

**AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT DIVISION
ONE NATIONAL LIFE DRIVE, MAIN BUILDING, 2nd FLOOR
MONTPELIER, VT 05620-3522**

Permit No.:3-1176
PIN: BR95-0057
NPDES No.:VT0100722

Name of Applicant: Town of Williamstown
PO Box 646
Williamstown, VT 05679

Expiration Date: June 30, 2022

**DRAFT
DISCHARGE PERMIT**

In compliance with the provisions of the Vermont Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (10 V.S.A. Chapter 47), the Vermont Water Pollution Control Permit Regulations, as amended (Environmental Protection Rules, Chapter 13), and the federal Clean Water Act as amended (33 U.S.C. § 1251 *et seq.*), and implementing federal regulations, Williamstown, Vermont (hereinafter referred to as the “Permittee”) is authorized by the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources (Secretary) to discharge from the Williamstown Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) to Stevens Branch in accordance with the following conditions.

This permit shall become effective on [Month] [Day], 2017.

Emily Boedecker, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Conservation

By: _____ Date: _____

I. SPECIAL CONDITIONS**A. EFFLUENT LIMITS**

1. During the term of this permit, the Permittee is authorized to discharge from outfall serial number S/N 001 of the Williamstown WWTF to the Stevens Branch, an effluent for which the characteristics shall not exceed the values listed below:

| EFFLUENT CHARACTERISTICS | DISCHARGE LIMITATIONS | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| | Annual Limitation | Monthly Average | Weekly Average | Maximum Day | Monthly Average | Weekly Average | Maximum Day | Instantaneous Maximum |
| | | Mass (lbs/day) | | | Concentration (mg/L) | | | |
| Flow ¹ | 0.150 MGD | Monitor only | | | | | | |
| Biochemical Oxygen Demand (5-day, 20° C) (BOD ₅) | | 38 lbs | 56 lbs | | 30 mg/l | 45 mg/l | 50 mg/l | |
| Total Suspended Solids (TSS) ² | | 38 lbs | 56 lbs | | 30 mg/l | 45 mg/l | 50 mg/l | |
| Total Phosphorus (TP) ³ | 366 lbs | | | | 0.8 mg/l | | | |
| Total Ammonia Nitrogen (TAN) (June 1 – September 30) | | 6.5 lbs | | | 5.2 mg/l | 13.0 mg/l | | 19.2 mg/l |
| Total Ammonia Nitrogen (TAN) (October 1 – May 31) | | 14.8 mg/l | | | 11.9 mg/l | 29.7 mg/l | | 27.1 mg/l |
| Total Nitrogen (TN) ⁵ | | | | Monitor Only | | | Monitor Only | |
| Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) | | | | | | | Monitor Only | |
| Nitrate/Nitrite Nitrogen (NO _x) | | | | | | | Monitor Only | |
| Settleable Solids | | | | | | | | 1.0 ml/l |
| <i>Escherichia coli</i> | | | | | | | | 77/100 ml |
| Total Residual Chlorine | | | | | | | | 0.08 mg/l |
| pH | | | | | Between 6.5-8.5 Standard Units | | | |

¹ Monthly average flow is calculated by summing daily effluent flow for each day in the given month and dividing the sum by the number of days of discharge in that month.

² Facilities may be eligible for the effluent limitations for treatment equivalent to secondary treatment if: (1) the TSS effluent concentrations consistently achievable through proper operation and maintenance of the treatment works exceed the minimum level of effluent quality set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 133.102(b); (2) a waste stabilization pond is used as the principal process; and (3) the treatment works provides significant biological treatment of municipal wastewater.

³ Total Phosphorus shall be reported as Total Monthly Pounds, Running Total Annual Pounds, and Percentage of Running Total Annual Pounds to Annual Permit Limitation. See Condition I.B.5.

⁴ Total nitrogen (TN) shall be reported as pounds, calculated as: $Average\ TN\ (mg/L) \times Total\ Daily\ Flow \times 8.34$; where, $TN\ (mg/L) = TKN\ (mg/L) + NO_x\ (mg/L)$

2. The effluent shall not have concentrations or combinations of contaminants including oil, grease, scum, foam, or floating solids which would cause a violation of the Vermont Water Quality Standards.
3. The effluent shall not cause visible discoloration of the receiving waters.
4. The monthly average concentrations of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD₅) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) in the effluent shall not exceed 15 percent of the monthly average concentrations of BOD₅ and TSS in the influent into the Permittee's WWTF. For the purposes of determining compliance with this condition, samples from the effluent and the influent shall be taken with appropriate allowance for detention times.
5. If the effluent discharged for a period of 90 consecutive days exceeds 80 percent of the permitted flow limitation, the Permittee shall submit to the Agency projected loadings and a program for maintaining satisfactory treatment levels consistent with approved water quality management plans.
6. Annually, in October, the Permittee shall measure the sludge depth throughout the treatment lagoons. The results of the sludge measurements and a copy of a plan depicting the grid location of the measurements shall be submitted with the October Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) form WR-43.
7. Any action on the part of the Agency in reviewing, commenting upon or approving plans and specifications for the construction of WWTFs shall not relieve the Permittee from the responsibility to achieve effluent limitations set forth in this permit and shall not constitute a waiver of, or act of estoppel against any remedy available to the Agency, the State of Vermont, or the federal government for failure to meet any requirement set forth in this permit or imposed by state or federal law.

B. TOTAL PHOSPHORUS

1. Waste Load Allocation and Implementation Schedule

This permit includes a formal total phosphorus (TP) waste load allocation (WLA) of 366 lbs., or 0.166 metric tons, per year, as established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in the 2016 "Phosphorus TMDLs for Vermont Segments of Lake Champlain" (TMDL). The Secretary reserves the right to reopen and amend this permit, pursuant to Condition II.B.4 of this permit, to include an alternate TP limitation or additional monitoring requirements based on the monitoring data, the results of phosphorus optimization activities, or a reallocation of phosphorus wasteload allocations between the Permittee and another WWTF pursuant to the requirements of TMDL and Vermont's "Wasteload Allocation Process" Rule (Environmental Protection Rule, Chapter 17).

The Permittee shall achieve compliance with the TP limit of **366 lbs** (0.166 metric tons) annual load, as specified in Condition I.A.1. of this permit, in accordance with the following schedule:

- a) **As soon as possible, but by no later than December 1, 2017**, the Permittee shall achieve compliance with the TP limitations specified in Condition I.A.1. While the WWTF is making the necessary facility modifications, including tertiary phosphorus treatment upgrades, to ensure compliance with its WLA, the facility shall have interim TP limits from the previous discharge permit (**2,283 lbs**).
- b) The Permittee shall notify the Secretary, in writing, within 30 days of completion of the facility modifications necessary to achieve compliance with the TP effluent limitations specified in Condition I.A.1.
- c) The Permittee shall submit a project progress report pertaining to facility modifications necessary to achieve compliance with the TP effluent limitations specified Condition I.A.1. for review by the Secretary. The progress report shall be submitted on the following date: **September 15, 2017**.

