



JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM  
COMMISSIONER

May 15, 2026

Mr. Brian Ahlquist  
Mechanic Falls Sanitary District  
P.O. BOX 5  
Mechanic Falls, ME. 04256

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

***RE: Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit #ME0100391  
Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) Application #W002722-6C-M-R  
Proposed Draft MEPDES Permit Renewal***

Dear Mr. Ahlquist:

Enclosed is a **proposed draft** MEPDES permit and Maine WDL which the Department proposes to issue as a final document after opportunity for your review and comment. By transmittal of this letter, you are provided with an opportunity to comment on the proposed draft permit and its special and standard conditions. If it contains errors or does not accurately reflect present or proposed conditions, please respond to this Department so that changes can be considered.

By copy of this letter, the Department is requesting comments on the proposed draft permit from various state and federal agencies and from any other parties who have notified the Department of their interest in this matter.

The comment period begins today, **Friday, May 15, 2026**, and ends on **Monday, June 15, 2026**. All comments on the proposed draft permit must be received in the Department of Environmental Protection office on or before the close of business **Monday, June 15, 2026**. Failure to submit comments in a timely fashion may result in the proposed draft/license permit 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

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

BANGOR  
106 HOGAN ROAD, SUITE 6  
BANGOR, MAINE 04401  
(207) 941-4570 FAX: (207) 941-4584

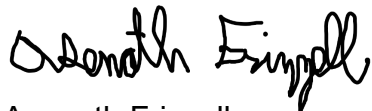
PORTLAND  
312 CANCO ROAD  
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103  
(207) 822-6300 FAX: (207) 822-6303

PRESQUE ISLE  
1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK  
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769  
(207) 764-0477 FAX: (207) 760-3143

Letter to Mechanic Falls Sanitary District  
May 15, 2026  
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If you have any questions regarding the matter, please feel free to call me at 207-215-6856.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Asenath Frizzell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Asenath Frizzell  
Division of Water Quality Management  
Bureau of Water Quality

Enclosure

ec: Lori Mitchell, DEP/CMRO  
Emily Cry, DEP/SMRO  
Fred Gallant, DEP/SMRO  
Gregg Wood, DEP/CMRO  
Holly Ireland, DEP/CMRO  
Laura Crossley, DEP/CMRO  
Michael Riley, DEP/CMRO  
Michael Cobb, USEPA  
Kathryn Rosenberg, USEPA  
Richard Carvalho, USEPA  
Sean Mahoney, CLF



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

**IN THE MATTER OF**

MECHANIC FALLS SANITARY DISTRICT ) MECHANIC FALLS, ANDROSCOGGIN CTY., MAINE ) PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS ) ME0100391 ) W002722-6C-M-R )	) ) ) ) ) )	MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT AND WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE <b>RENEWAL</b>
<b>APPROVAL</b>		

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 MECHANIC FALLS SANITARY DISTRICT (District, permittee), with its supportive data, agency review comments, and other related materials on file and FINDS THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

**APPLICATION SUMMARY**

On March 4, 2019, the Department accepted as complete for processing, an application from the Mechanic Falls Sanitary District for renewal of combination Waste Discharge License (WDL) W002722-6C-M-R / Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit #ME0100391, which was issued by the Department on November 4, 2014, for a five-year term. The November 4, 2014, permit authorized the monthly average discharge of an unspecified quantity of secondary treated municipal wastewater from a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) and untreated wastewater from two combined sewer outfalls (CSOs) to the Little Androscoggin River, Class C, in Mechanic Falls, Maine.

The Department issued a minor permit revision on April 26, 2016 to receive and treat up to 4,000 gallons per day (gpd) of transported waste at the District. This request was granted by the Department in the April 26, 2016 modification Waste Discharge License # W002722-6C-L-M/MEPDES #ME0100391.

**PERMIT SUMMARY**

This permitting action is carrying forward all the terms and conditions of the previous permitting action and it:

1. Updated the Monthly average and daily maximum limits for Copper, and the monthly average for Lead. The reasonable potential calculations were recalculated with the new results from the previous five years.
2. Removed the Tier I and Tier II effluent limitations and have changed to one based on low flow and all Little Androscoggin River dischargers discharging.

3. Updated the Sampling Footnote to include sufficiently sensitive methods.
4. Updated the *E. coli* bacteria limits to those in 38 M.R.S. § 465(4) and expand the disinfection season to April 15 through October 31 from May 15 through September 30.
5. Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) monitoring frequency reduced to three times per week (3/Week) and on how to report during times when not disinfecting.
6. Updated the Narrative Effluent Limitations to match most current standard language used in MEPDES permits.
7. Updated Monitoring and Reporting for electronic reporting and eliminated the need for sending hard copy reports to the Department.
8. Updated the CSO schedule for Effluent Limitations and Conditions for CSO's.
9. Establishing daily maximum mass limits for both BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS of 204 lbs/day.
10. Establishing effluent report only requirements for total phosphorus once per month from June 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup> for the five years of this permit.
11. Updated Special Condition B: Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements: footnote 8: Total Phosphorus.
12. Establishing Special Condition L: Total Phosphorus Sampling Plan.

## CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings in the attached and incorporated Proposed Fact Sheet dated **May 15, 2026**, and subject to the Conditions listed below, the Department makes the following CONCLUSIONS:

1. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any classified body of water below such classification.
2. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any unclassified body of water below the classification which the Department expects to adopt in accordance with State law.
3. The provisions of the State's antidegradation policy, *Classification of Maine waters*, 38 M.R.S. § 464(4)(F), will be met, in that:
  - (a) Existing in-stream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect and maintain those existing uses will be maintained and protected;

- (b) Where high quality waters of the State constitute an outstanding natural resource, that water quality will be maintained and protected;
  - (c) Where the standards of classification of the receiving waterbody 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 waterbody exceeds the minimum standards of the next highest classification that higher water quality will be maintained and protected; and
  - (e) Where a discharge will result in lowering the existing water quality of any waterbody, the Department has made the finding, following opportunity for public participation, that this action is necessary to achieve important economic or social benefits to the State.
4. The discharges will be subject to effluent limitations that require application of best practicable treatment as defined in 38 M.R.S. § 414-A(1)(D).

**ACTION**

THEREFORE, the Department APPROVES the above noted application of the MECHANIC FALLS SANITARY DISTRICT to discharge an unspecified quantity of secondary treated municipal wastewater from a POTW and an unspecified quantity of untreated wastewater from two CSOs to the Little Androscoggin River, Class C, in Mechanic Falls, Maine, SUBJECT TO THE ATTACHED CONDITIONS, and all applicable standards and regulations including:

1. *Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Standard Conditions Applicable To All Permits*, revised July 1, 2002, copy attached.
2. The attached Special Conditions, including any effluent limitations and monitoring requirements.
3. This permit and the authorization to discharge become effective upon the date of signature below and expire at midnight five (5) years from the effective date. If a renewal application is timely submitted and accepted as complete for processing prior to the expiration of this permit, the authorization to discharge and the terms and conditions of this permit and all modifications and minor revisions thereto remain in effect until a final Department decision on the renewal application becomes effective. [*Maine Administrative Procedure Act*, 5 M.R.S. § 10002 and *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 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 March 4, 2019

Date of application acceptance: March 4, 2019

This Order prepared by Asenath Frizzell, BUREAU OF LAND & WATER QUALITY

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

### **A. AUTHORIZED DISCHARGES**

The permittee is authorized to discharge only in accordance with: 1) the permittee's General Application for Waste Discharge Permit, accepted for processing on March 4, 2019; and 2) the terms and conditions of this permit; and 3) only from Outfall #001A (secondary treated wastewater) and the two CSO points identified in this permitting action (CSO 002 and 003). 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.

**B. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

1. The permittee is authorized to discharge secondary treated municipal wastewater from **Outfall #001A** to the Little Androscoggin River in Mechanic Falls. Such discharges are limited and must be monitored by the permittee as specified below<sup>(1)</sup>:

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations						Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Daily Maximum	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Daily Maximum	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
<b>Flow</b> [50050]	Report MGD [03]	---	Report MGD [03]	---	---	---	Continuous [99/99]	Recorder [RC]
<b>BOD<sub>5</sub></b> [00310]	122 lbs./day [26]	184 lbs./day [26]	204 lbs./day [26]	30 mg/L [19]	45 mg/L [19]	50 mg/L [19]	2/Month [02/30]	24-Hr. Composite [24]
<b>BOD<sub>5</sub> % Removal</b> <sup>(2)</sup> [81010]	---	---	---	85% [23]	---	---	1/Month [01/30]	Calculate [CA]
<b>TSS</b> [00545]	122 lbs./day [26]	184 lbs./day [26]	204 lbs./day [26]	30 mg/L [19]	45 mg/L [19]	50 mg/L [19]	2/Month [02/30]	24-Hr. Composite [24]
<b>TSS % Removal</b> <sup>(2)</sup> [81011]	---	---	---	85% [23]	---	---	1/Month [01/30]	Calculate [CA]
<b>Settleable Solids</b> [00545]	---	---	---	---	---	0.3 ml/L [25]	4/Week [04/07]	Grab [GR]
<b><i>E. coli</i> Bacteria</b> <sup>(3)</sup> [31633] <b>April 15 to October 31</b>	---	---	---	100/100 ml <sup>(4)</sup> [13]	---	236/100 ml [13]	2/Month [02/30]	Grab [GR]
<b>Total Residual Chlorine</b> <sup>(5)</sup> [50060]	---	---	---	0.1 mg/L [19]	---	0.3 mg/L [19]	3/Week [03/07]	Grab [GR]
<b>pH</b> [00400]	---	---	---	---	---	6.0-9.0 SU [12]	5/Week [05/07]	Grab [GR]

The italicized numeric values bracketed in the table and in subsequent text are code numbers that Department personnel utilize to code the monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports. **FOOTNOTES: See Pages 10 through 13 of this permit for applicable footnotes.**

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

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

2. The permittee is authorized to discharge secondary treated municipal wastewater from **Outfall #001A** to the Little Androscoggin River in Mechanic Falls. Such discharges are limited and must be monitored by the permittee as specified below<sup>(1)</sup>:

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations						Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Daily Maximum	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Daily Maximum	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
<b>Total Phosphorus<sup>(8)</sup></b> <i>[00665]</i> (June 1 <sup>st</sup> – September 30 <sup>th</sup> )	---	---	---	Report mg/L <i>[19]</i>		Report mg/L <i>[19]</i>	1/Month <i>[01/30]</i>	Grab <i>[GR]</i>
<b>Copper (Total)</b> <i>[01042]</i>	0.078 lbs./day <i>[26]</i>	---	0.041 lbs./day <i>[26]</i>	---	---	---	2/Year <sup>(6)</sup> <i>[02/YR]</i>	24-Hr. Composite <i>[24]</i>
<b>Lead (Total)</b> <i>[01051]</i>	0.033 lbs./day <i>[26]</i>	---	---	---	---	---	2/Year <sup>(6)</sup> <i>[02/YR]</i>	24-Hr. Composite <i>[24]</i>
<b>Mercury (Total)</b> <sup>(7)</sup> <i>[71900]</i>	---	---	---	5.6 ng/L <i>[3M]</i>	---	8.5 ng/L <i>[3M]</i>	1/Year <i>[01/YR]</i>	Grab <i>[GR]</i>

The italicized numeric values bracketed in the table and in subsequent text are code numbers that Department personnel utilize to code the monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports. **FOOTNOTES: See Pages 10 through 13 of this permit for applicable footnotes.**

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

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

**3. SURVEILLANCE LEVEL** - Beginning upon issuance and lasting through 24 months prior to permit expiration<sup>(1)</sup> (Years 1, 2 & 3 of the term of the permit) and commencing again 12 months prior to permit expiration (Year 5 of the term of the permit).

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations				Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
<b>Whole Effluent Toxicity<sup>(9)</sup></b>						
<b>Acute – ANOEL</b>						
<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> (Water flea) [TDA3B]	---	---	---	Report % <sub>[23]</sub>	1/2 Years <i>[01/2YR]</i>	Composite <sub>[24]</sub>
<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> (Brook trout) [TDA6F]	---	---	---	Report % <sub>[23]</sub>	1/2 Years <i>[01/2YR]</i>	Composite <sub>[24]</sub>
<b>Chronic – CNOEL</b>						
<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> (Water flea) [TBP3B]	---	---	---	Report % <sub>[23]</sub>	1/2 Years <i>[01/2YR]</i>	Composite <sub>[24]</sub>
<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> (Brook trout) [TBQ6F]	---	---	---	Report % <sub>[23]</sub>	1/2 Years <i>[01/2YR]</i>	Composite <sub>[24]</sub>
<b>Analytical Chemistry<sup>(10,12)</sup></b> [51477]	---	---	---	Report µg/L <sub>[28]</sub>	1/2Years <i>[01/2YR]</i>	Composite/Grab <sub>[24]</sub>

The italicized numeric values bracketed in the table and in subsequent text are code numbers that Department personnel utilize to code the monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports. **FOOTNOTES: See Pages 10 through 13 of this permit for applicable footnotes.**

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

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

4. **SCREENING LEVEL** - Beginning 24 months prior to permit expiration and lasting through 12 months prior to permit expiration (Year 4 of the term of the permit) and every five years thereafter if a timely request for renewal has been made and the permit continues in force, or is replaced by a permit renewal containing this requirement.<sup>(1)</sup>

