily maximum heat load of 2.05×10^{10} BTU/day. Both daily maximum heat load limitations are being carried forward in this action.

In its 2010 application for permit renewal, the permittee submitted an up-to-date summary of the projects within the mill to further reduce the overall thermal discharge to the river. The application indicates owners of the Rumford mill had spent upwards of \$3.6 million and reduced the thermal discharge by 10% between 2005 and 2008. As a result of the implementation, the permittee was allowed to change the operating regime for the cooling towers to begin June 1 rather than May 15th. The 2017 application for permit renewal

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

OUTFALL #00TA & 00TB (Seasonal thermal load limitation)

indicates between 2012 and 2016, the mill owners spent approximately and additional \$520,000 in heat reduction projects resulting in less heat being rejected to the river. And the 2022 application indicates continued progress on reducing thermal discharges.

Special Condition J, *Thermal Load*, of this permitting action directs the permittee to consider additional water reuse projects within the mill and wastewater treatment technology alternatives to reduce the thermal discharge to the Androscoggin River. As an exhibit in the next application for permit renewal, the permittee may submit a summary of the projects undertaken during the term of this permit to reduce the heat load discharged. The report shall list the individual projects and quantify the heat load in BTU's/day that was removed from the discharge point(s).

A review of the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data for the period September 2020 – September 2025 indicates the permittee has reported values as follows:

Thermal load (N=19)

Value	Limit (BTUs/day)	Range (BTUs/day)	Mean (BTUs)
Daily maximum	1.21 x 10 ¹⁰ BTU/day	0.15 x 10 ¹⁰ BTU/day – 1.19 x 10 ¹⁰ BTU/day	0.96 x 10 ¹⁰ BTU/day

6. GULF ISLAND POND (GIP) OXYGEN INJECTION SYSTEM

At the time of permitting in 2005, it was the Department’s understanding that the contractual agreement for the operation and maintenance of the existing oxygenation system at Upper Narrows was as follows: FPLE (now Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC), 14%; Fraser (succeeded in interest by Gorham Paper and Tissue LLC), 10%; Rumford Paper Company (succeeded by Catalyst Paper Operations Inc. and now ND Paper LLC.), 38%; and International Paper (formerly succeeded in interest by Verso Corporation and now known as JayCo, LLC) 38%.

The May 2005 final TMDL indicated with zero discharge from all point sources, oxygen injection was still required due to dissolved oxygen deficiencies as a result of sediment oxygen demand in an environment of low velocity water movement and low vertical mixing due to the presence of the Gulf Island Dam. Modeling for the TMDL indicated that to offset this dissolved oxygen deficiency, FPLE would be required to inject 105,000 lbs/day of oxygen at Upper Narrows (present system) or inject 65,000 lbs/day of oxygen at Lower Narrows. Therefore, only 0.619 lbs of oxygen is required at Lower Narrows for every 1.0 lb of oxygen at Upper Narrows (65,000/105,000 = 0.619).

In an effort to distribute oxygen injection based on loadings to GIP, (at the same time recognizing parties contractual obligations), the Department assigned oxygen requirements for each entity in the 9/21/05 permit (carried forward through the 12/04/17 permit) based on collectively injecting 105,000 lbs/day at Upper Narrows and 105,000 lbs/day at Lower Narrows. The oxygen injection requirements for each entity were derived as follows:

6. GULF ISLAND POND (GIP) OXYGEN INJECTION SYSTEM (cont'd)

Upper Narrows:

Allocation by contractual obligation

FPLE (14%)	$105,000 \text{ lbs} (0.14) = 14,700 \text{ lbs}$
Fraser (10%)	$105,000 \text{ lbs} (0.10) = 10,500 \text{ lbs}$
RPC (38%)	$105,000 \text{ lbs} (0.38) = 39,900 \text{ lbs}$
IP (38%)	$105,000 \text{ lbs} (0.38) = 39,900 \text{ lbs}$

Allocation by percent pollutant loading to GIP

FPLE fixed at 14,700 lbs $\Rightarrow 105,000 \text{ lbs} - 14,700 \text{ lbs} = 90,300 \text{ lbs}$ to be split between mills.