The progress report shall include the following:

- i. A description of the progress the Permittee has made toward making the facility modifications necessary to achieve compliance with the TP effluent limitations specified in Condition I.A.1.;
- ii. An assessment as to whether the Permittee is on schedule in its efforts to comply with the date specified in Condition I.B.1.a; and
- iii. If the Permittee is not on-track with its original design and construction schedule, the progress reports shall detail the steps the Permittee will take to ensure compliance with the date specified in Condition I.B.1.a.

2. Phosphorus Optimization Plan

- a) **Within 120 days of completion of tertiary phosphorus treatment upgrades, or 120 days from December 1, 2017, whichever occurs first**, the Permittee shall develop or update (as appropriate), and submit to the Secretary, a Phosphorus Optimization Plan (POP) to increase the WWTF phosphorus removal efficiency by implementing optimization techniques that achieve phosphorus reductions using primarily existing facilities and equipment. The POP shall:
 - i. Be developed by a qualified professional with experience in the operation and design of WWTFs in consultation with the WWTF;
 - ii. Evaluate alternative methods of operating the existing WWTF, including operational, process, and equipment changes designed to enhance phosphorus

removal. The techniques to be evaluated may include operational process changes to enhance biological and/or chemical phosphorus removal, incorporation of anaerobic/anoxic zones, septage receiving policies and procedures, and side stream management;

- iii. Determine which alternative methods of operating the existing WWTF, including operational, process, and equipment changes will be most effective at increasing phosphorus removal; and
 - iv. Include a proposed implementation schedule for those methods of operating the WWTF determined to be most effective at increasing phosphorus removal.
- b) If the POP fails to meet the requirements of subsection I.B.2.a., the WWTF shall revise the POP as required by the Secretary. The Permittee shall commence implementation of the POP immediately.
 - c) The Permittee shall annually submit a report to the Secretary as an attachment to the monthly electronic DMR form WR-43 that documents:
 - i. The optimization techniques implemented under the POP during the previous year.
 - ii. Whether the techniques are performing as expected.
 - iii. The phosphorus discharge trends relative to the previous year.

The first annual report shall include data collected during 2018, and shall be attached to the December 2018 DMR form WR-43.

3. Phosphorus Elimination/Reduction Plan

- a) The facility shall have **12 months from completion of tertiary phosphorus treatment upgrades or 12 months from December 1, 2017, whichever occurs first**, to optimize removal of TP.
- b) If, after the 12-month optimization period, the WWTF's actual TP loads reach or exceed 80% of the TMDL WLA for the WWTF, based on the WWTF's 12-month running annual load calculated using the Running Total Annual Pounds Calculation (Section I.B.4. of this permit) the Permittee shall, within 90 days of reaching or exceeding 80% of the TMDL WLA for the WWTF, develop and submit to the Secretary a projection based on the WWTF's current operations and expected future loadings of whether it will exceed its WLA during the permit term.
- c) If the facility is not projected to exceed its WLA within the permit term, the WWTF shall reassess when it is projected to reach its WLA prior to seeking permit renewal and submit that information with its next permit application.

- d) If the facility is projected to exceed its WLA during the permit term, the Permittee shall submit a Phosphorus Elimination/Reduction Plan (PERP) within 6 months from the date of submittal of the projection submitted under Part I.B.3.b. The PERP shall be submitted to the Secretary to ensure the WWTF continues to comply with its WLA.
- e) The PERP shall be developed by qualified professionals in consultation with the WWTF.
- f) The PERP shall include:
 - i. An evaluation of alternatives to ensure the WWTF's compliance with its WLA.
 - ii. An identification of the chosen alternative or alternatives to ensure the WWTF's compliance with its WLA;
 - iii. A proposed schedule, including an engineer approved design and construction schedule and, if the chosen alternative or alternatives require a pilot study, a schedule for testing, that shall ensure the WWTF's compliance with its WLA as soon as possible; and
 - iv. A financing plan that estimates the costs for implementing the PERP and describes a strategy for financing the project
- g) The PERP shall be treated as an application to amend the permit, and therefore, shall be subject to all public notice, hearing, and comment provisions, in place at the time the plan is submitted, that are applicable to permit amendments. The WWTF shall revise the PERP, if required by the Secretary.

4. Running Total Annual Pounds Calculation

Compliance with the annual TP limitation (presented in Condition I.A.1. and I.B.1.) will be evaluated each month, using the Running Total Annual Pounds Calculation. In order to calculate running annual TP loading relative to the TMDL WLA:

- a) Calculate the average of results for all TP monitoring events conducted in a month (Monthly Average TP Concentration). Units = mg/L
- b) For flow, use the average daily flow for the month as reported on the DMR. Units = MGD
- c) Calculate Total Monthly Pounds = (Monthly Average TP Concentration) \times (average daily flow from DMR) \times 8.34 \times number of daily discharges in the month.

- d) Sum the results for the immediately preceding 12 months to derive the Running Total Annual Pounds.

5. Total Phosphorus Reporting

Total Phosphorus shall be reported monthly, via electronic Discharge Monitoring Report, in the following ways:

- a) Monthly Average TP Concentration. See Condition I.B.4.a.
- b) Total Monthly Pounds, meaning the total monthly pounds of TP discharged during the month. See Condition I.B.4.c.
- c) Running Total Annual Pounds, meaning the 12-month running annual TP load, as specified by Condition I.B.4.d.
- d) Comparison (%) of Running Total Annual Pounds to Annual Permit Limitation, meaning the percentage of the Running Total Annual Pounds to the Annual Total Phosphorus Limitation. The comparison shall be calculated as:

Percentage of Running Total Annual Pounds to Annual Permit Limitation, % =
Running Total Annual Pounds / Annual TP Permit Limit \times 100

C. WASTE MANAGEMENT ZONE

In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 1252, this permit hereby establishes a waste management zone that extends from the outfall of the Williamstown Wastewater Treatment Facility in the Stevens Branch downstream 1.0 mile.

D. REAPPLICATION

If the Permittee desires to continue to discharge after the expiration of this permit, the Permittee shall reapply on the application forms then in use at least 180 days before this permit expires.

Reapply for a Discharge Permit by: **December 31, 2021**

E. OPERATING FEES

This discharge is subject to operating fees as required by 3 V.S.A. § 2822.

F. TOXICITY TESTING

1. WHOLE EFFLUENT TOXICITY (WET) TESTING

- a) During **August or September 2019 and 2021**, the Permittee shall conduct two-species (*Pimephales promelas* and *Ceriodaphnia dubia*) 48-hour acute and 96-hour chronic WET tests on a composite effluent sample collected from S/N 001. The results shall be submitted to the Secretary by **December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2021**, respectively.
- b) During **March or April 2018 and 2020**, the Permittee shall conduct two-species (*Pimephales promelas* and *Ceriodaphnia dubia*) 48-hour acute and 96-hour chronic WET tests on a composite effluent sample collected from S/N 001. The results shall be submitted to the Secretary by **June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2020**, respectively.