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations				Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
<b>Whole Effluent Toxicity<sup>(9)</sup></b> <b>Acute – ANOEL</b> <i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> (Water flea) [TDA3B] <i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> (Brook trout) [TDA6F]	---	---	---	Report % <sub>[23]</sub>	2/Year <sub>[02/YR]</sub>	Composite <sub>[24]</sub>
	---	---	---	Report % <sub>[23]</sub>	2/Year <sub>[02/YR]</sub>	Composite <sub>[24]</sub>
	---	---	---	Report % <sub>[23]</sub>	2/Year <sub>[02/YR]</sub>	Composite <sub>[24]</sub>
	---	---	---	Report % <sub>[23]</sub>	2/Year <sub>[02/YR]</sub>	Composite <sub>[24]</sub>
<b>Chronic – CNOEL</b> <i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i> (Water flea) [TBP3B] <i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i> (Brook trout) [TBQ6F]	---	---	---	Report % <sub>[23]</sub>	2/Year <sub>[02/YR]</sub>	Composite <sub>[24]</sub>
	---	---	---	Report % <sub>[23]</sub>	2/Year <sub>[02/YR]</sub>	Composite <sub>[24]</sub>
<b>Analytical Chemistry<sup>(10,12)</sup></b> [51477]	---	---	---	Report µg/L <sub>[28]</sub>	1/Quarter <sub>[01/90]</sub>	Composite/Grab <sub>[24]</sub>
<b>Priority Pollutant<sup>(11,12)</sup></b> [50008]	---	---	---	Report µg/L <sub>[28]</sub>	1/Year <sub>[01/YR]</sub>	Composite/Grab <sub>[24]</sub>

The italicized numeric values bracketed in the table and in subsequent text are code numbers that Department personnel utilize to code the monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports. **FOOTNOTES: See Pages 10 through 13 of this permit for applicable footnotes.**

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

#### FOOTNOTES

- 1. Sampling** – Influent samples are collect at headworks before entering the aeration ditch. Effluent samples are collect after the weir at the end of the contact chamber and before discharge. Any change in sampling location must be approved by the Department in writing. The permittee must conduct sampling and analysis in accordance with; a) methods approved by 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 136, b) alternative methods approved by the Department in accordance with the procedures in 40 C.F.R. Part 136, or c) as otherwise specified by the Department. Samples that are sent out for analysis must be analyzed by a laboratory certified by the State of Maine’s Department of Health and Human Services for wastewater. Samples that are sent to a POTW pursuant to *Waste discharge licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 413 are subject to the provisions and restrictions of *Maine Comprehensive and Limited Environmental Laboratory Certification Rules*, 10-144 C.M.R. ch. 263 (amended March 15, 2023). Laboratory facilities that analyze compliance samples in-house are subject to the provisions and restrictions of 10-144 C.M.R. ch. 263. If the permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by the permit using test procedures approved under 40 C.F.R. part 136 or as specified in this permit, the results of this monitoring must be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the discharge monitoring report (DMR).

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

- 2. Percent Removal** – The treatment facility must maintain a minimum of 85 percent removal of BOD<sub>5</sub> and a minimum of 85 percent removal for TSS for all flows receiving secondary treatment.
- 3. E. coli bacteria** – *E. coli* bacteria limits and monitoring requirements are seasonal and apply between April 15th and October 31st of each year. In accordance with 38 M.R.S. § 414-A, the Department may, at any time and with notice to the permittee, modify this permit to establish bacteria limitations on a year-round basis to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

4. **Bacteria Reporting** – The monthly average *E. coli* bacteria limitation is a geometric mean limitation and sample results must be reported as such. Results must be expressed in MPN/100mL or CFU/100mL.
5. **TRC Monitoring** – Limitations and monitoring requirements are in effect any time elemental chlorine or chlorine-based compounds are utilized to disinfect the discharge(s). The permittee must utilize a USEPA-approved test method capable of bracketing the TRC limitations specified in this permitting action. During times when a facility has not disinfected with chlorine-based compounds for an entire reporting period, the facility must report “N9” for this parameter on the monthly DMR.
6. **Twice/Year monitoring** – Monitoring must be conducted a total of twice per year in alternating calendar quarters. During one year, monitoring must occur in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> calendar quarters. During the next year, monitoring must occur in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> calendar quarters. This alternating monitoring sequence must continue through permit expiration.
7. **Mercury** – The permittee must conduct all mercury monitoring required by this permit, required to determine compliance with interim limitations established pursuant to 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 519 in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA) “clean sampling techniques” found in USEPA Method 1669, *Sampling Ambient Water For Trace Metals At EPA Water Quality Criteria Levels*. All mercury analysis must be conducted in accordance with USEPA Method 1631 revision E, *Determination of Mercury in Water by Oxidation, Purge and Trap, and Cold Vapor Atomic Fluorescence Spectrometry*. For “[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 of this permit will be based on the cumulative arithmetic mean of all mercury tests results that were conducted utilizing sampling Methods 1669 and analysis Method 1631 revision E on file with the Department for this facility.
8. **Total Phosphorus** – Will occur June 1 – September 30 of each year. See **Attachment G** of this Fact Sheet for Protocol for Total Phosphorus Sample Collection and Analysis for Wastewater and Receiving Water Monitoring Required by Permits. There must be at least thirty (30) days between sampling events.
9. **Whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing** – Definitive WET testing is a multi-concentration testing event (a minimum of five dilutions bracketing the critical acute and chronic thresholds of 4.7% and 2.3% respectively), which provides a point estimate of toxicity in terms of No Observed Effect Level, commonly referred to as NOEL or NOEC. A-NOEL is defined as the acute no observed effect level with survival as the end point. C-NOEL is defined as the chronic no observed effect level with survival, reproduction and growth as the end points. The critical acute and chronic thresholds were derived as the mathematical inverse of the applicable acute and chronic dilution factors of 21:1 and 44:1, respectively.
  - a. **Surveillance level testing** – Beginning upon permit issuance and lasting through 24 months prior to permit expiration (Year 1, 2, and 3 of the term of the permit) and commencing again 12 months prior to permit expiration (Year 5 of the term of the

permit), the permittee must initiate surveillance level acute and chronic WET testing at a minimum frequency of once every two year (1/2 Years) 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.

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

WET test results must be submitted to the Department not later than the next Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) required by the permit, provided, however, that the permittee may review the toxicity reports for up to 10 business days of their availability before submitting them. The permittee must evaluate test results being submitted and identify to the Department possible exceedances of the critical acute and chronic water quality thresholds of 4.7% and 2.3%, respectively.

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

- a. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2002. *Methods for Measuring the Acute Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater and Marine Organisms*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. EPA 821-R-02-012. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Washington, D.C., October 2002 (the acute method manual).
- b. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 2002. *Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. EPA 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 "[Whole Effluent Toxicity, Chemistry and Mercury Reporting Form](#)" form each time a WET test is performed.

The permittee must analyze the effluent for the analytical chemistry **and priority pollutant** parameters specified on the "[Whole Effluent Toxicity, Chemical and Mercury Reporting Form](#)" form each time a WET test is performed.

- 10. Analytical Chemistry** – Refers to those pollutants listed in their respective categories on the "[Whole Effluent Toxicity, Chemical and Mercury Reporting Form](#)" found on the Department's website.

- a. **Surveillance level testing** – Beginning upon permit issuance and lasting through 24 months prior to permit expiration (Year 1, 2, and 3 of the term of the permit) and commencing again 12 months prior to permit expiration (Year 5 of the term of the permit), the permittee must conduct analytical chemistry testing at a minimum frequency of once every two years (1/2 Years). Tests are to be conducted in a different calendar quarter of each year.
  - b. **Screening level testing** - Beginning 24 months prior to permit expiration and lasting through 12 months prior to permit expiration (Year 4 of the term of the permit) and every five years thereafter if a timely request for renewal has been made and the permit continues in force or is replaced by a permit renewal containing this requirement, the permittee must conduct screening level analytical chemistry testing at a minimum frequency of once per calendar quarter (1/Quarter).
- 11. Priority Pollutant** – Refers to those pollutants listed in their respective categories on the [“Whole Effluent Toxicity, Chemical and Mercury Reporting Form”](#) found on the Department’s website.
- a. **Surveillance Level** – Waived pursuant to 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 530.
  - b. **Screening level testing** - Beginning 24 months prior to permit expiration and lasting through 12 months prior to permit expiration (Year 4 of the term of the permit) and every five years thereafter if a timely request for renewal has been made and the permit continues in force or is replaced by a permit renewal containing this requirement, the permittee must conduct screening level priority pollutant testing at a minimum frequency of once per year (1/Year) in any calendar quarter provided the sample is representative of the discharge and any seasonal or other variations in effluent quality.
- 12. Analytical chemistry and priority pollutant tests** – 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.

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 AWQC as established in 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 584. For the purposes of DMR reporting, enter a “1” for **yes**, testing done this monitoring period or “N-9” monitoring **not required** this period.

### C. NARRATIVE EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

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

### D. TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

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

### E. LIMITATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL USERS

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

### F. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT

In accordance with Standard Condition D, the permittee must notify the Department of the following:

1. Any introduction of pollutants into the wastewater collection and treatment system from an indirect discharger in a primary industrial category discharging process wastewater; and

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

## G. MONITORING AND REPORTING

*NPDES Electronic Reporting*, 40 C.F.R. Part 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 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month** following the completed reporting period.

Documentation submitted in support of the electronic DMR may be attached to the electronic DMR. Toxics reporting must be done using the 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 must be submitted no later than midnight on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the completed reporting period.

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

The permittee must have a current written comprehensive Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Plan. The plan must provide a systematic approach by which the permittee must at all times, properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit.

**By December 31 of each year, 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 O&M Plan to their Department inspector for review and comment.

## I. WET WEATHER MANAGEMENT PLAN

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

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

**The permittee must review their plan annually** and record any necessary changes to keep the plan up to date. The Department may require review and update of the plan as it is determined to be necessary.

## J. 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 C** of the Fact Sheet for an acceptable certification form to satisfy this Special Condition.

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

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

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

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

**K. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND CONDITIONS FOR CSOs**

Pursuant to *Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement*, 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 570 (last amended February 5, 2000), the permittee is authorized to discharge from the following locations of CSOs (stormwater and sanitary wastewater) subject to the conditions and requirements herein.

1. CSO Locations

<u>Outfall #</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Receiving Water / Class</u>
CSO 002	Water St. (siphon)	Little Androscoggin River / Class C
CSO 003	Park St. / Lewiston St. area	Little Androscoggin River / Class C

2. Prohibited Discharges

- a) The discharge of dry weather flows is prohibited. All such discharges must be reported to the Department in accordance with Standard Condition D (1) of this permit.
- b) No discharge must occur as a result of mechanical failure, improper design or inadequate operation or maintenance.
- c) No discharges must occur at flow rates below the maximum design capacities of the wastewater treatment facility, pumping stations or sewerage system.

3. Narrative Effluent Limitations

- a) The effluent must not contain a visible oil sheen, settled substances, foam, or floating solids at any time that impair the characteristics and designated uses ascribed to the classification of the receiving waters.
- b) The effluent must not contain materials in concentrations or combinations that are hazardous or toxic to aquatic life; or which would impair the usage designated by the classification of the receiving waters.
- c) The discharge must not impart color, turbidity, toxicity, radioactivity or other properties that cause the receiving waters to be unsuitable for the designated uses and other characteristics ascribed to their class.
- d) Notwithstanding specific conditions of this permit, the effluent by itself or in combination with other discharges must not lower the quality of any classified body of water below such classification, or lower the existing quality of any body of water if the existing quality is higher than the classification.

4. CSO Master Plan [see 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 570(2) and 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 570(3)]

The permittee must implement CSO control projects in accordance with the most recently approved CSO Master Plan and abatement schedule. The CSO Master Plan entitled, "*Combined Sewer Overflow Plan for Mechanic Falls Sanitary District*," dated April 1996, was updated in 2002 and on November 5, 2008, the Department approved the current

update with abatement schedule titled “*Updated Sewer System Master Plan for CSO Abatement*” date May 2008 and revised on September 17, 2008.

The Mechanic Falls SD currently has two active CSOs (CSO 002 and 003) that were part of the 2008 permit application. CSO 001 located at Judson St./Lewiston St. area was permanently eliminated in April of 2013. The permittee reports that the CSOs are in use during high flow events which occur approximately 15-25 times per year. The 2012 application states that a treatment unit does not operate for stormwater flows from these CSOs, however they are working toward removing a portion of these stormwater flows by completing upcoming projects. The Mechanic Falls SD is requesting, and this permitting is granting, to permit the two CSO locations for use as needed until such time that it can ensure that further overflows will not occur at these locations. Accordingly,

**On or before January 12, 2029** [ICIS Code 06699] the permittee must submit an updated CSO Master Plan with revised abatement schedule to the Department for review and approval.

**On or before December 31, 2025** [ICIS Code 04599] the permittee must complete the project referred to as the Clifford Street sewer separation project.

**5. Nine Minimum Controls (NMC)** [see 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 570(5)]

The permittee must implement and follow the Nine Minimum Control documentation as approved by EPA on May 29, 1997. Work performed on the Nine Minimum Controls during the year must be included in the annual *CSO Progress Report* (see below).

**6. CSO Compliance Monitoring Program** [see 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 570(6)]

The permittee must conduct block testing or flow monitoring according to an approved *Compliance Monitoring Program* on all CSO points, as part of the CSO Master Plan. Annual flow volumes for all CSO locations must be determined by actual flow monitoring, or by estimation using a model such as EPA’s Storm Water Management Model (SWMM).

Results must be submitted annually as part of the annual *CSO Progress Report* (see below), and must include annual precipitation, CSO volumes (actual or estimated) and any block test data required. Any abnormalities during CSO monitoring must also be reported. The results must be reported on the Department form “CSO Activity and Volumes” (**Attachment F** of this Fact sheet) or similar format and submitted to the Department on diskette.

CSO control projects that have been completed must be monitored for volume and frequency of overflow to determine the effectiveness of the project toward CSO abatement. This requirement must not apply to those areas where complete separation has been completed and CSO outfalls have been eliminated.

**7. Additions of New Wastewater** [see 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 570(8)] lists requirements relating to any proposed addition of wastewater to the combined sewer system. Documentation of the new wastewater additions to the system and associated mitigating measures must be included in the annual *CSO Progress Report* (see below). Reports must contain the

volumes and characteristics of the wastewater added or authorized for addition and descriptions of the sewer system improvements and estimated effectiveness.