Fraser (20.17%)	$90,300 \text{ lbs} (0.2017) = 18,177 \text{ lbs}$
RPC (32.64%)	$90,300 \text{ lbs} (0.3264) = 29,474 \text{ lbs}$
IP (47.23%)	$90,300 \text{ lbs} (0.4723) = 42,648 \text{ lbs}$

Difference between contractual and percent pollutant loading

FPLE fixed at 14,700 lbs

Fraser	$10,500 \text{ lbs} - 18,177 \text{ lbs} = (7,677 \text{ lbs})$
RPC	$39,900 \text{ lbs} - 29,474 \text{ lbs} = 10,426 \text{ lbs}$
IP	$39,900 \text{ lbs} - 42,648 \text{ lbs} = (2,748 \text{ lbs})$

Lower Narrows

Being that FPLE would be responsible for 105,000 lbs of oxygen injection at Upper Narrows with the mills at zero discharge and was contractually only contributing 14% to the Upper Narrows, the Department assigned the remaining portion of that obligation at Lower Narrows. It is noted that only 0.619 lbs of oxygen is required at Lower Narrows for every 1.0 lb of oxygen at Upper Narrows.

FPLE's responsibility at Lower Narrows: $(105,000 \text{ lbs} - 14,700 \text{ lbs})(0.619) = 55,900 \text{ lbs}$.
 $105,000 \text{ lbs} - 55,900 \text{ lbs} = 49,100 \text{ lbs}$ was allocated between the mills.

Allocation for the three mills based on pollutant loading to GIP

FPLE fixed at 55,900 lbs

Fraser	$49,100 \text{ lbs} (0.2017) = 9,884 \text{ lbs}$
RPC	$49,100 \text{ lbs} (0.3264) = 16,026 \text{ lbs}$
IP	$49,100 \text{ lbs} (0.4723) = 23,190 \text{ lbs}$

Re-allocation for the three mills considering over or under compensation at Upper Narrows

FPLE fixed at 55,900 lbs

Fraser	$9,884 \text{ lbs} + 7,677(0.619) \text{ lbs} = 14,636 \text{ lbs}$
RPC	$16,026 \text{ lbs} - 10,426(0.619) \text{ lbs} = 9,570 \text{ lbs}$
IP	$23,190 \text{ lbs} + 2,748(0.619) \text{ lbs} = 24,891 \text{ lbs}$

6. GULF ISLAND POND (GIP) OXYGEN INJECTION SYSTEM (cont'd)

Re-allocation expressed as a percentage of the total of 105,000 lbs

FPLE	55,900 lbs/105,000 lbs = 53.2%
Fraser	14,636 lbs/105,000 lbs = 13.9%
RPC	9,570 lbs/105,000 lbs = 9.1%
IP	24,891 lbs/105,000 lbs = 23.8%

Summary of Oxygen Injection for 9/21/05 permit

A summary of oxygen injection requirements (assuming the TMDL default allocation of 105,000 lbs/day at Upper Narrows and 105,000 lbs/day at Lower Narrows) based on pollutant loading to GIP, compensation for existing oxygen injection at Upper Narrows to offset pollutant loading to GIP and the existing contractual obligation of the partnership for the existing system at Upper Narrows was established as follows:

<u>Upper Narrows</u>		<u>Lower Narrows</u>	
FPLE	14,700 lbs	FPLE	55,900 lbs
Fraser	10,500 lbs	Fraser	14,636 lbs
RPC	39,900 lbs	RPC	9,570 lbs
IP	39,900 lbs	IP	24,891 lbs

In its February 7, 2008 appeal orders, the Board included a condition that, by June 1, 2008, the permittee (successor in interest to RPC), Verso Corporation (successor in interest to International Paper) or Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC (successor in interest to FPL Energy) and Gorham Paper and Tissue LLC (successor in interest to Fraser Paper), submit a plan and schedule for upgrading the existing oxygen injection system, located at Upper Narrows in Gulf Island Pond, to increase the oxygen transfer efficiency of the system, thereby increasing dissolved oxygen levels in Gulf Island Pond, and that the upgraded oxygen injection system be operational no later than June 1, 2009.

On May 30, 2008, on behalf of the GIPOP Partnership, FPL Energy Maine Hydro LLC submitted a plan and schedule to replace the existing in-stream oxygenation diffuser system with a new line diffuser system designed to improve the oxygen transfer efficiency of the oxygen injection system from 33% to 54%. On June 23, 2008, the Department issued an order approving the plan with a condition requiring that the upgraded oxygen injection system continue to be operated in accordance with the approved June 1999 operational plan.