The WET tests shall be conducted according to the procedures and guidelines specified in “Methods for Measuring the Acute Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater and Marine Organisms” and “Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms” (both documents U.S. EPA October 2002 or, if a newer edition is available, the most recent edition).

Based upon the results of these tests or any other toxicity tests conducted, the Secretary reserves the right to reopen and amend this permit, pursuant to Condition II.B.4 of this permit, to require additional WET testing or a Toxicity Reduction Evaluation be conducted.

G. MONITORING AND REPORTING

1. Sampling and Analysis

The sampling, preservation, handling, and analytical methods used shall conform to the test procedures published in 40 C.F.R. Part 136.

The Permittee shall use sufficiently sensitive test procedures (i.e., methods) approved under 40 C.F.R. Part 136 for the analysis of the pollutants or pollutant parameters specified in Condition I.A. above.

Samples shall be representative of the volume and quality of effluent discharged over the sampling and reporting period. All samples are to be taken during normal operating hours. The Permittee shall identify the effluent sampling location used for each discharge. A description of effluent sample locations is included in Condition I.G.2.

2. Effluent Monitoring

During the term of this permit, the Permittee shall monitor and record the quality and quantity of discharge(s) at outfall serial number S/N 001 of the Williamstown WWTF, according to the following schedule and other provisions:

| PARAMETER | MINIMUM FREQUENCY OF ANALYSIS | SAMPLE TYPE |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Flow | Continuous | Daily Total, Max., Min. |
| Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD ₅) | 1 × month | composite ¹ |
| Total Suspended Solids (TSS) | 1 × month | composite ¹ |
| Total Phosphorus (TP) | 1 × month | composite ¹ |
| Total Ammonia Nitrogen (TAN) | 1 × month | grab |
| Total Nitrogen (TN) | 1 × quarter | [calculated ²] |
| Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) | 1 × quarter | composite ¹ |
| Nitrate/Nitrite Nitrogen (NO _x) | 1 × quarter | composite ¹ |
| Settleable Solids | 1 × day | grab ³ |
| <i>Escherichia coli</i> | 1 × month | grab ⁴ |
| Total Residual Chlorine | 1 × day | grab ⁵ |
| pH | 1 × day | grab |
| Temperature | 1 × year | grab |
| Ammonia (as N) | 1 × year | grab |
| Dissolved Oxygen | 1 × year | grab |
| Oil & Grease | 1 × year | grab |
| Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) | 1 × year | composite ¹ |

Samples collected in compliance with the monitoring requirements specified above shall be collected at the manhole in the building after the chlorine contact tank.

¹ Composite samples for BOD₅, TSS, TP, TKN and NO_x shall, at a minimum, be taken during the hours 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM, unless otherwise specified. Eight hours is the minimum period for the composite, 24 hours is the maximum for the composite.

² TN = TKN + NO_x

³ Settleable Solids samples shall be collected between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM or during the period of peak flow.

⁴ The monthly *E. coli* sample shall be collected at the same time and location as a daily Total Residual Chlorine sample. Samples shall be collected between the hours of 6:00 AM and 6:00 PM.

⁵ Total Residual Chlorine shall be monitored and recorded both prior to and following dechlorination.

3. Annual Constituent Monitoring

Annually, by December 31, the Permittee shall monitor S/N 001 and submit the results, including units of measurement, as an attachment to the DMR form WR-43 for the month in which the samples were taken for the following parameters:

Temperature
Dissolved Oxygen
Oil & Grease
Total Dissolved Solids

Grab samples shall be used for Temperature, Dissolved Oxygen, and Oil & Grease; a composite sample shall be used for Total Dissolved Solids. Samples shall be representative of the seasonal variation in the discharge.

The season in which samples are taken shall change chronologically from year to year. The sampling seasons are as follows: Winter (January 1 – March 31), Spring (April 1 – June 30), Summer (July 1 – September 30), and Fall (October 1 – December 31). The first samples under this permit shall be taken during the Fall season, the second samples shall be taken during the Summer, the third in the Fall, and so forth in chronological order. For easy reference regarding the season in which you must sample, please refer to the Secretary's "Guidance for Annual Constituent Monitoring."

4. Influent Monitoring

During the term of this permit, the Permittee shall monitor the quality of the influent according to the following schedule and provisions:

| PARAMETER | MINIMUM FREQUENCY OF ANALYSIS | SAMPLE TYPE |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD ₅) | 1 × month | composite ¹ |
| Total Suspended Solids (TSS) | 1 × month | composite ¹ |

¹ Composite samples for BOD₅, and TSS shall be taken during the hours 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM, unless otherwise specified. Eight hours is the minimum period for the composite, 24 hours is the maximum for a composite.

5. Reporting

The Permittee is required to submit monthly reports of monitoring results on Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) form WR-43 and WR-43-TP. Reports are due on the 15th day of each month, beginning with the month following the issuance date of this permit.

The Permittee shall electronically submit its DMRs via Vermont's on-line electronic reporting system. The Permittee shall begin this electronic submission in accordance with the schedule provided by the Secretary. The Permittee shall electronically submit additional compliance monitoring data and reports specified by the Secretary. When the

Permittee submits DMRs using an electronic system designated by the Secretary, it is not required to submit hard copies of DMRs.

If, in any reporting period, there has been no discharge, the Permittee must submit that information by the report due date.

Until such time as the Permittee is required by the Secretary to submit monitoring and reports electronically, the Permittee shall send signed copies of these to the Secretary at the following address:

Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation
Watershed Management Division
One National Life Drive, Main Building, 2nd Floor
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522

All reports shall be signed:

- a) In the case of corporations, by a principal executive officer of at least the level of vice president, or his/her duly authorized representative, if such representative is responsible for the overall operation of the facility from which the discharge described in the permit form originates and the authorization is made in writing and submitted to the Secretary;
- b) In the case of a partnership, by a general partner;
- c) In the case of a sole proprietorship, by the proprietor; or
- d) In the case of a municipal, State, or other public facility, by either a principal executive officer, ranking elected official, or other duly authorized employee.

In addition to the monitoring and reporting requirements given above, daily monitoring of certain parameters for operational control shall be submitted to the Secretary on the DMR form WR-43. Operations reports shall be submitted monthly.

6. Recording of Results

The Permittee shall maintain records of all information resulting from any monitoring activities required, including:

- a) The exact place, date, and time of sampling or measurement;
- b) The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;
- c) The dates and times the analyses were performed;

- d) The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
- e) The analytical techniques and methods used including sample collection handling and preservation techniques;
- f) The results of such analyses;
- g) The records of monitoring activities and results, including all instrumentation and calibration and maintenance records; and
- h) The original calculation and data bench sheets of the operator who performed analysis of the influent or effluent pursuant to requirements of Section I.A of this permit.
- i) For analyses performed by contract laboratories:
 - a. The detection level reported by the laboratory for each sample; and
 - b. The laboratory analytical report including documentation of the QA/QA and analytical procedures.