8. Annual CSO Progress Reports [see 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 570(7)]. **By March 1 of each year [ICIS Code 11099]**, the permittee must submit a *CSO Progress report* covering the previous calendar year (January 1 to December 31). The CSO Progress Report must include, but is not necessarily limited to, the following topics as further described in 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 570: CSO abatement projects, schedule comparison, progress on inflow sources, costs, flow monitoring results, CSO activity and volumes, nine minimum controls update, sewer extensions, and new commercial or industrial flows.

The CSO Progress Reports must be completed on a standard form entitled “Annual CSO Progress Report”, furnished by the Department, and submitted in electronic form, if possible, to the following address:

CSO Coordinator  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Land and Water Quality  
Division of Engineering, Compliance and Technical Assistance  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333  
e-mail: [CSOCoordinator@maine.gov](mailto:CSOCoordinator@maine.gov)

9. Signs

If not already installed, the permittee must install and maintain an identification sign at each CSO location as notification to the public that intermittent discharges of untreated sanitary wastewater occur. The sign must be located at or near the outfall and be easily readable by the public. The sign must be a minimum of 12" x 18" in size with white lettering against a green background and must contain the following information:

**MECHANIC FALLS SANITARY DISTRICT  
WET WEATHER  
SEWAGE DISCHARGE  
CSO # AND NAME**

10. Definitions

For the purposes of this permitting action, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a. Combined Sewer Overflow - a discharge of excess wastewater from a municipal or quasi-municipal sewerage system that conveys both sanitary wastes and storm water in a single pipe system and that is in direct response to a storm event or snowmelt.
- b. Dry Weather Flows - flow in a sewerage system that occurs as a result of non-storm events or are caused solely by ground water infiltration.
- c. Wet Weather Flows - flow in a sewerage system that occurs as a direct result of a storm event, or snowmelt in combination with dry weather flows.

## **L. 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 phosphorus. The permittee must develop and adhere to a phosphorus sampling plan to ensure data integrity. The phosphorus 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.

## **M. REOPENING OF PERMIT FOR MODIFICATION**

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

## **N. 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 must remain in full force and effect and must be construed and enforced in all aspects as if such unlawful provision, or part thereof, had been omitted, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

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

**FACT SHEET**

DATE: **May 15, 2026**

PERMIT NUMBER: **ME0100391**

WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE: **W002722-6C-M-R**

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT: **MECHANIC FALLS SANITARY DISTRICT  
P.O. BOX 5  
MECHANIC FALLS, MAINE 04256**

COUNTY: **ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY**

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

**MECHANIC FALLS SANITARY DISTRICT  
56 LEWISTON STREET  
MECHANIC FALLS, MAINE 04256**

RECEIVING WATER CLASSIFICATION: **LITTLE ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER/CLASS C**

COGNIZANT OFFICIAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

**MR. BRIAN AHLQUIST, DIRECTOR  
(207)345-3077  
[mfsd56@gmail.com](mailto:mfsd56@gmail.com)**

## 1. APPLICATION SUMMARY

- a. **Application:** On March 4, 2019, the Department accepted as complete for processing, an application from the Mechanic Falls Sanitary District for renewal of combination Waste Discharge License (WDL) W002722-6C-M-R / Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit #ME0100391, which was issued by the Department on November 4, 2014, for a five-year term. The November 4, 2014, permit authorized the monthly average discharge of an unspecified quantity of secondary treated municipal wastewater from a publicly owned treatment works (POTW) and untreated wastewater from two combined sewer outfalls (CSOs) to the Little Androscoggin River, Class C, in Mechanic Falls, Maine.

The Department issued a minor permit revision on April 26, 2016 to receive and treat up to 4,000 gallons per day (gpd) of transported waste at the District. This request was granted by the Department in the April 26, 2016 modification Waste Discharge License # W002722-6C-L-M/MEPDES #ME0100391.

- b. **Source Description:** The Mechanic Falls Sanitary District provides municipal wastewater collection and treatment services to approximately 820 connected sewer users in the downtown and immediately outlying areas of the community. Approximately eight miles of sanitary sewer collects wastewater from the sewer users and conveys it to the Mechanic Falls Treatment Facility off Lewiston Street. At the treatment plant, pollutants are removed and the influent wastewater is clarified and disinfected prior to its discharge to the Little Androscoggin River.

The wastewater treatment plant has a sustained design capacity of 0.49 MGD average daily flow and a peak hourly flow of 1.0 MGD. For brief periods, the plant can treat up to 1.5 MGD. The plant also has a design capacity to treat up to 500 lbs./day of organic pollutant loading. Flow and organic loadings above these design levels reduce the plant's treatment effectiveness. A map showing the location of the treatment facility is included as Fact Sheet **Attachment A**.

- c. **Wastewater Treatment:** The permittee provided the following description as a part of their application:

The flow is delivered from the main pump station into the plant headworks. The flow enters the treatment plant headworks which consists of a grit chamber, comminutor and a screw grit removal system. From the headworks, the influent flows by gravity into the plant's oxidation ditch. Mechanic Falls operates an oxidation ditch with a volume of 0.367 MGD.

Following the oxidation ditch, the wastewater flows to the two final clarifiers. These clarifiers have a surface area of 615 ft<sup>2</sup> each. Settled sludge from both of these clarifiers is either returned to the process as return activated sludge or pumped to the sludge holding tank and aerated sludge storage tank. From the aerated sludge storage tank, the sludge is transferred to the sludge holding tank for storage. The sludge storage tank has a capacity of 0.31 million gallons and the holding tank has a capacity of 7,500 gallons.

The plant operates a 12,600 gallon chlorine contact chamber where sodium hypochlorite and sodium bisulfate are added. After dechlorination, the final effluent flows through a 21"

outfall pipe. The outfall discharges into the Little Androscoggin River as an at bank discharge.

The collection system consists of interceptors, gravity sewers, the inverted siphon chamber on Water Street, and one submersible pumping station at the end of Pleasant Street. Wet weather peak flows in the sewerage collection system periodically exceed the 1.0 MGD design capacity of the treatment plant. When this occurs, the plant's operations staff allows as much water as can physically enter the plant to flow into the facility. The maximum hydraulic flow that can enter the plant is presently about 1.5 MGD. During these storm events, peak flows begin to back up in the interceptor sewer system and surcharge the sewer's manholes. These hydraulic overloading conditions are associated with wet weather precipitation events and are the result of excess stormwater entering the sewer system.

Because peak flows in the sewer system under surcharged conditions can create instantaneous flow peaks, excess flows must continue to be bypassed. The relief point, referred to as a combined sewer overflow (CSO), discharges raw sewerage to the Little Androscoggin River during peak wet weather events. Currently, the Mechanic Falls Sanitary District discharges through two CSOs. Each of these CSOs discharges to the Little Androscoggin River.

CSO 001 has been discontinued. CSO 002 (inlet siphon box) has been historically active and is located off Water Street. CSO 003 was previously discontinued but reactivated in 2007 due to the extreme high flows in the interceptor. This CSO is located off Lewiston Street near the intersection of Park Street. Since the Mechanic Falls Sanitary District's license was approved on November 5, 2014, five catch basins have been removed from the sewer lines. There are now thirteen remaining catch basins connected to the sewer lines, down from 98 catch basins connected in 1998. About 5,025 feet of sewer line has been relined to reduce Inflow and Infiltration. In the past 5 years, CSO overflows have been reduced by eighty percent. A process flow diagram submitted by the permittee is included as Fact Sheet **Attachment B**.

## 2. PERMIT SUMMARY

- a. **Terms and Conditions:** This permitting action is carrying forward all the terms and conditions of the previous permitting actions except it:
  1. Updated the Monthly average and daily maximum limits for Copper, and the monthly average for Lead. The reasonable potential calculations were recalculated with the new results from the previous five years.
  2. Removed the Tier I and Tier II effluent limitations and have changed to one based on low flow and all Little Androscoggin River dischargers discharging.
  3. Updated the Sampling Footnote to include sufficiently sensitive methods.
  4. Updated the *E. coli* bacteria limits to those in 38 M.R.S. § 465(4) and expand the disinfection season to April 15 through October 31 from May 15 through September 30.

5. Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) monitoring frequency reduced to three times per week (3/Week) and on how to report during times when not disinfecting.
  6. Updated the Narrative Effluent Limitations to match most current standard language used in MEPDES permits.
  7. Updated Monitoring and Reporting for electronic reporting and eliminated the need for sending hard copy reports to the Department.
  8. Updated the CSO schedule for Effluent Limitations and Conditions for CSO's.
  9. Establishing daily maximum mass limits for both BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS of 204 lbs/day.
  10. Establishing effluent report only requirements for total phosphorus once per month from June 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup> for the five years of this permit.
  11. Updated Special Condition B: Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements: footnote 8: Total Phosphorus.
  12. Establishing Special Condition L: Total Phosphorus Sampling Plan.
- b. **History:** This section provides a summary of significant licensing/permitting actions and milestones that have been completed for the permittee's facility.

*March 23, 1984* – The Department issued WDL #W-002722-45-A-R to the Mechanic Falls Sanitary District for the discharge of up to a monthly average of 0.49 MGD of secondary treated wastewater from the publicly owned treatment works and untreated storm water/sanitary wastewater from the combined sewer overflow. The WDL was issued for a five-year term.

*June 24, 1987* – The Department issued a modification to the 1984 license to extend the non-disinfect season from October 1 through April 15 to October 1 through May 15. The modification was accepted and the assigned the WDL #W-002722-45-C-A.

*September 20, 1989* – The Department issued waste discharge license renewal W-002722-58-B-R for the Mechanic Falls Sanitary District.

*July 15, 1992* – The Department issued a modification to the September 20, 1989 license to state acceptable test methods for Total Residual Chlorine, stated the Total Residual Chlorine limits to be 0.1 mg/L (monthly average) and 0.30 mg/L (daily maximum), and to reduce the bacteria monitoring to once per week. This modification was assigned WDL #W-002722-68-C-R.

*July 31, 1992* – The USEPA issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal ME0100391.

*July 6, 1994* – The USEPA issued a NPDES permit modification to reduce the whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing requirement from 4/year to 1/year.

*July 7, 1995* - The Department issued WDL #W-002722-59-C-R to the Mechanic Falls SD for the discharge of up to a monthly average of 0.49 MGD of secondary treated wastewater from the publicly owned treatment works and untreated storm water/sanitary wastewater from one combined sewer overflow. The WDL was issued for a five-year term and superseded all prior WDLs back to the earliest the Department has on file, #W-002722-45-A-R, issued on March 23, 1984.

*June 3, 1999* – The Department issued a modification to the WDL #W-002722-59-C-R to eliminate the monthly average flow limit of 0.49 MGD and make it Report Only. The modification was assigned WDL #W-002722-68-E-N.

*June 9, 1999* - The USEPA issued NPDES permit #ME0100391 to the Mechanic Falls SD for its discharge to the Little Androscoggin River for five-year term, superseding the NPDES permit issued on July 30, 1992.

*June 27, 2000* - Pursuant to 38 M.R.S. § 420 and § 413 and *Interim Effluent Limitations and Controls for the Discharge of Mercury*, 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 519, the Department modified WDL #W-002722-59-C-R, establishing interim effluent limits and monitoring requirements for mercury.

*December 8, 2000* – The Department issued WDL #W-002722-5L-F-R to the Mechanic Falls SD for its discharge to the Little Androscoggin River for a five-year term. Consistent with the most recent NPDES permit, the Department revised the previous 0.49 MGD discharge flow limit in recognition of the effects of wet weather related CSOs on the discharge, issuing the Maine WDL for an unspecified quantity of wastewater.

*January 12, 2001* – The Department received authorization from the USEPA to administer the NPDES permitting program in Maine, excluding areas of special interest to Maine Indian Tribes. From this point forward, the program has been referred to as the Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) program, and MEPDES permit #ME0100391 has been utilized for this facility.

*October 3, 2002* – The Mechanic Falls SD submitted a letter to the Department authorizing the USEPA to retire the 6/9/99 NPDES permit (#ME0100391) upon issuance of its pending MEPDES permit.

*October 22, 2002* – The Department issued WDL #W-002722-5L-G-M / MEPDES Permit #ME0100391 to the Mechanic Falls SD for the discharge of an unspecified quantity of secondary treated sanitary wastewater from a municipal treatment facility and untreated storm water and sanitary wastewaters from one CSO to the Little Androscoggin River. The Permit/WDL incorporated the terms and conditions of the MEPDES permit program and was issued for a five-year term. The Department has decided to utilize the NPDES permit number of ME0100391 as the primary reference number for the Mechanic Falls SD's MEPDES permit.

*April 10, 2006* – The Department issued a Modification of WDL #W-002722-5L-G-M / MEPDES Permit #ME0100391 to revise toxicity testing requirements for the Mechanic Falls SD facility pursuant to Department rule 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 530, *Surface Water Toxics*

*Control Program*, and Department rule 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 584, *Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants*.

*February 12, 2008* – The Department issued WDL #W002722-5L-H-R / MEPDES permit #ME0100391 to the Mechanic Falls SD for a five-year term.

*November 5, 2008* – The Department approved the Updated Sewer System Master Plan for CSO Abatement dated May, 2008 and revised September 17, 2008 which was prepared by Olver Associates, Inc. and contained a list of abatement projects dating out through 2021.

*November 7, 2012* – The permittee submitted a timely and complete General Application to the Department for renewal of the February 12, 2008 MEPDES permit. The application was accepted for processing on November 8, 2012, and was assigned WDL #W002722-6C-K-R / MEPDES #ME0100391.

*November 4, 2014* – The Department issued WDL #W-002722-6C-K-R / MEPDES #ME0100391 to the Mechanic Falls SD for a five-year term.

*April 26, 2016* – The Department issued a modification of the WDL #W-002722-6C-K-R / MEPDES #ME0100391 to have the addition of being able to accept transported waste. This request was granted and the modification was assigned WDL #W-002722-6C-L-M.