The upgraded system was installed and began operation in June of 2009.

In its February 7, 2008 appeal orders, the Board included a condition that, by June 1, 2008, the permittee (successor in interest to RPC), Verso Corporation (successor in interest to International Paper), Brookfield White Pine Hydro LLC (successor in interest to FPL Energy) and Gorham Paper and Tissue LLC (successor in interest to Fraser Paper), submit a plan and schedule for injecting sufficient oxygen into Gulf Island Pond to mitigate

6. GULF ISLAND POND (GIP) OXYGEN INJECTION SYSTEM (cont'd)

the impact of Gulf Island Dam and the Verso and Catalyst wastewater discharges on dissolved oxygen levels in the pond, based on the Department's 2005 TMDL, and that the required oxygen injection be provided no later than June 1, 2010. A similar condition was included in EPA's September 30, 2008 wastewater discharge permit for Fraser Paper's Gorham, New Hampshire paper mill.

On May 26, 2009, on behalf of the GIPOP Partnership, FPL Energy submitted a conceptual plan to inject sufficient oxygen to meet standards in Gulf Island Pond using the existing oxygen injection supply infrastructure and an additional oxygen storage tank and/or vaporizer and additional diffusers, as required.

In a letter dated May 27, 2009, the Department accepted the GIPOP conceptual plan as fulfilling the filing requirements of the Board's appeal orders and EPA permit, pending further discussions with the GIPOP Partnership regarding options for meeting water quality standards without additional oxygen injection.

The Department asked its contract modeler, HydroAnalysis, Inc., to run the recalibrated water quality model to determine oxygen injection requirements with diffusers at Upper Narrows and Lower Narrows, as proposed by the GIPOP Partnership, and the reduced BOD limit proposed by Verso.

In a December 1, 2009 report to the Department, HydroAnalysis, Inc. submitted the results of the requested model run. The results were that, with an oxygen injection rate of 24,279 lbs/day at Upper Narrows, at an oxygen transfer efficiency of 54%, and an oxygen injection rate of 34,490 lbs/day at Lower Narrows at an oxygen transfer efficiency of 75%, Class C dissolved oxygen standards will be met in Gulf Island Pond to a depth of 60 feet under critical conditions (i.e., high temperature and low flow) and with all upstream point source discharges at their permit limits. The total oxygen injection rate of 56,100 lbs/day is well within the 73,000 lbs/day design capacity of the oxygen injection system.

On June 7, 2010, the Department issued a modification of the 9/21/2005 permit to incorporate the numeric oxygen injection requirements cited above. The numeric limitations were carried forward in the 12/20/2012 and 12/04/2017 permitting actions. In addition, Special Condition H, *Gulf Island Pond Oxygen Injection Operation*, of the 12/04/2017 permit was established for the operational conditions of the oxygenation system.

In this permitting action, the numeric limits are being removed and Special Condition H, *Gulf Island Pond Oxygen Injection Operation* was modified to reflect the changes in paper mill operations on the Androscoggin River. When Verso Corporation discontinued their paper mill discharges, the overall need for oxygen injection to the Androscoggin River was reduced. However, there was not a viable mechanism in place to allow the remaining three facilities to appropriately modify their oxygen injection rates without a formal permit modification. By allowing the parties of interest to develop a plan for Department approval, the remaining dischargers will have a more flexible method to deal with necessary changes to oxygen injection rates on the Androscoggin River. Over the summer of 2025, the remaining permitted entities, Brookfield White Pine Hydro, LLC, Gorham paper and Tissue, LLC, and

6. GULF ISLAND POND (GIP) OXYGEN INJECTION SYSTEM (cont'd)

ND Paper, LLC conducted a pilot study to daily monitor the necessary levels of oxygenation injection. These entities have been reporting to the Department the results and any increases or decreases in the oxygenation levels. The trials are expected to continue in 2026. This data will be used to enact a plan that will be submitted for approval to the Department upon completion of the study. The 2026 trial plans and any potential future oxygenation reductions plans will be managed external from the license via the Department approved plan.

7. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PLAN

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are specified at 40 CFR 430.03(d). The primary objective of the Best Management Practices is to prevent leaks and spills of spent pulping liquors, soap, and turpentine. The secondary objective is to contain, collect, and recover at the immediate process area, or otherwise control, those leaks, spills, and intentional diversions of spent pulping liquor, soap and turpentine that do occur. Toward those objectives, the permittee must implement the Best Management Practices (BMPs) specified in 40 C.F.R. 430.03 (c). The conditions established in Special Condition M, *Best Management Practices Plan* of the permit are recommended by EPA Headquarters via a May 2000 Permit Guidance Document for the Pulp, Paper and Paperboard Manufacturing Point Source Category.

During the course of production and the maintenance of mill process equipment, minimal quantities of production liquors (liquids) may enter the mill process sewer system. It is not standard practice to indiscriminately sewer production liquors and steps are taken to minimize losses in production and maintenance practices in accordance with the mill's Best Management Practices (BMP) Plan for spent pulping liquor, soap, and turpentine. The focus of the BMP Plan is management of spent pulping liquor (the Rumford Mill does not currently process soap or turpentine) through the establishment of work practices and engineered controls necessary to satisfy regulatory requirements and BMP objectives. The BMP program uses a pollution prevention approach to achieve the following objectives:

- Prevent leaks and spills of spent pulping liquor.
- Contain, collect, and/or recover spills, leaks, and diversions at the immediate process area.
- Manage spills, leaks, and diversions to ensure adequate wastewater management.

MeadWestvaco implemented the Rumford Mill's BMP Plan in 1999 after completing a detailed engineering review of pulping and chemical recovery operations. The purpose of the engineering review was to determine the magnitude and potential routing of possible leaks, spills, and intentional diversions of spent pulping liquor that may occur due to startups, shutdowns, maintenance outages, production grade changes, normal operations, and power failures. MeadWestvaco used the process hazard analysis technique to evaluate the black liquor systems at the Rumford Mill. Process material releases that could occur, as well as safeguards for their prevention, detection, and containment were identified. The results of

7. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PLAN (cont'd)

the hazard analyses served as the basis to identify needed improvements to work practices or engineered systems such as process monitoring or containment. A multi-disciplinary team was used for process review to involve operations personnel as early as possible in BMP Plan

development. These staff members have the day-to-day responsibility and complete understanding of operation and maintenance work practices, and are the most suited to identify, implement, and sustain needed improvement to current practices.

Methods to monitor, measure, and report performance were also developed in accordance with Cluster Rule requirements. For compliance monitoring and documentation of performance, 24-hour composite samples of Primary Clarifier Effluent are analyzed daily for Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) levels. Lower and Upper Action Levels were established to detect and properly respond to leaks, spills, or diversions of black liquor. The permittee has adopted and maintained implementation of the BMP Plan.

8. DISCHARGE IMPACT ON RECEIVING WATER QUALITY

With implementation of the May 2005 final TMDL and compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit, the Department has determined the existing water uses will be maintained and protected and the discharge will not cause or contribute to the failure of the Androscoggin River to meet standards of its assigned Class C classification. In addition, the Department has made the determination that water quality standards established in State law are protective of all cold-water fish populations and that effluent monitoring of the discharge and ambient water quality monitoring of the receiving waters required by this permit serve as an interim Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public notice of this application was made in the Lewiston Sun Journal newspaper on October 28, 2022. The Department receives public comments on an application until the date a final agency action is taken on that application. Those persons receiving copies of draft permits shall have at least 30 days in which to submit comments on the draft or to request a public hearing, pursuant to Chapter 522 of the Department's Rules.

10. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

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

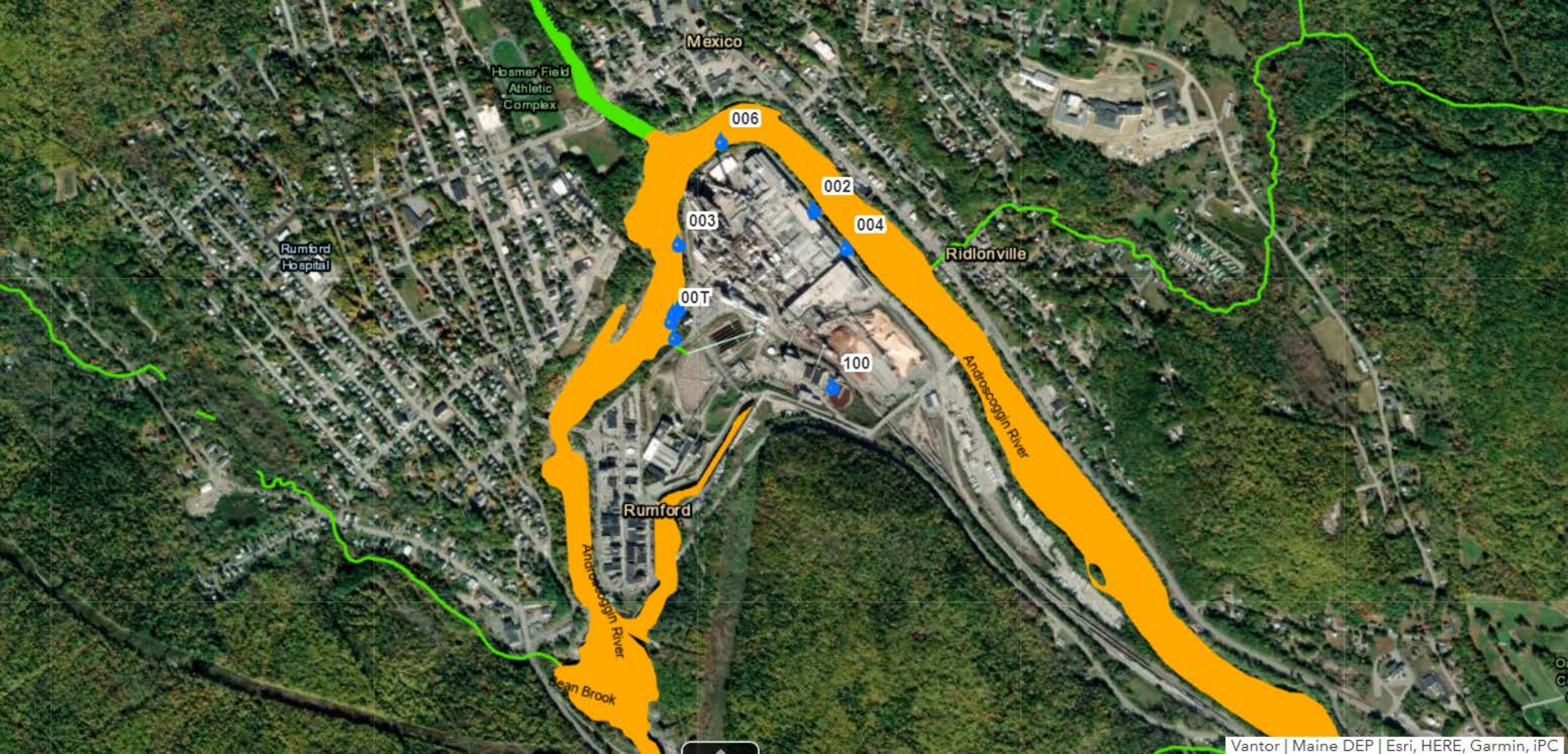
Laura Crossley
Division of Water Quality Management
Bureau of Water Quality
Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017
E-mail: laura.crossley@maine.gov

Telephone: (207) 615-6711

11. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

During the period of October 28, 2022, through the issuance date of the permit/license, the Department solicited comments on the proposed draft permit/license to be issued for the discharge(s) from the ND Paper, Inc. facility.