The results of monitoring requirements shall be reported (in the units specified) on the DMR form WR-43 or other forms approved by the Secretary.

When “non-detects” are recorded, the method detection limit shall be reported and used in calculating any time-period averaging for reporting on DMRs.

7. Additional Monitoring

If the Permittee monitors any pollutant at the location(s) designated herein more frequently than required by this permit, using approved analytical methods as specified above, the results of such monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the values required in the DMR form WR-43. Such increased frequency shall also be indicated.

H. DRY WEATHER FLOWS

Dry weather flows of untreated municipal wastewater from any sanitary or combined sewers are not authorized by this permit and are specifically prohibited by state and federal laws and regulations. If for any reason there is a discharge to waters of the State of dry weather flows of untreated municipal wastewater from any sanitary or combined sewer, the operator of the facility or the operator’s delegate shall comply with the notice requirements outlined in Section II.A.2 of this permit.

I. OPERATION, MANAGEMENT, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS

1. The Permittee shall implement the Operation, Management, and Emergency Response Plan for the treatment facility, sewage pumping stations, and sewer line stream crossings as approved by the Secretary on April 21, 2010.
2. The Permittee shall implement the Operation, Management, and Emergency Response Plan for the sewage collection system as approved by the Secretary on September 24, 2010.

The Permittee shall revise these plans upon the Secretary's request or on its own motion to reflect equipment or operational changes.

J. EMERGENCY ACTION - ELECTRIC POWER FAILURE

The Permittee shall indicate in writing to the Secretary **within 90 days after the issuance date of this permit** that in the event the primary source of electric power to the WWTF (including pump stations) fails, the Permittee shall either provide an alternative source of power for the operation of its WWTF, or demonstrate that the treatment facility has the capacity to store the wastewater volume that would be generated over the duration of the longest power failure that would have affected the facility in the last five years, excluding catastrophic events.

The alternative power supply, whether from a generating unit located at the WWTF or purchased from an independent source of electricity, must be separate from the existing power source used to operate the WWTF. If a separate unit located at the WWTF is to be used, the Permittee shall certify in writing to the Secretary when the unit is completed and prepared to generate power.

The determination of treatment system storage capacity shall be submitted to the Secretary upon completion.

K. SEWER ORDINANCE

The Permittee shall have in effect a sewer use ordinance acceptable to the Secretary which, at a minimum, shall

1. Prohibit the introduction by any person into the Permittee's sewerage system or WWTF of any pollutant which:
 - a) Is a toxic pollutant in toxic amounts as defined in standards issued from time to time under Section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act;
 - b) Creates a fire or explosion hazard in the Permittee's treatment works;
 - c) Causes corrosive structural damage to the Permittee's treatment works, including all wastes with a pH lower than 5.0;

- d) Contains solid or viscous substances in amounts which would cause obstruction to the flow in sewers or other interference with proper operation of the Permittee's treatment works; or
 - e) In the case of a major contributing industry, as defined in this permit, contains an incompatible pollutant, as defined in this permit, in an amount or concentration in excess of that allowed under standards or guidelines issued from time to time pursuant to Sections 304, 306, and/or 307 of the Clean Water Act.
2. Require 45 days prior notification to the Permittee by any person or persons of a:
- a) Proposed substantial change in volume or character of pollutants over that being discharged into the Permittee's treatment works at the time of issuance of this permit;
 - b) Proposed new discharge into the Permittee's treatment works of pollutants from any source which would be a new source as defined in Section 306 of the Clean Water Act if such source were discharging pollutants; or
 - c) Proposed new discharge into the Permittee's treatment works of pollutants from any source which would be subject to Section 301 of the Clean Water Act if it were discharging such pollutants.
3. Require any industry discharging into the Permittee's treatment works to perform such monitoring of its discharge as the Permittee may reasonably require, including the installation, use, and maintenance of monitoring equipment and monitoring methods, keeping records of the results of such monitoring, and reporting the results of such monitoring to the Permittee. Such records shall be made available by the Permittee to the Secretary upon request.
4. Authorize the Permittee's authorized representatives to enter into, upon, or through the premises of any industry discharging into the Permittee's treatment works to have access to and copy any records, to inspect any monitoring equipment or method required under subsection 3 above, and to sample any discharge into the Permittee's treatment works.

II. GENERAL CONDITIONS

A. MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

1. Facility Modification / Change in Discharge

All discharges authorized herein shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of this permit. The discharge of any pollutant more frequently than, or at a level in excess of, that identified and authorized by this permit shall constitute a violation of the terms and conditions of this permit. Such a violation may result in the imposition of civil and/or criminal penalties pursuant to 10 V.S.A. Chapters 47, 201, and/or 211. Any anticipated facility alterations or expansions or process modifications which will result in new,

different, or increased discharges of any pollutants must be reported by submission of a new permit application or, if such changes will not violate the effluent limitations specified in this permit, by notice to the Secretary of such changes. Following such notice, the permit may be modified, pursuant to Condition II.B.4 of this permit, to specify and limit any pollutants not previously limited.

In addition, the Permittee, within 30 days of the of the date on which the Permittee is notified shall provide notice to the Secretary of the following:

- a) Any new introduction of pollutants into the treatment works from a source which would be a new source as defined in Section 306 of the Clean Water Act if such source were discharging pollutants;
- b) Except for such categories and classes of point sources or discharges specified by the Secretary, any new introduction of pollutants into the treatment works from a source which would be subject to Section 301 of the Clean Water Act if such source were discharging pollutants; and
- c) Any substantial change in volume or character of pollutants being introduced into the treatment works by a source introducing pollutants into such works at the time of issuance of the permit.

The notice shall include:

- i. The quality and quantity of the discharge to be introduced into the system, and
- ii. The anticipated impact of such change in the quality or quantity of the effluent to be discharged from the WWTF.

2. Noncompliance Notification

- a) The Permittee shall give advance notice to the Secretary of any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity which may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.
- b) In the event the Permittee is unable to comply with any of the conditions of this permit due, among other reasons, to:
 - i. Breakdown or maintenance of waste treatment equipment (biological and physical-chemical systems including all pipes, transfer pumps, compressors, collection ponds or tanks for the segregation of treated or untreated wastes, ion exchange columns, or carbon absorption units);
 - ii. Accidents caused by human error or negligence;

- iii. Any unanticipated bypass or upset which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit;
- iv. Violation of a maximum day discharge limitation for any of the pollutants listed by the Secretary in this permit; or
- v. Other causes such as acts of nature,

the Permittee shall provide notice as specified in subdivisions (c) and (d) of this subsection.

c) Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1295, notice for “untreated discharges,” as defined.