*March 4, 2019* – The Mechanic Falls SD submitted a timely and complete General Application to the Department for the renewal of the November 4, 2014 MEPDES permit. The application was accepted for processing on March 4, 2019 and was assigned WDL #W-002722-6C-M-R.

### **3. CONDITIONS OF PERMIT**

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

### **4. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS**

*Classification of major river basins*, 38 M.R.S. § 467(1)(B)(1)(b) classifies the Little Androscoggin River “*From the Maine Central Railroad bridge in South Paris to its confluence with the Androscoggin River.*” which includes the river at the point of discharge, as Class C waters. *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.*
- B. Class C waters must be of sufficient quality to support all species of fish indigenous to those waters and to maintain the structure and function of the resident biological community. The dissolved oxygen content of Class C water may not be less than 5 parts per million or 60% of saturation, whichever is higher, except that in identified salmonid spawning areas where water quality is sufficient to ensure spawning, egg incubation and survival of early life stages, that water quality sufficient for these purposes must be maintained. In order to provide additional protection for the growth of indigenous fish, the following standards apply.*
- (1) The 30-day average dissolved oxygen criterion of a Class C water is 6.5 parts per million using a temperature of 22 degrees centigrade or the ambient temperature of the water body, whichever is less, if:*
- (a) A license or water quality certificate other than a general permit was issued prior to March 16, 2004 for the Class C water and was not based on a 6.5 parts per million 30-day average dissolved oxygen criterion; or*
- (b) A discharge or a hydropower project was in existence on March 16, 2005 and required but did not have a license or water quality certificate other than a general permit for the Class C water.*

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

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

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

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

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

## 5. REASONABLE POTENTIAL

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 1311(b)(1)(C) and 40 C.F.R. Part 122.44(d)(1), NPDES permits must contain any requirements in addition to technology based effluent limitations (TBELs) that are necessary to achieve water quality standards established under 33 U.S.C. § 1311(b)(1)(C). In addition, limitations “must control any pollutant or pollutant parameter (conventional, non-conventional, or toxic) which the permitting authority determines are or may be discharged at a level which will cause, have the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any water quality standard (WQS), including State narrative criteria for water quality,” 40 C.F.R. Part 122.44(d)(1)(i). To determine if the discharge causes, or has the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above any WQS, EPA considers: 1) existing controls on point and non-point sources of pollution; 2) the variability of the pollutant or pollutant parameter in the effluent; 3) the sensitivity of the species to toxicity testing (when evaluating whole effluent toxicity); and 4) where appropriate, the dilution of the effluent by the receiving water. See 40 C.F.R. Part 122.44(d)(1)(ii).

If the permitting authority determines that the discharge of a pollutant will cause, has the reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an excursion above WQSs, the permit must contain water quality-based effluent limitations (WQBELs) for that pollutant. See 40 C.F.R. Part 122.44(d)(1)(i).

## 6. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS

***The State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection 2018/2020/2022 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (Report)***, prepared by the Department pursuant to Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, lists the Little Androscoggin, main stem, below Rt. 121 bridge in Oxford, which includes the point of discharge (Assessment Unit ID: ME0104000209\_417R\_01) as “Category 2: Rivers and Streams Attaining Some Designated Uses - Insufficient Information for Other Uses.” The Report also lists the Little Androscoggin River at Mechanic Falls at the point of discharge (Assessment Unit ID: ME0104000209\_417R\_01) as “Category 4-A: Rivers and Streams with Impaired Use Other than Mercury – TMDL completed.”

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

Pursuant to 38 M.R.S. § 420(1-B)(B)(1), “a facility is not in violation of the ambient criteria for mercury if the facility is in compliance with an interim discharge limit established by the Department pursuant to section 413 subsection 11.” Pursuant to 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 519, the Department has established interim monthly average and daily maximum mercury concentration limits and requirements for this facility.

**7. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

- a. **Flow:** This permitting action is carrying forward the previously established monthly average and daily maximum reporting requirement based on Department best professional judgment (BPJ). The monthly average dry weather facility design flow of 0.49 MGD was used in calculation of effluent mass limits.

The Department reviewed 114 Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) that were submitted for the period November 4, 2014 – May 22, 2024. A review of data indicates the following:

**Flow (N=113)**

Value	Limit (MGD)	Range (MGD)	Mean (MGD)
Monthly Average	Report	0.04 – 0.86	0.26
Daily Maximum	Report	0.06 – 1.27	0.51

- b. **Dilution Factors:** Dilution factors associated with the permitted discharge flow of 0.49 MGD from the facility and the 7Q10 and 1Q10 low flow values for the Little Androscoggin River, were derived in accordance with 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 530(4)(A) and were calculated as follows:

Modified Acute: 1Q10 = 15.3 cfs  $\Rightarrow \frac{(15.3 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.49 \text{ MGD}}{0.49 \text{ MGD}} = 21:1$

Acute: 1Q10 = 30.6 cfs  $\Rightarrow \frac{(30.6 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.49 \text{ MGD}}{0.49 \text{ MGD}} = 41:1$

Chronic: 7Q10 = 32.5 cfs  $\Rightarrow \frac{(32.5 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.49 \text{ MGD}}{0.49 \text{ MGD}} = 44:1$

Harmonic Mean = 103.5 cfs  $\Rightarrow \frac{(103.5 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.49 \text{ MGD}}{0.49 \text{ MGD}} = 138:1$

06-096 C.M.R. ch. 530(4)(B)(1) states that analyses using numeric acute criteria for aquatic life must be based on ¼ of the 1Q10 stream design flow to prevent substantial acute toxicity within any mixing zone. The regulation goes on to say that where it can be demonstrated that a discharge achieves rapid and complete mixing with the receiving water by way of an

efficient diffuser or other effective method, analyses may use a greater proportion of the stream design, up to including all of it.

On September 10, 2002, during 1Q10 low flow conditions in the Little Androscoggin River, the Department and the permittee conducted an experiment by placing dye in the effluent and observing the mixing characteristics of the discharge with the receiving waters. Observations indicated that the discharge, though considered a bank outfall, immediately flowed out into the center of the receiving water and mixed with approximately 50% of the receiving waters after the first 15 minutes. Based on this, the Department is using 50% of the 1Q10 (30.6 cfs) to calculate the acute dilution factor, as was done in the previous permitting action.

- c. **Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD<sub>5</sub>) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS):** The previous permitting action established, and this permitting action is carrying forward, monthly average and weekly average technology-based concentration limits of 30 mg/L and 45 mg/L, respectively, for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS based on the secondary treatment requirements specified in *Effluent Guidelines and Standards*, 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 525(3)(III) (effective January 12, 2001), and a daily maximum concentration limit of 50 mg/L, which is based on a Department best professional judgment (BPJ) of best practicable treatment (BPT) for secondary treated wastewater.

$$\text{Monthly Average} = \left(30 \frac{\text{mg}}{\text{L}}\right) * \left(8.34 \frac{\text{lbs}}{\text{gal}}\right) * (0.49 \text{MGD}) = 122 \frac{\text{lbs}}{\text{day}}$$

$$\text{Weekly Average} = \left(45 \frac{\text{mg}}{\text{L}}\right) * \left(8.34 \frac{\text{lbs}}{\text{gal}}\right) * (0.49 \text{MGD}) = 184 \frac{\text{lbs}}{\text{day}}$$

$$\text{Daily Maximum} = \left(50 \frac{\text{mg}}{\text{L}}\right) * \left(8.34 \frac{\text{lbs}}{\text{gal}}\right) * (0.49 \text{MGD}) = 204 \frac{\text{lbs}}{\text{day}}$$

This permitting action is carrying forward the previously established technology-based monthly average and weekly average mass limits of 122 lbs./day and 184 lbs./day, respectively, and are based on the monthly average design flow criterion of 0.49 MGD. This permitting action is establishing the daily maximum mass limit of 204 lbs/day, based on the monthly average design flow of 0.49 MGD. This permitting action is carrying forward the monitoring frequency of 2/Month for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS. This permitting action is carrying forward a requirement for a minimum of 85% removal of BOD<sub>5</sub> & TSS pursuant to 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 525(3)(III)(a&b)(3) and a once per month (1/Month) monitoring frequency.

The Department reviewed 114 DMRs that were submitted for the period November 4, 2014 through May 22, 2024. A review of data indicates the following:

**BOD<sub>5</sub> mass (N=113)**

Value	Limit (lbs./day)	Range (lbs./day)	Mean (lbs./day)
Monthly Average	122	2.80 - 64	19.78
Weekly Average	184	3.70 - 105	29.91
Daily Maximum	Report	3.70 - 105	29.95

**BOD<sub>5</sub> concentration**

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Monthly Average	30	2.30 – 40.90	10.71
Weekly Average	45	3.20 – 53.60	15.28
Daily Maximum	50	3.20 – 53.60	15.28

The Department reviewed 114 DMRs that were submitted for the period November 4, 2014 through May 22, 2024. A review of data indicates the following:

**TSS mass (N=113)**

Value	Limit (lbs./day)	Range (lbs./day)	Mean (lbs./day)
Monthly Average	122	4.30 – 65.30	17.44
Weekly Average	184	5.40 - 125	29.45
Daily Maximum	Report	5.40 - 125	29.57

**TSS concentration (N=113)**

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Monthly Average	30	2.50 – 41.10	10.36
Weekly Average	45	2.80 – 53.70	16.04
Daily Maximum	50	2.80 – 53.70	16.06

- d. **Settleable Solids:** This permitting action is carrying forward the previously established technology-based daily maximum concentration limit of 0.3 ml/L for settleable solids, which is considered a best practicable treatment (BPT) limitation for secondary treated wastewater.

The Department reviewed 114 DMRs that were submitted for the period November 4, 2014 through May 22, 2024. A review of data indicates the following:

**Settleable Solids concentration (N=113)**

Value	Limit (ml/L)	Range (ml/L)	Average (ml/L)
Daily Maximum	0.3	<0.01 – 0.10	<0.099

According to Table I of the USEPA guidance, a 1/Day monitoring requirement can be reduced to 3/Week. However, the Department has determined that a reduction to 4/Week testing for settleable solids is consistent with our analysis of the data and BPJ. Therefore, the monitoring frequency for settleable solids has been reduced to 4/Week in the previous permitting action and is being carried forward in this permitting action.

- e. **E. coli Bacteria:** The pervious permitting action established seasonal (May 15 through September 30) monthly average and daily maximum concentration limits for *E. coli* bacteria of 126 colonies/100 ml (geometric mean) and 949 colonies/100 ml (instantaneous level), respectively, which were based on the State of Maine Water Classification Program criteria for Class C waters. However, the Department has made the determination that after taking into consideration the dilution associated with the discharge, the daily maximum BPT limit established in previous permitting action is protective of the newer AWQC for bacteria.

This permitting action is establishing a new monitoring season of April 15<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>, as well as the monthly average and daily maximum concentration limits for *E. coli*

bacteria of 100 colonies/100mL and 236 colonies/100mL, based on 38 M.R.S. § 465 (4)(B), updated in 2021. Although *E. coli* bacteria limits are seasonal and apply between April 15 and October 31 of each year, the Department reserves the right to impose year-round bacteria limits if deemed necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

The Department reviewed 114 DMRs that were submitted for the period November 4, 2014 through May 22, 2024. A review of data indicates the following:

***E. coli* Bacteria (N=45)**

Value	Limit (col/100 ml)	Range (col/100 ml)	Mean (col/100 ml)
Monthly Average	126	3.05 – 170.9	47.5
Daily Maximum	949	3.10 - 866	261.7

According to Table I of the USEPA Guidance, a 1/Week monitoring requirement can be reduced to 1/2 Months. However, the Department has determined that a reduction to 2/Month testing for *E. coli* is consistent with our analysis of the data and BPJ. Therefore, the monitoring frequency for *E. coli* bacteria has been reduced to 2/Month during the monitoring period of April 15 – October 31 in this permitting action.

- f. **Total Residual Chlorine (TRC):** This permitting action is carrying forward the previously established technology-based monthly average and water quality-based daily maximum concentration limits of 0.1 mg/L and 0.3 mg/L, respectively, for TRC. Limitations on TRC are specified to ensure that ambient water quality standards are maintained and that BPT technology is being applied to the discharge. Department permitting actions impose the more stringent of either a water quality-based or BPT-based limit. With dilution factors as determined above, end-of-pipe (EOP) water quality-based concentration thresholds for TRC may be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Water Quality Threshold for TRC} = (\text{Criterion}) * (\text{Dilution Factor})$$

	Criterion	Dilution Factor	Water Quality Threshold
Acute	0.019 mg/L	¼ 1Q10 = 21:1	0.40 mg/L
Chronic	0.011 mg/L	44:1	0.48 mg/L

$$\text{Acute Threshold} = \left(0.019 \frac{\text{mg}}{\text{L}}\right) * (21) = 0.40 \frac{\text{mg}}{\text{L}}$$

$$\text{Chronic Threshold} = \left(0.011 \frac{\text{mg}}{\text{L}}\right) * (44) = 0.48 \frac{\text{mg}}{\text{L}}$$

The Department has established a daily maximum BPT limitation of 1.0 mg/L for facilities that disinfect their effluent with elemental chlorine or chlorine-based compounds. For facilities that need to dechlorinate the discharge in order to meet water quality-based thresholds, the Department has established daily maximum and monthly average BPT limits of 0.3 mg/L and 0.1 mg/L, respectively. The permittee dechlorinates the effluent prior to discharge in order to achieve compliance with the water quality-based thresholds. The calculated acute water quality-based threshold of 0.4 mg/L is less stringent than the daily maximum technology-based standard of 0.3 mg/L, therefore the daily maximum limit of 0.3

mg/L is being carried forward in this permitting action. The monthly average technology-based standard of 0.1 mg/L is more stringent than the calculated chronic water quality-based threshold of 0.48 mg/L and is therefore being carried forward in this permitting action.