ATTACHMENT A



Mexico

Hosmer Field
Athletic
Complex

006

002

003

004

Rumford
Hospital

Ridlonville

00T

100

Androscoggin River

Rumford

Androscoggin River

Sean Brook

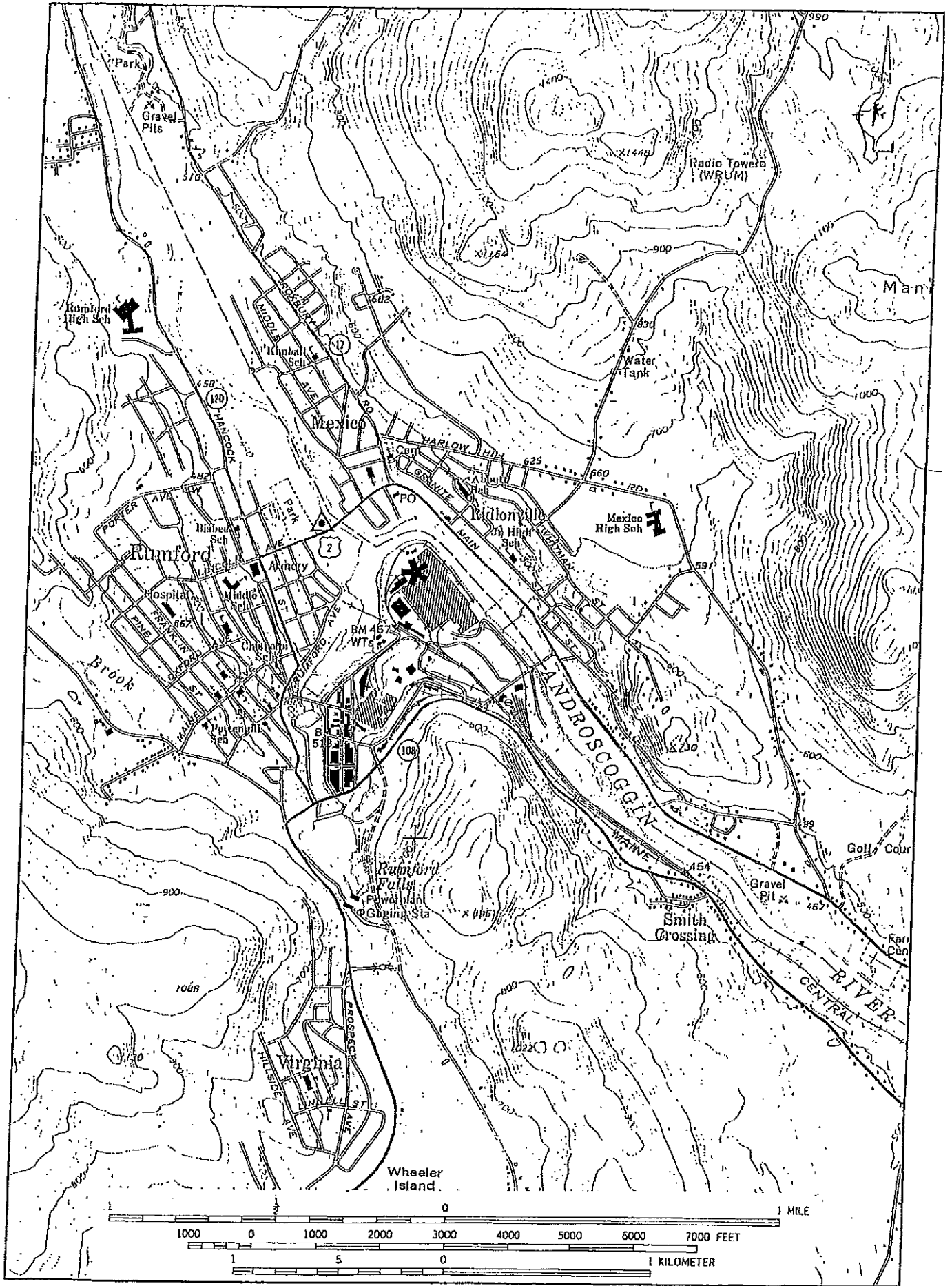
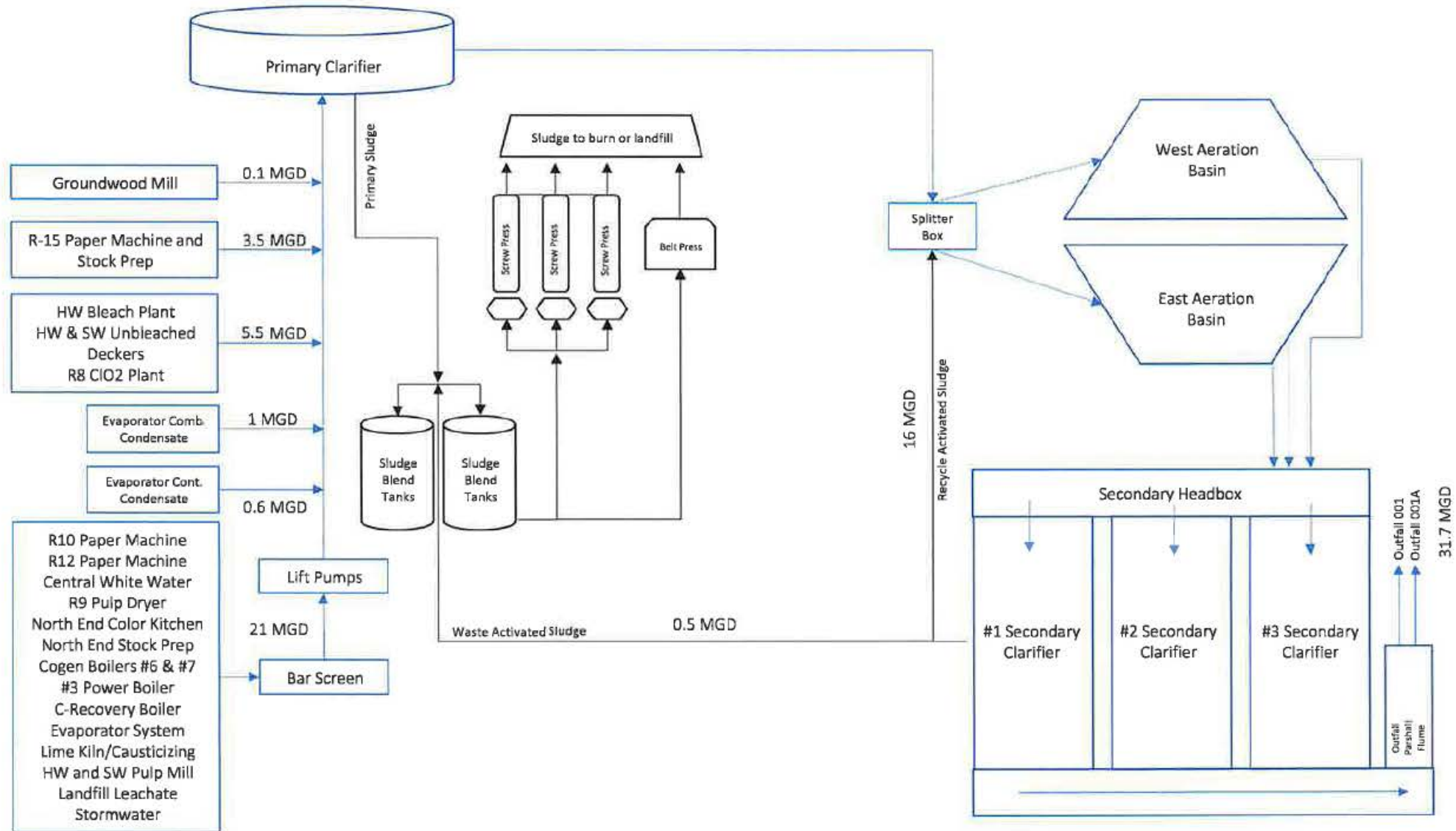