- i. Public notice. For “untreated discharges” an operator of a WWTF or the operator’s delegate shall as soon as possible, but no longer than one hour from discovery of an untreated discharge from the WWTF, post on a publicly accessible electronic network, mobile application, or other electronic media designated by the Secretary an alert informing the public of the untreated discharge and its location, except that if the operator or his or her delegate does not have telephone or Internet service at the location where he or she is working to control or stop the untreated discharge, the operator or his or her delegate may delay posting the alert until the time that the untreated discharge is controlled or stopped, provided that the alert shall be posted no later than four hours from discovery of the untreated discharge.
- ii. Secretary notification. For “untreated discharges” an operator of a WWTF shall within 12 hours from discovery of an untreated discharge from the WWTF notify the Secretary and the local health officer of the municipality where the facility is located of the untreated discharge. The operator shall notify the Secretary through use of the Department of Environmental Conservation’s online event reporting system. If, for any reason, the online event reporting system is not operable, the operator shall notify the Secretary via telephone or e-mail. The notification shall include:
 - (1) The specific location of each untreated discharge, including the body of water affected. For combined sewer overflows, the specific location of each untreated discharge means each outfall that has discharges during the wet weather storm event.
 - (2) Except for discharges from a WWTF to a separate storm sewer system, the date and approximate time the untreated discharge began.
 - (3) The date and approximate time the untreated discharge ended. If the untreated discharge is still ongoing at the time of reporting, the entity reporting the untreated discharge shall amend the report with the date and

approximate time the untreated discharge ended within three business days of the untreated discharge ending.

- (4) Except for discharges from a WWTF to a separate storm sewer system, the approximate total volume of sewage and, if applicable, stormwater that was released. If the approximate total volume is unknown at the time of reporting, the entity reporting the untreated discharge shall amend the report with the approximate total volume within three business days.
 - (5) The cause of the untreated discharge and a brief description of the noncompliance, including the type of event and the type of sewer structure involved.
 - (6) The person reporting the untreated discharge.
- d) For any non-compliance not covered under Condition II.A.2.c. of this permit, an operator of a WWTF or the operator's delegate shall notify the Secretary within 24 hours of becoming aware of such condition and shall provide the Secretary with the following information, in writing, within five days:
- i. Cause of non-compliance;
 - ii. A description of the non-complying discharge including its impact upon the receiving water;
 - iii. Anticipated time the condition of non-compliance is expected to continue or, if such condition has been corrected, the duration of the period of non-compliance;
 - iv. Steps taken by the Permittee to reduce and eliminate the non-complying discharge; and
 - v. Steps to be taken by the Permittee to prevent recurrence of the condition of non-compliance.

3. Operation and Maintenance

All waste collection, control, treatment, and disposal facilities shall be operated in a manner consistent with the following:

- a) The Permittee shall, at all times, maintain in good working order and operate as efficiently as possible all treatment and control facilities and systems (and related appurtenances) installed or used by the Permittee to achieve compliance with the terms and 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 the Permittee only when the operation is necessary to achieve compliance with the conditions of this permit.

- b) The Permittee shall provide an adequate operating staff which is duly qualified to carry out the operation, maintenance, and testing functions required to ensure compliance with the conditions of this permit; and
- c) The operation and maintenance of this facility shall be performed only by qualified personnel who are licensed as required by the Secretary and the Director of the Vermont Office of Professional Regulation.

4. Quality Control

The Permittee shall calibrate and perform maintenance procedures on all monitoring and analytical instrumentation at regular intervals to ensure accuracy of measurements, or shall ensure that both activities will be conducted.

The Permittee shall keep records of these activities and shall provide such records upon request of the Secretary.

The Permittee shall demonstrate the accuracy of the effluent flow measurement device weekly and report the results on the monthly report forms. The acceptable limit of error is $\pm 10\%$.

For purposes of demonstrating compliance with the requirements of Condition II.A.3.a of this permit regarding adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures, the Permittee shall conduct an annual laboratory proficiency test (via a qualified laboratory or as part of an EPA DMR-QA study) for the analysis of all pollutant parameters performed within their facility laboratory and reported as required by this permit. Results shall be submitted to the Secretary by **December 31, annually**.

5. Bypass

The bypass of facilities (including pump stations) is prohibited, except where authorized under the terms and conditions of an Emergency Pollution Permit issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1268. It shall not be a defense for the Permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

6. Duty to Mitigate

The Permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any adverse impact to waters of the State, the environment, or human health resulting from non-compliance with any condition specified in this permit, including accelerated or additional monitoring as necessary to determine the nature and impact of the non-complying discharge.

7. Records Retention

All records and information resulting from the monitoring activities required by this permit including all records of analyses performed, all calibration and maintenance of instrumentation records and all original 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 shall be retained for a minimum of three years, and shall be submitted to the Secretary upon request. This period shall be extended during the course of unresolved litigation regarding the discharge of pollutants or when requested by the Secretary.

8. Solids Management

Collected screenings, sludges, and other solids removed in the course of treatment and control of wastewaters shall be stored, treated, and disposed of in accordance with 10 V.S.A. Chapter 159 and with the terms and conditions of any certification, interim or final, transitional operation authorization, or order issued pursuant to 10 V.S.A. Chapter 159 that is in effect on the issuance date of this permit or is issued during the term of this permit.

9. Emergency Pollution Permits

Maintenance activities, or emergencies resulting from equipment failure or malfunction, including power outages, which result in an effluent which exceeds the effluent limitations specified herein, shall be considered a violation of the conditions of this permit, unless the Permittee's discharge is covered under an emergency pollution permit under the provisions of 10 V.S.A. § 1268. The Permittee shall notify the Secretary of the emergency situation by the next working day, unless notice is required sooner under Section II.A.2.

10 V.S.A. § Section 1268 reads as follows:

When a discharge permit holder finds that pollution abatement facilities require repairs, replacement or other corrective action in order for them to continue to meet standards specified in the permit, he may apply in the manner specified by the secretary for an emergency pollution permit for a term sufficient to effect repairs, replacements or other corrective action. The permit may be issued without prior public notice if the nature of the emergency will not provide sufficient time to give notice; provided that the secretary shall give public notice as soon as possible but in any event no later than five days after the issuance date of the emergency pollution permit. No emergency pollution permit shall be issued unless the applicant certifies and the secretary finds that:

(1) there is no present, reasonable alternative means of disposing of the waste other than by discharging it into the waters of the state during the limited period of time of the emergency;

- (2) the denial of an emergency pollution permit would work an extreme hardship upon the applicant;
- (3) the granting of an emergency pollution permit will result in some public benefit;
- (4) the discharge will not be unreasonably harmful to the quality of the receiving waters;
- (5) the cause or reason for the emergency is not due to willful or intended acts or omissions of the applicant.

Application shall be made to the Secretary at the following address: Secretary of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, One National Life Drive, Main Building, 2nd Floor, Montpelier VT 05620-3522.

B. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Right of Entry

The Permittee shall allow the Secretary or authorized representative, upon the presentation of proper credentials:

- a) To 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) To have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit;
- c) To inspect, at reasonable times, any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this permit; and
- d) To 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.