The Department reviewed 114 DMRs that were submitted for the period November 4, 2014 through May 22, 2024. A review of data indicates the following:

**Total Residual Chlorine (N=45)**

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Monthly Average	0.1	0.0 – 0.08	0.04
Daily Maximum	0.3	0.04 – 0.25	0.12

According to Table I of the EPA Guidance, Interim Guidance for Performance-based Reduction of NPDES Permit Monitoring Frequencies, a 1/Day monitoring requirement can be reduced to 3/Week. Therefore, this permitting action is reducing the monitoring frequency for TRC to three times per week (3/Week).

- g. **pH:** This permitting action is carrying forward the previously established technology-based pH limit of 6.0 – 9.0 standard units (SU), which is based on 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 525(3)(III). This permitting action is carrying forward the previously established monitoring frequency requirement of five times per week (5/Week).

The Department reviewed 114 DMRs that were submitted for the period November 4, 2014 through May 22, 2024. A review of data indicates the following:

**pH (N=113)**

Value	Limit (SU)	Minimum (SU)	Maximum (SU)
Range	6.0 – 9.0	6.00	7.40

- h. **Total 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 Little Androscoggin River at Mechanic Falls, 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 Mechanic Falls Sanitary District’s discharge to cause or contribute to a total phosphorus excursion in the Little Androscoggin River will be assessed using this limit. Also, in accordance with the department’s antidegradation guidance and due to the proximity of the Mechanic Falls treatment facility to the Town of Oxford’s facility 4.5 miles upstream, the department is considering the combined impact of both facilities when evaluating phosphorus impacts on the river.

The Mechanic Falls Sanitary District conducted total phosphorus testing of its effluent during the summer of 2014. The mean concentration of this effluent data is 0.35 mg/liter (350

µg/liter). In the absence of more recent data, the department is using this value as the effluent TP concentration for the Mechanic Falls Sanitary District's discharge in the reasonable potential analysis in this fact sheet.

The Town of Oxford conducted total phosphorus testing of its effluent during each summer of the previous permitting action. The highest seasonal geometric mean of this data was for the summer of 2022 and is 2.86 mg/liter (2,860 µg/liter). The department is using this value as the effluent TP concentration for the Town of Oxford's discharge in the reasonable potential analysis in this fact sheet.

The Town of Oxford also conducted total phosphorus testing of the river water upstream of its discharge during each summer of the previous permitting action. The department has determined that only the data for 2025 are of sufficient quality to compute an ambient background concentration. The calculated geometric mean of the weekly ambient data for summer 2025 is 0.027 mg/liter (27 µg/liter) and will be used as the ambient concentration for total phosphorus in the reasonable potential analysis in this fact sheet.

As part of its review of the dilution factors for the discharge, the department's Division of Environmental Assessment also estimated the August median flow at the Mechanic Falls Sanitary District's outfall. The river's August median flow at the outfall is estimated to be 60 MGD (92.9 cfs). Using this river flow, an effluent TP concentration of 0.35 mg/liter for the Mechanic Falls discharge, an effluent TP concentration of 2.86 mg/liter for the Oxford discharge, and an ambient background TP concentration of 0.027 mg/liter, the reasonable potential analysis for the total phosphorus concentration in the river is as follows:

Reasonable Potential Analysis

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

Q <sub>oxford</sub> = Oxford discharge limit	= 0.251 MGD
C <sub>oxford</sub> = Oxford effluent TP concentration (2022)	= 2.86 mg/L
Q <sub>mechfalls</sub> = Mechanic Falls discharge limit	= 0.49 MGD
C <sub>mechfalls</sub> = Mechanic Falls effluent TP concentration (2014)	= 0.35 mg/L
Q <sub>s</sub> = August median flow of receiving water	= 60 MGD
C <sub>s</sub> = upstream ambient concentration (2025 seasonal geomean)	= 0.027 mg/L
Q <sub>r</sub> = receiving water flow (60 MGD + 0.251 MGD + 0.49 MGD)	= 60.741 MGD
Cr = receiving water concentration	

$$Cr = \frac{(0.251 \text{ MGD} \times 2.86 \text{ mg/L}) + (0.49 \text{ MGD} \times 0.35 \text{ mg/L}) + (60 \text{ MGD} \times 0.027 \text{ mg/L})}{60.741 \text{ MGD}}$$

Cr = 0.041 mg/L < 0.044 mg/L for Class C waters    **No Reasonable Potential**

The calculation indicates the Mechanic Falls Sanitary District's and Town of Oxford's discharges do not have a reasonable potential to cause an exceedance of the Class C water quality criterion of 0.044 mg/L for total phosphorus. Therefore, this permitting action is not establishing discharge limits for total phosphorus for the Mechanic Falls Sanitary District's discharge. To ensure a defensible reasonable potential analysis for total

phosphorus, however, the permitting action is establishing once per month (1/month) effluent monitoring of total phosphorus by the Mechanic Falls Sanitary District from June 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> for each year of this 5-year permit.

The Department reviewed discharge monitoring reports (DMRs) from Oxford that were submitted for the period June 2014 through November 2025 (containing ambient sampling). A review of the data indicated the following:

**Total Phosphorus Ambient Concentration (n = 135)**

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Weekly Average	Report Only	0.01 – 0.74	0.043

- i. **Mercury:** Pursuant to *Certain deposits and discharges prohibited*, 38 M.R.S. § 420 and *Waste discharge licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 413 and *Interim Effluent Limitations and Controls for the Discharge of Mercury*, 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 519 (last amended October 6, 2001), the Department issued a *Notice of Interim Limits for the Discharge of Mercury* to the permittee thereby administratively modifying MEPDES permit #ME0100391 by establishing interim monthly average and daily maximum effluent concentration limits of 5.6 parts per trillion (ppt.) and 8.5 ppt., respectively, and a minimum monitoring frequency requirement of four (4) tests per year.

On February 6, 2012, the Department issued a minor revision to the February 12, 2008 permit thereby revising the minimum monitoring frequency requirement from once per quarter to once per year pursuant to 38 M.R.S. § 420(1-B)(F). This permitting action is carrying forward the previously established monthly average and daily maximum concentration limits and the monitoring frequency of 1/Year.

It is noted the limitations have been incorporated into Special Condition A, Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements, of this permit. 38 M.R.S. § 420(1-B)(B)(1) provides that a facility is not in violation of the AWQC for mercury if the facility is in compliance with an interim discharge limit established by the Department.

A review of the Department’s DMRs for the period of November 4, 2014 through May 22, 2024 indicates the following:

**Mercury (N=9)**

Value	Limit (ng/L)	Range (ng/L)	Mean (ng/L)
Monthly Average	5.6	1.10 – 3.37	2.55
Daily Maximum	8.5	1.08 – 3.22	2.18

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

38 M.R.S. § 414-A and 38 M.R.S. § 420 prohibit the discharge of effluents containing substances in amounts that would cause the surface waters of the State to contain toxic substances above levels set forth in Federal Water Quality Criteria as established by the USEPA. 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 530 sets forth effluent monitoring requirements and procedures to establish safe levels for the discharge of toxic pollutants such that existing and designated uses of surface waters are maintained and protected and narrative and numeric

water quality criteria are met. 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 584 sets forth ambient water quality criteria (AWQC) for toxic pollutants in surface waters.

WET, priority pollutant and supporting analytical chemistry testing, as required by 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 530 are included in this permit to fully characterize the effluent. This permit also provides for reconsideration of effluent limits and monitoring schedules after the evaluation of toxicity testing results. The monitoring schedule includes after the evaluation of toxicity testing results. The monitoring schedule includes consideration of results currently on file, the nature of the wastewater and 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 the water flea (*Ceriodaphnia dubia*) and brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*). Chemical-specific monitoring is required to assess the levels of individual toxic pollutants in the discharge, comparing each pollutant to acute, chronic, and human health water quality criteria. Analytical Chemistry and Priority Pollutant refers to those pollutants listed in their respective categories on the "[Whole Effluent Toxicity, Chemistry and Mercury Reporting Forms](#)".

06-096 C.M.R. ch. 530(2)(A) specifies the dischargers subject to the rule as:

*"All licensed dischargers of industrial process wastewater or domestic wastes discharging to surface waters of the State must meet the testing requirements of this section. Dischargers of other types of wastewater are subject to this subsection when and if the Department determines that toxicity of effluents may have reasonable potential to cause or contribute to exceedances of narrative or numerical water quality criteria."*

The Mechanic Falls SD discharges domestic (sanitary) wastewater to surface waters and is therefore subject to the testing requirements of the toxics rule.

06-096 C.M.R. ch. 530(2)(B) categorizes dischargers subject to the toxics rule into one of four levels (Levels I through IV).

The four categories for dischargers are as follows:

Level I	Chronic dilution factor of <20:1
Level II	Chronic dilution factor of $\geq 20:1$ but <100:1.
Level III	Chronic dilution factor $\geq 100:1$ but <500:1 or >500:1 and Q $\geq 1.0$ MGD
Level IV	Chronic dilution factor >500:1 and Q $\leq 1.0$ MGD

Based on the criteria, the permittee's facility is considered a Level II discharger as the chronic dilution of the receiving water is 44:1. 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 530(2)(D) specifies default WET, priority pollutant, and analytical chemistry test schedules for Level II dischargers as follows.

**Surveillance level testing**

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

**Screening level testing**

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

This permit 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.

a. **Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Evaluation:** 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 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 exceedence of water quality criteria, appropriate water quality-based limits must be established in any licensing action.”*

On July 24, 2024, the Department conducted a statistical evaluation on the most recent 60 months of WET test results on file with the Department for the Mechanic Falls SD in accordance with the statistical approach outlined above. The July 24, 2024 statistical evaluation indicates the discharge from the Mechanic Falls SD has not exceeded or demonstrated a reasonable potential to exceed the critical acute or chronic ambient water quality thresholds for the water flea (*Ceriodaphnia dubia*) or brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*). See **Attachment D** of this Fact Sheet for a summary of the WET test results.

Therefore, this permitting action is eliminating the numeric C-NOEL limit of 2.3% for the water flea and establishing reduced surveillance level testing for the water flea as well.

06-096 C.M.R. ch. 530(2)(D)(4) states, “*All dischargers having waived or reduced testing must file statements with the Department on or before December 31 of each year describing the following.*

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

- (c) *Changes in industrial manufacturing processes contributing wastewater to the treatment works that may increase the toxicity of the discharge.*"

Special Condition L of the February 14, 2008 permit established, *Surface Waters Toxics Control Program Statement For Reduced Toxics Testing*, pursuant to 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 530(2)(D)(4). The annual certification statement requirement is being carried forward in this permitting action (as Special Condition J). This permit provides for reconsideration of testing requirements, including the imposition of certain testing, in consideration of the nature of the wastewater discharged, existing wastewater treatment, receiving water characteristics, and results of testing. Therefore this permitting action is carrying forward the reduced testing frequencies of the following:

Whole Effluent Testing Monitoring Frequency	
Surveillance	Once every Two years (1/ 2 Yrs)
Screening	Twice per Year (2/ Yr)

- b. **Analytical Chemistry & Priority Pollutant Testing Evaluation:** 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 530(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 Little Androscoggin River in the vicinity of the permittee's outfall. Based on data collected from 60 rivers and streams upstream of known point sources statewide, a background concentration of 10% of the applicable water quality criteria is being used in the calculations of this permitting action.

06-096 C.M.R. ch. 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."*

The November 4, 2014 permit established a monthly average and daily maximum water quality-based mass limit for Copper and a monthly average water quality-based mass limit for Lead as a statistical evaluation, at the time results indicated a reasonable potential.

On July 31, 2024, the Department conducted statistical evaluations based on 15% of the ambient water quality criteria reserve being withheld (Report ID 1458) and 0% of the reserve of the criteria being withheld (Report ID 1459) to determine if the unallocated assimilative capacity would avoid an exceedance or a reasonable potential to exceed applicable ambient water quality criteria for toxic pollutants. Report ID 1459 indicates Mechanic Falls no longer has a reasonable potential to exceed the chronic ambient water quality criteria for Copper or Lead. Therefore, the Department is utilizing the full 15% of the unallocated assimilative capacity in the statistical evaluation when establishing limits for toxic pollutants in waste discharge licenses for facilities in the Little Androscoggin River watershed.

06-096 C.M.R. ch. 530(3)(E) states:

*“Where it is determined through [the statistical approach referred to in USEPA’s Technical Support Document for Water Quality-Based Toxics Control] 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.”*

06-096 C.M.R. 530(3)(D) states:

*“Where the need for effluent limits has been determined, limits derived from acute water quality criteria must be expressed as daily maximum values. Limits derived from chronic or human health criteria must be expressed as monthly average values.”*

06-096 C.M.R. ch. 530(4)(F) states, in part:

*“Where there is more than one discharge into the same fresh or estuarine receiving water or watershed, the Department shall consider the cumulative effects of those discharges when determining the need for and establishment of the level of effluent limits. The Department shall calculate the total allowable discharge quantity for specific pollutants, less the water quality reserve and background concentration, necessary to achieve or maintain water quality criteria at all points of discharge, and in the entire watershed. The total allowable discharge quantity for pollutants must be allocated consistent with the following principles.*

*Evaluations must be done for individual pollutants of concern in each watershed or segment to assure that water quality criteria are met at all points in the watershed and, if appropriate, within tributaries of a larger river.*

*The total assimilative capacity, less the water quality reserve and background concentration, may be allocated among the discharges according to the past discharge quantities for each as a percentage of the total quantity of discharges, or another comparable method appropriate for a specific situation and pollutant. Past discharges of pollutants must be determined using the average concentration discharged during the past five years and the facility's licensed flow.*

*The amount of allowable discharge quantity may be no more than the past discharge quantity calculated using the statistical approach referred to in section 3(E) [Section 3.3.2 and Table 3-2 of USEPA's "Technical Support Document for Water Quality-Based Toxics Control"] of the rule, but in no event may allocations cause the water quality reserve amount to fall below the minimum referred to in 4(E) [15% of the total assimilative capacity]. Any difference between the total allowable discharge quantity and that allocated to existing dischargers must be added to the reserve."*

On July 31, 2024, the Department conducted a statistical evaluation of the most recent 60 months of chemical-specific test results on file with the Department (Report ID 1459). **The evaluation indicates that the discharge: demonstrated a reasonable potential (RP) to exceed the chronic Water Quality Criteria threshold for ammonia.** The July 31, 2024 evaluation reported a RP to exceed the chronic water quality criteria for ammonia using a river temperature of 25°C. Based on the date of the sample (May 8), a river temperature of 15°C would be applicable. Calculations based on the colder river temperature show that the discharge does not demonstrate a reasonable potential to exceed the chronic water quality criteria. Therefore, this permitting action is not establishing a limit for ammonia. See **Attachment D** of this Fact Sheet for test dates and results for the pollutants of concern.