FIGURE 2-1

ATTACHMENT B

ND Paper – Rumford Division Effluent Treatment Plant



ATTACHMENT C

4/2/2026

WET TEST REPORT

Data for tests conducted for the period

02/Apr/2021 - 02/Apr/2026



ND PAPER (RUMFORD MILL)

NPDES= ME0002054

Effluent Limit: Acute (%) = 3.163

Chronic (%) = 3.163

Species	Test	Percent	Sample date	Critical %	Exception	RP
TROUT	A_NOEL	100	09/14/2021	3.163		
TROUT	A_NOEL	100	05/31/2023	3.163		
TROUT	C_NOEL	100	09/14/2021	3.163		
TROUT	C_NOEL	100	05/31/2023	3.163		
WATER FLEA	A_NOEL	100	09/14/2021	3.163		
WATER FLEA	A_NOEL	100	05/31/2023	3.163		
WATER FLEA	C_NOEL	100	09/14/2021	3.163		
WATER FLEA	C_NOEL	100	05/31/2023	3.163		

ATTACHMENT D

PRIORITY POLLUTANT DATA SUMMARY



Date Range: 02/Apr/2021 - 02/Apr/2026

Facility Name: **ND PAPER (RUMFORD MILL)**

NPDES: **ME0002054**

Test Date	Monthly (Flow MGD)	Daily	Total Test Number	Test # By Group						Clean	Hg
				M	V	BN	P	O	A		
09/14/2021	31.30	31.70	19	9	0	0	0	10	0	F	0
11/18/2021	31.30	32.80	10	9	0	0	0	1	0	F	0
05/31/2023	30.90	31.30	19	9	0	0	0	10	0	F	0

Key:

- A = Acid
- BN = Base Neutral
- O = Others
- M = Metals
- P = Pesticides
- V = Volatiles

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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.

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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.