2. Transfer of Ownership or Control

This permit is not transferable without prior written approval of the Secretary. All application and operating fees must be paid in full prior to transfer of this permit. In the event of any change in control or ownership of facilities from which the authorized discharges emanate, the Permittee shall provide a copy of this permit to the succeeding owner or controller and shall send written notification of the change in ownership or control to the Secretary **at least 30 days in advance of the proposed transfer date**. The

notice to the Secretary shall include a written agreement between the existing and new Permittees containing a specific date for transfer of permit responsibility, coverage, and liability between them. The Permittee shall also inform the prospective owner or operator of their responsibility to make an application for transfer of this permit.

This request for transfer application must include as a minimum:

- a) A properly completed application form provided by the Secretary and the applicable processing fee.
- b) A written statement from the prospective owner or operator certifying:
 - i. The conditions of the operation that contribute to, or affect, the discharge will not be materially different under the new ownership;
 - ii. The prospective owner or operator has read and is familiar with the terms of the permit and agrees to comply with all terms and conditions of the permit; and
 - iii. The prospective owner or operator has adequate funding to operate and maintain the treatment system and remain in compliance with the terms and conditions of the permit.
- c) The date of the sale or transfer.

The Secretary may require additional information dependent upon the current status of the facility operation, maintenance, and permit compliance.

3. Confidentiality

Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1259(b):

Any records or information obtained under this permit program that constitutes trade secrets under 1 V.S.A. § 317(c)(9) shall be kept confidential, except that such records or information may be disclosed to authorized representatives of the State and the United States when relevant to any proceedings under this chapter.

Claims for confidentiality for the following information will be denied:

- a) The name and address of any permit applicant or Permittee.
- b) Permit applications, permits, and effluent data.
- c) Information required by application forms, including information submitted on the forms themselves and any attachments used to supply information required by the forms.

4. Permit Modification, Suspension, and Revocation

After notice and opportunity for a hearing, this permit may be modified, suspended, or revoked in whole or in part during its term for cause including the following:

- a) Violation of any terms or conditions of this permit;
- b) Obtaining this permit by misrepresentation or failure to disclose fully all relevant facts;
- c) Reallocation of WLA under the LC TMDL;
- d) Development of an integrated WWTF and stormwater runoff NPDES permit; or
- e) A change in any condition that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the permitted discharge.

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 shall not stay any permit condition.

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

5. Toxic Effluent Standards

If a toxic effluent standard or prohibition (including any schedule of compliance specified in such effluent standard or prohibition) is established under section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act for a toxic pollutant which is present in the Permittee's discharge and such standard or prohibition is more stringent than any limitation upon such pollutant in this permit, then this permit shall be modified or revoked and reissued, pursuant to Condition II.B.4 of this permit, in accordance with the toxic effluent standard or prohibition and the Permittee so notified.

6. Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of legal action or relieve the Permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties to which the Permittee is or may be subject under 10 V.S.A. § 1281.

7. 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 provisions of Sections 307 and 311, respectively, of the Clean Water Act, or
- ii. Known to be hazardous or toxic by the Permittee,

except that such materials indicated in (i) and (ii) above may be discharged in certain limited amounts with the written approval of, and under special conditions established by, the Secretary or his/her designated representative, if the substances will not pose any imminent hazard to the public health or safety;

b) The discharge of such materials will not violate the Vermont Water Quality Standards; and

c) The Permittee is not notified by the Secretary to eliminate or reduce the quantity of such materials entering the water.

8. Navigable Waters

This permit does not authorize or approve the construction of any onshore or offshore physical structures or facilities or the undertaking of any work in any navigable waters.

9. Civil and Criminal Liability

The Permittee shall comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of 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. Except as provided in "Bypass" (Condition II.A.5) and "Emergency Pollution Permits" (Condition II.A.9), nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the Permittee from civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance. Civil and criminal penalties for non-compliance are provided for in 10 V.S.A. Chapters 47, 201, and 211.

10. State Laws

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 established pursuant to any applicable state law or regulation under authority preserved by Section 510 of the Clean Water Act.

11. Property Rights

Issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

12. Other Information

If 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 Secretary, it shall promptly submit such facts or information.

13. Severability

The provisions of this permit are severable, and if any provision of this permit, or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this permit, shall not be affected thereby.

14. Authority

This permit is issued under authority of 10 V.S.A. §§ 1258 and 1259 of the Vermont Water Pollution Control Act, the Vermont Water Pollution Control Permit Regulation, and Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, as amended.

15. Definitions

For purposes of this permit, the following definitions shall apply.

Agency – means the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

Annual Average - means the highest allowable average of daily discharges calculated as the sum of all daily discharges (mg/L, lbs or gallons) measured during a calendar year divided by the number of daily discharges measured during that year.

Average - means the arithmetic means of values taken at the frequency required for each parameter over the specified period.

Bypass – means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of the treatment facility.

The Clean Water Act - means the federal Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. § 1251, *et seq.*).

Composite Sample - means a sample consisting of a minimum of one grab sample per hour collected during a 24-hour period (or lesser period as specified in the section on

Monitoring and Reporting) and combined proportionally to flow over that same time period.

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 pounds the daily discharge is calculated as the total pounds of pollutants discharged over the day.

For pollutants with limitations expressed in mg/L the daily discharge is calculated as the average measurement of the pollutant over the day.

Discharge – means the placing, depositing, or emission of any wastes, directly or indirectly, into an injection well or into the waters of the State.

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

Incompatible Substance – means any waste being discharged into the treatment works which interferes with, passes through without treatment, or is otherwise incompatible with said works or would have a substantial adverse effect on the works or on water quality. This includes all pollutants required to be regulated under the Clean Water Act.

Instantaneous Maximum - means a value not to be exceeded in any grab sample.

Major Contributing Industry – means one that: (1) has a flow of 50,000 gallons or more per average work day; (2) has a flow greater than five percent of the flow carried by the municipal system receiving the waste; (3) has in its wastes a toxic pollutant in toxic amounts as defined in standards issued under Section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act; or (4) has a significant impact, either singly or in combination with other contributing industries, on a treatment works or on the quality of effluent from that treatment works.

Maximum Day (maximum daily discharge limitation) – means the highest allowable “daily discharge” (mg/L, lbs or gallons).

Mean - is the arithmetic mean.

Monthly Average (average monthly discharge limitation) – means the highest allowable average of daily discharges (mg/L, lbs or gallons) over a calendar month, calculated as the sum of all daily discharges (mg/L, lbs or gallons) measured during a calendar month divided by the number of daily discharges measured during that month.

NPDES – means the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

Secretary – means the Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources or the Secretary’s duly authorized representative.

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

Untreated Discharge – means (1) combined sewer overflows from a WWTF; (2) overflows from sanitary sewers and combined sewer systems that are part of a WWTF during dry weather flows, which result in a discharge to waters of the State; (3) upsets or bypasses around or within a WWTF during dry or wet weather conditions that are due to factors unrelated to a wet weather storm event and that result in a discharge of sewage that has not been fully treated to waters of the State; and (4) discharges from a WWTF to separate storm sewer systems.

Waste – means effluent, sewage or any substance or material, liquid, gaseous, solid, or radioactive, including heated liquids, whether or not harmful or deleterious to waters, provided however, the term “sewage” as used in this permit shall not include the rinse or process water from a cheese manufacturing process.