The Department has prepared guidance that establishes protocols for establishing waste load allocations (see **Attachment E** of this Fact Sheet). The guidance states that the most protective of water quality becomes the facility's allocation. According to the July 26, 2024 statistical evaluation, copper and lead are to be limited based on the segment allocation method.

Due to the variability of discharges into the Little Androscoggin River, this permit is combining the two tiers that were established in the November 4, 2014 permitting action. This permit will be using the low flow evaluation from tier I of a river flow less than 68 cfs at Mechanic Falls, and the segment allocation from tier II for when there is allowance for multiple discharges to discharge to the Little Androscoggin River. This combination is considered to be the most stringent calculation for segment allocation by the Department.

The November 4, 2014 permitting action defined the tier limits were based on the following assumptions:

Tier I Limits:

1. The Town of Norway POTW is not discharging;
2. Since Norway is not discharging, their allocation is available for use by Mechanic Falls;
3. Calculations use the 7Q10 at Mechanic Falls (7Q10 = 32.5 cfs or 21.01 MGD); and
4. Paris Utility District (PUD) allocation must be removed from the assimilative capacity.

Tier II Limits:

1. The Town of Norway POTW is discharging;
2. All chemical parameters are allocated segmentally using DeTox Report ID #560 percentages;
3. Calculations use 68 cfs (which is equal to 31 cfs at Norway, the minimum flow required before Norway is authorized to discharge to the river)

### Segment allocation methodology

For the segment allocation methodology, the historical average quantity (mass) for each pollutant of concern for each facility is calculated utilizing the arithmetic mean of the concentrated values reported for each pollutant, a conversion factor of 8.34 lbs./gallon and the monthly average permit limit for flow. The historical mass discharged for each pollutant for each facility is mathematically summed to determine the total mass discharged for each pollutant in the watershed. Based on the individual discharger's historical average, each discharger is assigned a percentage of the whole which is then utilized to determine the percent of the segment allocation for each pollutant for each facility.

The following assumptions are made as related to the combination of Tier I and Tier II limits:

1. The Town of Norway POTW is discharging;
2. Calculations use the 7Q10 at Mechanic Falls (7Q10 = 32.5 cfs or 21.0 MGD); and
3. All chemical parameters are allocated segmentally using DeTox Report ID #1451 percentages;

### Copper

**Chronic:** The chronic assimilative capacity at Mechanic Falls was calculated based on 90% of the applicable AWQC (Chronic AWQC = 2.36 µg/L), taking into consideration the 10% reduction to account for background, and the critical low flow (7Q10 = 32.5 cfs). The Department has calculated a chronic assimilative capacity (AC) at Mechanic Falls of 0.372 lbs./day for copper as illustrated in the following calculations.

7Q10 at Mechanic Falls = 32.5 cfs or 21.0 MGD

AWQC = 2.36 ug/L  
(2.36 ug/L) \* (.90) = 2.124 ug/L or 0.002124 mg/L

Chronic AC at Mechanic Falls = (21.0 MGD)(8.34 lbs./gal)(0.002124 mg/L) = 0.372 lbs./day

**Monthly average mass limit:**

(0.372 lbs./day) \* (0.208661) = **0.078 lbs./day**

**Acute:** The acute assimilative capacity at Mechanic Falls was calculated using the same methodology as above except the applicable AWQC is 3.07 µg/L and ¼ 1Q10 (15.3 cfs or 9.88 MGD) figures are used. The Department has calculated an acute assimilative capacity (AC) at Mechanic Falls of 0.2277 lbs./day for copper as illustrated in the following calculations.

¼ 1Q10 at Mechanic Falls = 15.3 cfs or 9.88 MGD

AWQC = 3.07 ug/L

(3.07 ug/L) \* (.90) = 2.763 ug/L or 0.002763 mg/L

Chronic AC at Mechanic Falls = (9.88 MGD)(8.34 lbs./gal)(0.002763 mg/L) = 0.2277 lbs./day

**Daily Maximum mass limit:**

(0.2277 lbs./day) \* (0.18099) = **0.041 lbs./day**

**Lead:** The chronic assimilative capacity at Mechanic Falls was calculated based on 90% of the applicable AWQC (Chronic AWQC = 0.41 µg/L), taking into consideration the 10% reduction to account for background, and the critical low flow (7Q10 = 32.5 cfs or 21.0 MGD). The Department has calculated a chronic assimilative capacity (AC) at Mechanic Falls of 0.065 lbs./day for lead as illustrated in the following calculations.

7Q10 at Mechanic Falls = 32.5 cfs or 21.0 MGD

AWQC = 0.41 ug/L

(0.41 ug/L) \* (.90) = 0.369 ug/L or 0.000369 mg/L

Chronic AC @ Mechanic Falls = (21.0 MGD)(8.34 lbs./gal)(0.000369 mg/L) = 0.065 lbs./day

**Monthly average mass limit:**

(0.065 lbs./day) \* (0.509758) = **0.033 lbs./day**

Based on the timing, severity, and frequency of occurrences of the reasonable potential to exceed applicable critical water quality thresholds, this permitting action is carrying forward the minimum monitoring frequency requirement of twice per year (2/Year) for copper and lead that was established in the previous permit.

This permitting action is carrying forward the following monitoring frequencies for Analytical Chemistry and Priority Pollutants:

	Surveillance Level	Screening Level
Analytical Chemistry	1/ 2 Yrs	1/ Quarter
Priority Pollutant	Not Required	1/ Year

**8. COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOWS**

This permit does not contain effluent limitations on the individual CSO outfalls listed in the table below.

Outfall No./Name	Receiving Water and Class
002 Water St.	Little Androscoggin River, Class C
003 Park St. / Lewiston St. Area	Little Androscoggin River, Class C

*Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement*, 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 570 (last amended February 8, 1978) states that for discharges from overflows from combined municipal storm and sanitary sewer systems, the requirement of “best practicable treatment” specified in 38 M.R.S. § 414-A(1)(D) may be met by agreement with the discharger, as a condition of its permit, through development of a plan within a time period specified by the Department. The permittee updated its CSO Master Plan in January 2024.

The permittee has been implementing the recommendations of the Department-approved CSO Master Plan and, to date, has significantly reduced the volume of untreated combined sewer overflows to the receiving water. Special Condition K, *Effluent Limitations and Conditions For CSOs*, of the permit contains a schedule of compliance for items in the most current up-to-date abatement plan which must be completed.

The Department acknowledges that the elimination of the two remaining CSOs in the collection system is a costly, long-term project. As the Mechanic Falls sewer collection system is upgraded and maintained according to the CSO Master Plan and Nine Minimum Controls, there should be reductions in the frequency and volume of CSO activities, and, over time, improvement in the quality of the wastewater discharged to the receiving waters.

**9. ANTI-BACKSLIDING**

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

## 10. ANTI-DEGREDDATION

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

## 11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public notice of this application was made in the *Lewiston Sun Journal* newspaper on or about **January 22, 2019**. The Department receives public comments on an application until the date a final agency action is taken on the application. Those persons receiving copies of draft permits shall have at least 30 days in which to submit comments on the draft or to request a public hearing, pursuant to *Application Processing Procedures for Waste Discharge Licenses*, 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 522 (effective January 12, 2001).

## 12. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

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

Asenath Frizzell  
Division of Water Quality Management  
Bureau of Land & Water Quality  
Department of Environmental Protection  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017 Telephone: (207) 215-6856  
e-mail: [asenath.frizzell@maine.gov](mailto:asenath.frizzell@maine.gov)

## 13. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

*This section reserved for future comments*

# **ATTACHMENT A**



MECHANIC FALLS WWTFF

001

### Legend

#### MEPDES Facility

- ACTIVE FACILITY
- INACTIVE FACILITY

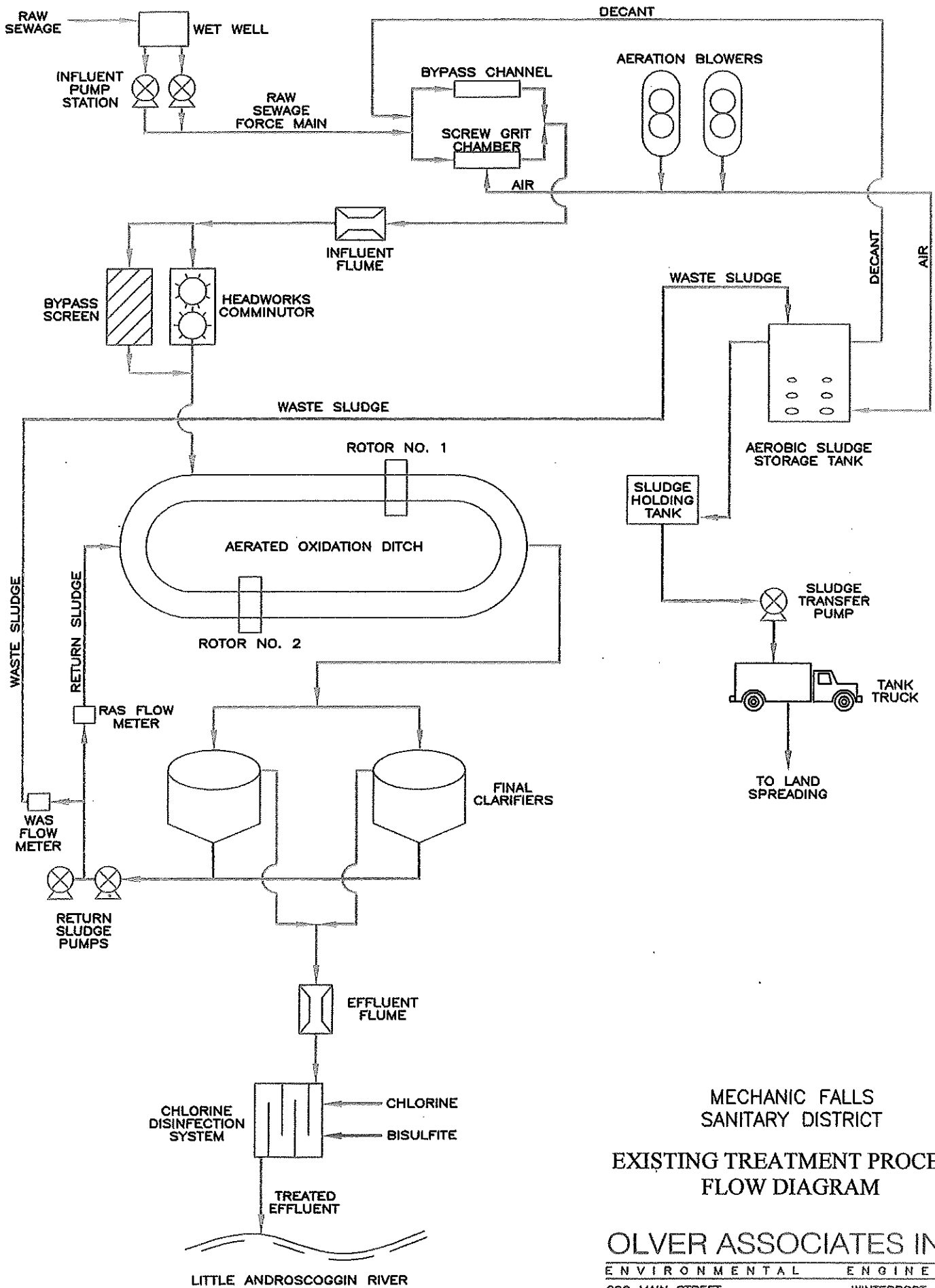
#### MEPDES Outfalls

- ACTIVE OUTFALL
- INACTIVE OUTFALL

#### CSO

- ACTIVE CSO
- CLOSED CSO

# **ATTACHMENT B**



MECHANIC FALLS  
 SANITARY DISTRICT  
 EXISTING TREATMENT PROCESS  
 FLOW DIAGRAM

# **ATTACHMENT C**

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

CHAPTER 530.2(D)(4) CERTIFICATION

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

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

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

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

**Scheduled Toxicity Testing for the next calendar year**

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

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

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

# **ATTACHMENT D**

**COMBINED WET AND PRIORITY POLLUTANTS REPORT**  
**Data entered into Toxscan for the period**

31/Jul/2019- 31/Jul/2024



**CHEMICAL TEST REPORT**

Showing all data - \*(Mercury results are in ng/L)

Facility name: **MECHANIC FALLS SANITARY DISTRICT** Permit Number: ME0100391 Effluent Limit: Acute (%) = 4.72 Chronic (%) = 2.28