Waste Management Zone – means a specific reach of Class B waters designated by a permit to accept the discharge of properly treated wastes that prior to treatment contained organisms pathogenic to human beings. Throughout the receiving waters, water quality criteria must be achieved but increased health risks exist in a waste management zone due to the authorized discharge.

Waters includes all rivers, streams, creeks, brooks, reservoirs, ponds, lakes, springs, and all bodies of surface waters, artificial or natural, which are contained within, flow through, or border upon the State or any portion of it.

Weekly average - (average weekly discharge limitation) – means the highest allowable average of daily discharges (mg/L, lbs or gallons) over a calendar week, calculated as the sum of all daily discharges (mg/L, lbs or gallons) measured during a calendar week divided by the number of daily discharges measured during that week.

Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) – means the aggregate toxic effect of an effluent measured directly by a toxicity test.

WWTF or wastewater treatment facility shall have the same meaning as “pollution abatement facilities,” as defined under 10 V.S.A. § 1251, which means municipal sewage treatment plants, pumping stations, interceptor and outfall sewers, and attendant facilities as prescribed by the Department to abate pollution of the waters of the State.

**AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT DIVISION
ONE NATIONAL LIFE DRIVE, MAIN BUILDING, 2ND FLOOR
MONTPELIER, VT 05620-3522**

**FACT SHEET
(July 2017)**

**NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) PERMIT TO
DISCHARGE TO WATERS OF THE STATE**

PERMIT NO: 3-1176
PIN: BR95-0057
NPDES NO: VT0100722

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

Town of Williamstown
PO Box 646
Williamstown, VT 05679

NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

Williamstown Wastewater Treatment Facility
61 Vesper Road
Williamstown, Vermont

RECEIVING WATER: Stevens Branch

CLASSIFICATION OF USES OF RECEIVING WATER: All uses Class B(2) with a waste management zone. Class B(2) waters are suitable for swimming and other primary contact recreation; irrigation and agricultural uses; aquatic biota and aquatic habitat; good aesthetic value; boating, fishing, and other recreational uses and suitable for public water source with filtration and disinfection or other required treatment. A waste management zone is a specific reach of Class B(1) or B(2) waters designated by a permit to accept the discharge of properly treated wastes that prior to treatment contained organisms pathogenic to human beings.

I. Proposed Action, Type of Facility, and Discharge Location

The Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (Secretary) received a renewal application for the permit to discharge into the designated receiving water from the above named applicant on June 27, 2011 and an updated application on January 18, 2016. The Town's previous permit became effective on January 1, 2007. The previous permit (hereafter referred to as the "current permit") has been administratively continued, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 814, as the

applicant filed a complete application for permit reissuance within the prescribed time period as per the Vermont Water Pollution Control Permit Regulations (VWPCPR) § 13.5(b). At this time the Secretary has made a tentative decision to reissue the discharge permit.

The facility is engaged in the treatment of municipal wastewater.

The previous permit authorized the discharge from the outfall of the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) to Tributary 23 of the Stevens Branch. The Secretary recommended the outfall be moved from Tributary 23 to address the impairment due to high levels of phosphorous and ammonia in the tributary. A determination was made that no lowering of water quality would occur as a result of the outfall relocation. An existing use determination was also made and noted there were no impacts to recreational waters downstream of the outfall. These determinations satisfy the requirements of the Interim Anti-Degradation Implementation Procedure.

A map showing the location of facility, outfalls, and the receiving water is provided in the Reasonable Potential Determination (RPD) (see Attachment B).

II. Description of Discharge

The facility is engaged in the treatment of municipal wastewater. The WWTF is a lagoon. The design flow of the facility is 0.150 million gallons per day (MGD) and design BOD loading is 229 mg/l (124 lbs/day).

The WWTF maintains a constant discharge to the Stevens Branch.

III. Limitations and Monitoring Requirements

The draft permit contains limitations for effluent flow, biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, total phosphorus, settleable solids, *Escherichia coli*, total residual chlorine, and pH. It also contains monitoring requirements for total nitrogen, Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, nitrate/nitrite, and ammonia. The effluent limitations of the draft permit, the monitoring requirements, may be found on the following pages of the draft permit:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Effluent Limitations: | Page 2-3 of 28 |
| Monitoring Requirements: | Pages 7-11 of 28 |

IV. Statutory and Regulatory Authority

A. Clean Water Act and NPDES Background

Congress enacted the Clean Water Act (CWA or Act), “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters.” CWA § 101(a). To achieve this objective, the CWA makes it unlawful for any person to discharge any pollutant into the waters of the United States from any point source, except as authorized by specified permitting sections of the Act, one of which is Section 402. CWA §§ 301(a), 402(a).

Section 402 establishes one of the CWA's principal permitting programs, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Under this section of the Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may "issue a permit for the discharge of any pollutant, or combination of pollutants" in accordance with certain conditions. CWA § 402(a). The State of Vermont has been delegated by EPA to administer the NPDES Program in Vermont. NPDES permits generally contain discharge limitations and establish related monitoring and reporting requirements. CWA § 402(a)(1) - (2).

Section 301 of the CWA provides for two types of effluent limitations to be included in NPDES permits: "technology-based" limitations and "water quality-based" limitations. CWA §§ 301, 303, 304(b); 40 C.F.R. Parts 122, 125, 131. Technology-based limitations, generally developed on an industry-by-industry basis, reflect a specified level of pollutant-reducing technology available and economically achievable for the type of facility being permitted. CWA § 301(b). As a class, WWTFs must meet performance-based requirements based on available wastewater treatment technology. CWA § 301(b)(1)(B). The performance level for WWTFs is referred to as "secondary treatment." Secondary treatment is comprised of technology-based requirements expressed in terms of BOD5, TSS, and pH. 40 C.F.R. Part 133.

Water quality-based effluent limits, on the other hand, are designed to ensure that state water quality standards are achieved, irrespective of the technological or economic considerations that inform technology-based limits. Under the CWA, states must develop water quality standards for all water bodies within the state. CWA § 303. These standards have three parts: (1) one or more "designated uses" for each water body or water body segment in the state; (2) water quality "criteria," consisting of numerical concentration levels and/or narrative statements specifying the amounts of various pollutants that may be present in each water body without impairing the designated uses of that water body; and (3) an antidegradation provision, focused on protecting high quality waters and protecting and maintaining water quality necessary to protect existing uses. CWA § 303(c)(2)(A); 40 C.F.R. § 131.12. The applicable water quality standards for this permit are the 2017 Vermont Water Quality Standards (Environmental Protection Rule, Chapter 29a).

A permit must include limits for any pollutant or pollutant parameter (conventional, non-conventional, toxic, and whole effluent toxicity) that is or may be discharged at a level that causes or has "reasonable potential" to cause or contribute to an excursion above any water quality standard, including narrative water quality criteria. See 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(d)(1). An excursion occurs if the projected or actual in-stream concentration exceeds the applicable criterion. A NPDES permit must contain effluent limitations and conditions in order to ensure that the discharge does not cause or contribute to water quality standard violations.