<b>ALUMINUM</b>	<b>Test date</b>	<b>Result (ug/l)</b>	<b>Lsthan</b>
	05/08/2022	71.0000	N
	04/08/2024	17.7600	N
<b>AMMONIA</b>	<b>Test date</b>	<b>Result (ug/l)</b>	<b>Lsthan</b>
	11/06/2019	5.0000	Y
	05/08/2022	15,000.0000	N
	04/08/2024	75.0000	Y
<b>ARSENIC</b>	<b>Test date</b>	<b>Result (ug/l)</b>	<b>Lsthan</b>
	05/08/2022	5.0000	Y
	04/08/2024	1.0000	Y
<b>CADMIUM</b>	<b>Test date</b>	<b>Result (ug/l)</b>	<b>Lsthan</b>
	05/08/2022	0.6000	Y
	04/08/2024	0.2000	Y
<b>CHROMIUM</b>	<b>Test date</b>	<b>Result (ug/l)</b>	<b>Lsthan</b>
	05/08/2022	5.0000	Y
	04/08/2024	1.0000	Y
<b>COPPER</b>	<b>Test date</b>	<b>Result (ug/l)</b>	<b>Lsthan</b>
	11/06/2019	5.0000	N
	05/06/2020	10.0000	N
	02/03/2021	7.0000	N
	09/08/2021	3.0000	N
	05/08/2022	8.0000	N
	02/15/2023	6.0000	N
	08/04/2023	10.0000	N
	04/08/2024	2.0500	N
	07/17/2024	19.0000	N
<b>CYANIDE TOTAL</b>	<b>Test date</b>	<b>Result (ug/l)</b>	<b>Lsthan</b>
	05/08/2022	11.0000	N

**COMBINED WET AND PRIORITY POLLUTANTS REPORT**  
**Data entered into Toxscan for the period**

31/Jul/2019- 31/Jul/2024



**CHEMICAL TEST REPORT**

Showing all data - \*(Mercury results are in ng/L)

Facility name: **MECHANIC FALLS SANITARY DISTRICT** Permit Number: ME0100391 Effluent Limit: Acute (%) = 4.72 Chronic (%) = 2.28

<b>CYANIDE TOTAL</b>	<b>Test date</b>	<b>Result (ug/l)</b>	<b>Lsthan</b>
	04/08/2024	5.0000	Y
<b>LEAD</b>	<b>Test date</b>	<b>Result (ug/l)</b>	<b>Lsthan</b>
	11/06/2019	3.0000	N
	05/06/2020	3.0000	Y
	02/03/2021	3.0000	Y
	09/08/2021	3.0000	Y
	05/08/2022	3.0000	Y
	02/15/2023	3.0000	Y
	08/04/2023	3.0000	Y
	04/08/2024	1.0000	Y
	07/17/2024	3.0000	N
<b>MERCURY</b>	<b>Test date</b>	<b>Result (ng/l)</b>	<b>Lsthan</b>
	02/03/2020	2.40	N
	09/08/2021	2.17	N
	01/05/2022	2.15	N
	07/18/2023	1.60	N
	04/17/2024	1.40	N
<b>NICKEL</b>	<b>Test date</b>	<b>Result (ug/l)</b>	<b>Lsthan</b>
	05/08/2022	5.0000	Y
	04/08/2024	2.0000	Y
<b>SILVER</b>	<b>Test date</b>	<b>Result (ug/l)</b>	<b>Lsthan</b>
	05/08/2022	1.0000	Y
	04/08/2024	0.4000	Y
<b>SPECIFIC CONDUCTANCE (UMHOS)</b>	<b>Test date</b>	<b>Result (ug/l)</b>	<b>Lsthan</b>
	05/08/2022	950.0000	N
	04/08/2024	841.0000	N
<b>ZINC</b>	<b>Test date</b>	<b>Result (ug/l)</b>	<b>Lsthan</b>

**COMBINED WET AND PRIORITY POLLUTANTS REPORT**  
**Data entered into Toxscan for the period**

31/Jul/2019- 31/Jul/2024



**CHEMICAL TEST REPORT**

Showing all data - \*(Mercury results are in ng/L)

Facility name: **MECHANIC FALLS SANITARY DISTRICT** Permit Number: ME0100391 Effluent Limit: Acute (%) = 4.72 Chronic (%) = 2.28

**ZINC**

Test date	Result (ug/l)	Lsthan
05/08/2022	23.0000	N
04/08/2024	16.5400	N

**WET TEST REPORT**

**MECHANIC FALLS SANITARY DISTRICT**

Permit Number: ME0100391

Species	Test	Percent	Sample date	Critical %	Exception
TROUT	A_NOEL	>100	05/08/2022	4.721	
TROUT	A_NOEL	>100	04/08/2024	4.721	
TROUT	C_NOEL	100	05/08/2022	2.279	
TROUT	C_NOEL	100	04/08/2024	2.279	
WATER FLEA	A_NOEL	>100	05/08/2022	4.721	
WATER FLEA	A_NOEL	>100	04/08/2024	4.721	
WATER FLEA	C_NOEL	100	05/08/2022	2.279	
WATER FLEA	C_NOEL	100	04/08/2024	2.279	

# **ATTACHMENT E**

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 2008

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Dennis Merrill, DEP

SUBJECT: DEP's system for evaluating toxicity from multiple discharges

\*\*\*\*\*

Following the requirements of DEP's rules, Chapter 530, section 4(F), the Department is evaluating discharges of toxic pollutants into a freshwater river system in order to prevent cumulative impacts from multiple discharges. This is being through the use of a computer program known internally as "DeTox". The enclosed package of information is intended to introduce you to this system.

Briefly, the DeTox program evaluates each wastewater facility within a watershed in three different ways in order to characterize its effluent: 1) the facility's past history of discharges, 2) its potential toxicity at the point of discharge on an individual basis, and 3) the facility's contribution to cumulative toxicity within a river segment in conjunction with other facilities. The value that is most protective of water quality becomes the value that is held in the DeTox system as an allocation for the specific facility and pollutant.

The system is not static and uses a five-year "rolling" data window. This means that, over time, old test results drop off and newer ones are added. The intent of this process is to maintain current, uniform facility data to estimate contributions to a river's total allowable pollutant loading prior to each permit renewal.

Many facilities are required to do only a relatively small amount of pollutant testing on their effluent. This means, statistically, the fewer tests done, the greater the possibility of effluent limits being necessary based on the facility's small amount of data. To avoid this situation, most facilities, especially those with low dilution factors, should consider conducting more than the minimum number of tests required by the rules.

Attached you will find three documents with additional information on the DeTox system:

- Methods for evaluating the effects of multiple discharges of toxic pollutants
- Working definitions of terms used in the DeTox system
- Reviewing DeTox Reports
- Prototype facility and pollutant reports

If you have questions as you review these, please do not hesitate to contact me at [Dennis.L.Merrill@maine.gov](mailto:Dennis.L.Merrill@maine.gov) or 287-7788.

## Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Methods for evaluating the effects of multiple discharges of toxic pollutants.

Reference: DEP Rules, Chapter 530, section 4(F)

To evaluate discharges of toxic pollutants into a freshwater river system and prevent cumulative impacts from multiple discharges, DEP uses a computer program called "DeTox" that functions as a mathematical evaluation tool.

It uses physical information about discharge sources and river conditions on file with the Department, established water quality criteria and reported effluent test information to perform these evaluations. Each toxic pollutant and associated water quality criterion for acute, chronic and/or human health effects is evaluated separately.

Each facility in a river drainage area has an assigned position code. This "address" is used to locate the facility on the river segment and in relation to other facilities and tributary streams. All calculations are performed in pounds per day to allow analysis on a mass balance. Pollutants are considered to be conservative in that once in the receiving water they will not easily degrade and have the potential to accumulate.

The process begins with establishing an assimilative capacity for each pollutant and water quality criterion at the most downstream point in the river segment. This calculation includes set-aside amounts for background and reserve quantities and assumed values for receiving water pH, temperature and hardness. The resulting amount of assimilative capacity is available for allocation among facilities on the river.

Each facility is evaluated to characterize its past discharge quantities. The historical discharge, in pounds per day, is figured using the average reported concentration and the facility's permitted flow. As has been past practice, a reasonable potential (RP) factor is used as a tool to estimate the largest discharge that may occur with a certain degree of statistical certainty. The RP factor is multiplied by the historical average to determine an allocation based on past discharges. The RP factor is also multiplied by the single highest test to obtain a maximum day estimate. Finally, the direct average without RP adjustment is used to determine the facility's percent contribution to the river segment in comparison to the sum of all discharges of the pollutant. This percent multiplied by the total assimilative capacity becomes the facility's discharge allocation used in evaluations of the segment loadings.

Additionally, individual facility discharges are evaluated as single sources, as they have been in the past to determine if local conditions are more limiting than a segment evaluation.

With all of this information, facilities are evaluated in three ways. The methods are:

1. The facility's past history. This is the average quantity discharged during the past five years multiplied by the applicable RP factor. This method is often the basis for an allocation when the discharge quantity is relatively small in comparison to the water quality based allocation.
2. An individual evaluation. This assumes no other discharge sources are present and the allowable quantity is the total available assimilative capacity. This method may be used when a local condition such as river flow at the point of discharge is the limiting factor.
3. A segment wide evaluation. This involves allocating the available assimilative capacity within a river segment based on a facility's percent of total past discharges. This method would be used when multiple discharges of the same pollutant to the same segment and the available assimilative capacity is relatively limited.

The value that is most protective of water quality becomes the facility's allocation that is held in the system for the specific facility and pollutant. It is important to note that the method used for allocation is facility and pollutant specific and different facilities on the same segment for the same pollutant can have different methods used depending on their individual situations.

Discharge amounts are always allocated to all facilities having a history of discharging a particular pollutant. This does not mean that effluent limits will be established in a permit. Limits are only needed when past discharge amounts suggest a reasonable potential to exceed a water quality based allocation, either on an individual or segment basis. Similar to past practices for single discharge evaluations, the single highest test value is multiplied by a RP factor and if product is greater than the water quality allowance, an effluent limit is established. It is important to remember an allocation is "banking" some assimilative capacity for a facility even if effluent limits are not needed.

Evaluations are also done for each tributary segment with the sum of discharge quantities in tributaries becoming a "point source" to the next most significant segment. In cases where a facility does not use all of its assimilative capacity, usually due to a more limiting individual water quality criterion, the unused quantity is rolled downstream and made available to other facilities.

The system is not static and uses a five-year rolling data window. Over time, old tests drop off and newer ones are added on. These changes cause the allocations and the need for effluent limits to shift over time to remain current with present conditions. The intent is to update a facility's data and relative contribution to a river's total assimilative capacity prior to each permit renewal. Many facilities are required to do only minimal testing to characterize their effluents. This creates a greater degree of statistical uncertainty about the true long-term quantities. Accordingly, with fewer tests the RP factor will be larger and result in a greater possibility of effluent limits being necessary. To avoid this situation, most facilities, especially those with relatively low dilution factors, are encouraged to conduct more than a minimum number of tests. It is generally to a facility's long-term benefit to have more tests on file since their RP factor will be reduced.

## Maine Department of Environmental Protection

### Working Definitions of Terms Used in the DeTox System.

*Allocation.* The amount of pollutant loading set aside for a facility. Separate amounts are set for each *water quality criterion*. Each pollutant having a history of being discharged will receive an allocation, but not all allocations become *effluent limits*. Allocation may be made in three ways: *historical allocation*, *individual allocation* or *segment allocation*.

*Assimilative capacity.* The amount of a pollutant that river segment can safely accept from point source discharges. It is determined for the most downstream point in a river segment using the *water quality criterion* and river flow. Separate capacities are set for acute, chronic and human health criteria as applicable for each pollutant. Calculation of this capacity includes factors for *reserve* and *background* amounts.

*Background.* A concentration of a pollutant that is assumed to be present in a receiving water but not attributable to discharges. By rule, this is set as a rebuttable presumption at 10% of the applicable *water quality criterion*.

*Effluent limit.* A numeric limit in a discharge permit specifically restricting the amount of a pollutant that may be discharged. An effluent limit is set only when the highest discharge, including an adjustment for *reasonable potential*, is greater than a facility's water quality based *allocation* for a pollutant.

*Historical allocation* (or *RP history*). One of three ways of developing an *allocation*. The facility's average history of discharges, in pounds at design flow, is multiplied by the appropriate *reasonable potential* factor. An allocation using this method does not become an *effluent limit*.

*Historical discharge percentage.* For each pollutant, the average discharge concentration for each facility in a segment is multiplied by the permitted flow (without including a *reasonable potential* factor). The amounts for all facilities are added together and a percent of the total is figured for each facility. When a facility has no detectable concentrations, that pollutant is assumed to be not present and it receives no percentage.

*Individual allocation.* One of three ways of developing an *allocation*. The facility's single highest discharge on record multiplied by the appropriate *reasonable potential* factor is compared to a water quality based quantity with an assumption that the facility is the only point source to that receiving water. If the RP-adjusted amount is larger, the water quality amount may become an *effluent limit*.

*Less than.* A qualification on a laboratory report indicating the concentration of a pollutant was below a certain concentration. Such a result is evaluated as being one half of the Department's reporting limit in most calculations.

*Reasonable potential (RP).* A statistical method to determine the highest amount of a pollutant likely to be present at any time based on the available test results. The method produces a value or RP factor that is multiplied by test results. The method relies on an EPA guidance document, and considers the coefficient of variation and the number of tests. Generally, the fewer number of tests, the higher the RP factor.

*Reserve.* An assumed concentration of a pollutant that set aside to account for non-point source of a pollutant and to allow new discharges of a pollutant. By rule this is set at 15% of the applicable *water quality criterion*.

*Segment allocation.* One of three ways of developing an *allocation*. The amount is set by multiplying a facility's *historical discharge percentage* for a specific pollutant by the *assimilative capacity* for that pollutant and criterion. A facility will have different allocation percentages for each pollutant. This amount may become an *effluent limit*.

*Tributary.* A stream flowing into a larger one. A total pollutant load is set by adding the all facilities *allocations* on the tributary and treating this totaled amount as a "point source" to the next larger segment.

*Water quality criteria.* Standards for acceptable in-stream or ambient levels of pollutants. These are established in the Department's Chapter 584 and are expressed as concentrations in ug/L. There may be separate standards for acute and chronic protection aquatic life and/or human health. Each criterion becomes a separate standard. Different stream flows are used in the calculation of each.

# **ATTACHMENT F**

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
CSO ACTIVITY AND VOLUMES**

MUNICIPALITY OR DISTRICT												MEPDES / NPDES PERMIT NO.	
REPORTING YEAR												SIGNED BY:	
YEARLY TOTAL PRECIPITATION				INCHES								DATE:	
CSO EVENT NO.	START DATE OF STORM	PRECIP. DATA		FLOW DATA (GALLONS PER DAY) OR BLOCK ACTIVITY("1")								EVENT OVERFLOW GALLONS	EVENT DURATION HRS
		TOTAL INCHES	MAX. HR. INCHES	LOCATION: NUMBER:	LOCATION: NUMBER:	LOCATION: NUMBER:	LOCATION: NUMBER:	LOCATION: NUMBER:	LOCATION: NUMBER:	LOCATION: NUMBER:	LOCATION: NUMBER:		
1													
2													
3													
4													
5													
6													
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24													
25													
TOTALS													

Note 1: Flow data should be listed as gallons per day. Storms lasting more than one day should show total flow for each day.

Note 2: Block activity should be shown as a "1" if the block floated away.

# **ATTACHMENT G**

## **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 H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> 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.

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**A. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**B. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES**

**1. General facility requirements.**

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

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- maximize removal of pollutants unless authorization to the contrary is obtained from the Department.
- (b) The permittee shall at all times maintain in good working order and operate at maximum efficiency all waste water collection, treatment and/or control facilities.
  - (c) All necessary waste treatment facilities will be installed and operational prior to the discharge of any wastewaters.
  - (d) Final plans and specifications must be submitted to the Department for review prior to the construction or modification of any treatment facilities.
  - (e) The permittee shall install flow measuring facilities of a design approved by the Department.
  - (f) The permittee must provide an outfall of a design approved by the Department which is placed in the receiving waters in such a manner that the maximum mixing and dispersion of the wastewaters will be achieved as rapidly as possible.

**2. Proper operation and maintenance.** The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control (and related appurtenances) which are installed or used by the permittee to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of back-up or auxiliary facilities or similar systems which are installed by a permittee only when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of the permit.

**3. Need to halt or reduce activity not a defense.** It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

**4. Duty to mitigate.** The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge or sludge use or disposal in violation of this permit which has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment.

**5. Bypasses.**

- (a) Definitions.
  - (i) Bypass means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.
  - (ii) Severe property damage means substantial physical damage to property, damage to the treatment facilities which causes them to become inoperable, or substantial and permanent loss of natural resources which can reasonably be expected to occur in the absence of a bypass. Severe property damage does not mean economic loss caused by delays in production.
- (b) Bypass not exceeding limitations. The permittee may allow any bypass to occur which does not cause effluent limitations to be exceeded, but only if it also is for essential maintenance to assure efficient operation. These bypasses are not subject to the provisions of paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section.
- (c) Notice.
  - (i) Anticipated bypass. If the permittee knows in advance of the need for a bypass, it shall submit prior notice, if possible at least ten days before the date of the bypass.

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- (ii) Unanticipated bypass. The permittee shall submit notice of an unanticipated bypass as required in paragraph D(1)(f), below. (24-hour notice).
- (d) Prohibition of bypass.
  - (i) Bypass is prohibited, and the Department may take enforcement action against a permittee for bypass, unless:
    - (A) Bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;
    - (B) There were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary treatment facilities, retention of untreated wastes, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime. This condition is not satisfied if adequate back-up equipment should have been installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment to prevent a bypass which occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance; and
    - (C) The permittee submitted notices as required under paragraph (c) of this section.
  - (ii) The Department may approve an anticipated bypass, after considering its adverse effects, if the Department determines that it will meet the three conditions listed above in paragraph (d)(i) of this section.

**6. Upsets.**

- (a) Definition. Upset means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology based permit effluent limitations because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the permittee. An upset does not include noncompliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, inadequate treatment facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless or improper operation.
- (b) Effect of an upset. An upset constitutes an affirmative defense to an action brought for noncompliance with such technology based permit effluent limitations if the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section are met. No determination made during administrative review of claims that noncompliance was caused by upset, and before an action for noncompliance, is final administrative action subject to judicial review.
- (c) Conditions necessary for a demonstration of upset. A permittee who wishes to establish the affirmative defense of upset shall demonstrate, through properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs, or other relevant evidence that:
  - (i) An upset occurred and that the permittee can identify the cause(s) of the upset;
  - (ii) The permitted facility was at the time being properly operated; and
  - (iii) The permittee submitted notice of the upset as required in paragraph D(1)(f) , below. (24 hour notice).
  - (iv) The permittee complied with any remedial measures required under paragraph B(4).
- (d) Burden of proof. In any enforcement proceeding the permittee seeking to establish the occurrence of an upset has the burden of proof.

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**C. MONITORING AND RECORDS**

**1. General Requirements.** This permit shall be subject to such monitoring requirements as may be reasonably required by the Department including the installation, use and maintenance of monitoring equipment or methods (including, where appropriate, biological monitoring methods). The permittee shall provide the Department with periodic reports on the proper Department reporting form of monitoring results obtained pursuant to the monitoring requirements contained herein.

**2. Representative sampling.** Samples and measurements taken as required herein shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge. If effluent limitations are based wholly or partially on quantities of a product processed, the permittee shall ensure samples are representative of times when production is taking place. Where discharge monitoring is required when production is less than 50%, the resulting data shall be reported as a daily measurement but not included in computation of averages, unless specifically authorized by the Department.

**3. Monitoring and records.**

- (a) Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring shall be representative of the monitored activity.
- (b) Except for records of monitoring information required by this permit related to the permittee's sewage sludge use and disposal activities, which shall be retained for a period of at least five years, the permittee shall retain records of all monitoring information, including all calibration and maintenance records and all original strip chart recordings for continuous monitoring instrumentation, copies of all reports required by this permit, and records of all data used to complete the application for this permit, for a period of at least 3 years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. This period may be extended by request of the Department at any time.
- (c) Records of monitoring information shall include:
  - (i) The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;
  - (ii) The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;
  - (iii) The date(s) analyses were performed;
  - (iv) The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
  - (v) The analytical techniques or methods used; and
  - (vi) The results of such analyses.
- (d) Monitoring results must be conducted according to test procedures approved under 40 CFR part 136, unless other test procedures have been specified in the permit.
- (e) State law provides that any person who tampers with or renders inaccurate any monitoring devices or method required by any provision of law, or any order, rule license, permit approval or decision is subject to the penalties set forth in 38 MRSA, §349.

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**D. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Reporting requirements.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**5. Publicly owned treatment works.**

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

**E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# DEP INFORMATION SHEET

## Appeals to the Board of Environmental Protection

Date: November 2024

Contact: [Clerk.BEP@maine.gov](mailto:Clerk.BEP@maine.gov) or  
(207) 314-1458

### SUMMARY

This document provides information regarding a person's rights and obligations in filing an administrative or judicial appeal of: (1) a final license decision made by the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"); or (2) an insurance claim-related decision ("Clean-up and Response Fund decision") made by the Commissioner or the Office of State Fire Marshal pursuant to [38 M.R.S. § 568-A](#).

Except as explained below, there are two methods available to an aggrieved person seeking to appeal a license decision made by the Commissioner or a Clean-up and Response Fund decision: (1) an administrative appeal before the Board of Environmental Protection ("Board"); or (2) a judicial appeal before Maine's Superior Court. An aggrieved person seeking review of a license decision or Clean-up and Response Fund decision made by the Board may seek judicial review in Maine's Superior Court.

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

### I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TO THE BOARD

#### **LEGAL REFERENCES**

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

#### **DEADLINE TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD**

Within 30 calendar days of the date of: (1) a final license decision of the Commissioner; or (2) a Clean-up and Response Fund decision, an aggrieved person may appeal to the Board for review of that decision. "Aggrieved person" means any person whom the Board determines may suffer a particularized injury as a result of a Commissioner's license decision or a Clean-up and Response Fund decision. A complete appeal must be received by the Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup> calendar day of the decision being appealed. With limited exception, untimely appeals will be dismissed.

#### **HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD**

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

Chair, Board of Environmental Protection  
c/o Board Clerk  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0017  
[Clerk.BEP@maine.gov](mailto:Clerk.BEP@maine.gov)

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

At the time an appeal is filed with the Board, the appellant must send a copy of the appeal to: (1) the Commissioner of the DEP (Maine Department of Environmental Protection, 17 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0017); (2) the licensee, if the appellant is not the licensee; and (3) if a hearing was held on the application, any intervenors in that hearing proceeding. For appeals of Clean-up and Response Fund decisions made by the State Fire Marshal, the appellant must also send a copy of the appeal to the State Fire Marshal. **Please contact the Board Clerk at [clerk.bep@maine.gov](mailto:clerk.bep@maine.gov) or DEP staff at 207-287-7688 with questions or for contact information regarding a specific license or Clean-up and Response Fund decision.**

#### **REQUIRED APPEAL CONTENTS**

A written appeal must contain the information specified in Chapter 2, section 23(B) or section 24(B), as applicable, at the time the appeal is submitted. **Please carefully review these sections of Chapter 2**, which is available online at <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/06/chaps06.htm>, or contact the Board Clerk to obtain a copy of the rule. Failure to comply with the content of appeal requirements may result in the appeal being dismissed pursuant to Chapter 2, section 23(C) or section 24(C).

#### **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS IN APPEALING A DECISION TO THE BOARD**

1. *Be familiar with the administrative record.* Generally, the record on which the Board decides an appeal is limited to the record prepared by the agency in its review of the application, any supplemental evidence admitted to the record by the Board Chair and, if a hearing is held on the appeal, additional evidence admitted during the hearing. A person who seeks to appeal a decision to the Board is encouraged to contact the DEP (or State Fire Marshal for Clean-up and Response Fund decisions made by that agency) to inspect the record before filing an appeal.
2. *Be familiar with the applicable rules and laws.* An appellant is required to identify the licensing criterion or standard the appellant believes was not satisfied in issuing the decision, the bases of the objections or challenges, and the remedy sought. Prior to filing an appeal, review the decision being appealed to identify the rules and laws that are applicable to the decision. An appellant may contact the DEP or Board staff with any questions regarding the applicable rules and laws or the appeal procedure generally.
3. *The filing of an appeal does not operate as a stay to any decision.* If a license has been granted and it has been appealed, the license normally remains in effect pending the processing of the appeal. Unless a separate stay of the decision is requested and granted (*see* Chapter 2, section 23(M)), the licensee may proceed with an approved project pending the outcome of the appeal. Any activity initiated in accordance with the approved license during the pendency of the appeal comes with the risk of not knowing the outcome of the appeal, including the possibility that the decision may be reversed or modified by the Board.
4. *Alternative dispute resolution.* If the appeal participants agree to use mediation or another form of alternative dispute resolution (“ADR”) to resolve the appeal and so notify the Board, the Board will not hear the matter until the conclusion of that effort, provided the participants engaged in the alternative dispute resolution demonstrate satisfactory progress toward resolving the issues. *See* Chapter 2, section 23(H) or contact the Board Executive Analyst (contact information below) for more information on the ADR provision.

### **WHAT TO EXPECT ONCE YOU FILE A TIMELY APPEAL WITH THE BOARD**

The Board will acknowledge receipt of each appeal and develop a service list of appeal participants and any interested persons for use in the appeal proceeding. Electronic mail (e-mail) is the preferred method of communication during an appeal proceeding; however, the Board reserves the right to require paper copies of all filings. Once the Board Chair rules on the admissibility of all proposed supplemental evidence, the licensee (if the licensee is not the appellant) may respond to the merits of the appeal. Instructions specific to each appeal will be provided in correspondence from the Board Executive Analyst or Board Chair. Generally, once all filings in an appeal proceeding are complete, the DEP staff will assemble a packet of materials for the Board (Board packet), including a staff recommendation in the form of a proposed Board Order. Once available, appeal participants will receive a copy of the Board packet and an agenda with the meeting location and start time. Once finalized, the meeting agenda will be posted on the Board's webpage <https://www.maine.gov/dep/bep/index.html>. Appeals will be considered based on the administrative record on appeal and oral argument at a regular meeting of the Board. *See* Chapter 2, Section 23(I). The Board may affirm all or part of the decision under appeal; affirm all or part of the decision under appeal with modifications, or new or additional conditions; order a hearing to be held as expeditiously as possible; reverse the decision under appeal; or remand the decision to the Commissioner or State Fire Marshal, as applicable, for further proceedings.

### **II. JUDICIAL APPEALS**

The filing of an appeal with the Board is not a prerequisite for the filing of a judicial appeal. Maine law generally allows aggrieved persons to appeal final license decisions to Maine's Superior Court (*see* [38 M.R.S. § 346\(1\)](#); [Chapter 2](#); [5 M.R.S. § 11001](#); and [M.R. Civ. P. 80C](#)). A judicial appeal by a party to the underlying proceeding must be filed with the Superior Court within 30 days of receipt of notice of the Board's or the Commissioner's decision. For any other aggrieved person, an appeal must be filed within 40 days of the date the decision was rendered. An appeal to court of a license decision regarding an expedited wind energy development, a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project, or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project may only be taken directly to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. *See* 38 M.R.S. § 346(4), the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, statutes governing a particular license decision, and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure for substantive and procedural details applicable to judicial appeals.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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

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**Note: This information sheet, in conjunction with a review of the statutory and rule provisions referred to herein, is provided to help a person to understand their rights and obligations in filing an administrative or judicial appeal, and to comply with notice requirements of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, 5 M.R.S. § 9061. This information sheet is not intended to supplant the parties' obligations to review and comply with all statutes and rules applicable to an appeal and insofar as there is any inconsistency between the information in this document and the applicable statutes and rules, the relevant statutes and rules apply.**

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