Receiving stream requirements are established according to numerical and narrative standards

adopted under state law for each stream classification. When using chemical-specific numeric

criteria from the State's water quality standards to develop permit limits, both the acute and chronic aquatic life criteria are used and expressed in terms of maximum allowable in stream

pollutant concentrations. Acute aquatic life criteria are generally implemented through maximum daily limits and chronic aquatic life criteria are generally implemented through average monthly limits.

Where a state has not established a numeric water quality criterion for a specific chemical pollutant that is present in the effluent in a concentration that causes or has a reasonable potential to cause a violation of narrative water quality standards, the permitting authority must establish effluent limits in one of three ways: based on a “calculated numeric criterion for the pollutant which the permitting authority demonstrates will attain and maintain applicable narrative water quality criteria and fully protect the designated use”; on a “case-by-case basis” using CWA Section 304(a) recommended water quality criteria, supplemented as necessary by other relevant information; or, in certain circumstances, based on an “indicator parameter.” 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(d)(1)(vi)(A-C).

The state rules governing Vermont’s NPDES permit program are found in the Vermont Water Pollution Control Permit Regulations (Environmental Protection Rule, Chapter 13).

1. Reasonable Potential Determination

In determining whether this permit has the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an impairment, Vermont has considered:

- 1) Existing controls on point and non-point sources of pollution as evidenced by the Vermont surface water assessment database;
- 2) Pollutant concentration and variability in the effluent as determined from the permit application materials, monthly discharge monitoring reports (DMRs), or other facility reports;
- 3) Receiving water quality based on targeted water quality and biological assessments of receiving waters, as applicable, or other State or Federal water quality reports;
- 4) Toxicity testing results based on the Vermont Toxics Control Discharge Strategy, and compelled as a condition of prior permits;
- 5) Available dilution of the effluent in the receiving water, expressed as the instream waste concentration. In accordance with the applicable Vermont Water Quality Standards, available dilution for rivers and streams is based on a known or estimated value of the lowest average flow which occurs for seven (7) consecutive days with a recurrence interval of once in ten (10) years (7Q10) for aquatic life and human health criteria for non-carcinogens, or at all flows for human health (carcinogens only) in the receiving water. For nutrients, available dilution for stream and river discharges is assessed using the low median monthly flow computed as the median flow of the month containing the lowest annual flow. Available dilution for lakes is based on mixing zones of no more than 200 feet in diameter, in any direction, from the effluent discharge point, including as applicable the length of a diffuser apparatus.

- 6) All effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and other conditions of the proposed draft permit.

The Reasonable Potential Determination for this facility is attached to this Fact Sheet as Attachment B.

B. Anti-Backsliding

Section 402(o) of the CWA provides that certain effluent limitations of a renewed, reissued, or modified permit must be at least as stringent as the comparable effluent limitations in the previous permit. EPA has also promulgated anti-backsliding regulations which are found at 40 C.F.R. § 122.44(l). Unless applicable anti-backsliding exemptions are met, the limits and conditions in the reissued permit must be at least as stringent as those in the previous permit.

V. Description of Receiving Water

The receiving water for this discharge is the Stevens Branch, a designated Cold Water Fish Habitat. At the point of discharge, the river has a contributing drainage area of 15.7 square miles. The summer 7Q10 flow of the river is estimated to be 1.42 cubic feet per second (CFS) and the summer Low Median Monthly flow is estimated to be 5.26 CFS. The instream waste concentration at the summer 7Q10 flow is 0.14 (9.86%) and the instream waste concentration at the summer Low Median Monthly flow is 0.042 (0.8%).

In addition, the Stevens Branch drains into the Winooski River, and, ultimately, into Lake Champlain, which is impaired for phosphorus and is subject to a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for phosphorus. This is discussed further in Section VII.C.1. of this Fact Sheet.

VI. Facility History and Background

The WWTF receives residential wastewater from the Town of Williamstown. The facility consists of two aerated lagoons with chlorine disinfection followed by de-chlorination. There are three pump stations throughout the collection system.

The Town is currently upgrading the facility, including relocation of the outfall, reconstruction of the headworks, installation of two new blowers, and chemical addition to achieve phosphorous removal.

VII. Permit Basis and Explanation of Effluent Limitation Derivation

This permit was evaluated under the 2017 Vermont Water Quality Standards.

A. Flow

The draft permit maintains the annual average flow limitation of 0.150 MGD. This facility maintains a constant discharge. Continuous flow monitoring is required.

B. Conventional Pollutants**1. Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD₅)**

The effluent limitations for BOD₅ remain unchanged from the current permit. The monthly average (30 mg/L) and weekly average (45 mg/L) reflect the minimum level of effluent quality specified for secondary treatment in 40 CFR § 133.102. In addition, the draft permit contains a 50 mg/L, maximum day, BOD₅ limitation, which is the Agency standard applied to all such discharges pursuant to Section 13.4(c) of the Vermont Water Pollution Control Permit Regulations. The Secretary implements the limit to supplement the federal technology based limitations to prevent a gross one-day permit effluent violation to be offset by multiple weekly and monthly sampling events which would enable a discharger to comply with the weekly average and monthly average permit limitations. Mass limits (38 lbs/day, monthly average and 56 lbs/day, weekly average) are calculated using the concentration limits outlined above and the permitted flow. The BOD₅ monthly monitoring requirement is unchanged from the current permit.

2. Total Suspended Solids (TSS)

The monthly average effluent limitation for TSS has changed from the current permit. The facility has been achieving the secondary treatment standard TSS effluent limitations set forth under 40 C.F.R. § 133.102(b) for at least the past five years based upon the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) WR-43 forms submitted by the facility. Because the facility has consistently been achieving the TSS effluent limitations set forth under 40 C.F.R. § 133.102(b), the facility does not meet all of the criteria under 40 C.F.R. § 133.101(g) necessary for eligibility for application of the effluent limitations for treatment equivalent to secondary treatment, and it follows that the facility must comply with the secondary treatment standards for TSS: (1) the 30-day average shall not exceed 30 mg/l; (2) the seven-day average shall not exceed 45 mg/l. The seven-day average concentration limit of 45 mg/l and the 50 mg/l maximum day concentration limit remain unchanged from the current permit. The TSS monthly monitoring requirement is unchanged from the current permit.

3. *Escherichia coli*

The *E. coli* limitation is 77/100ml, instantaneous maximum, based upon the limitation in the current permit and the anti-backsliding provisions of Section 402(o) of the CWA. As in the current permit, twice monthly monitoring is required.

4. pH

The pH limitation remains at 6.5 - 8.5 Standard Units as specified in 29A-303(6) in the Vermont Water Quality Standards. Monitoring remains at daily.

C. Non-Conventional and Toxics

1. Total Phosphorus (TP)

Background:

Excess phosphorus entering Lake Champlain from a variety of sources has impaired the water quality of the Lake. The Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load (LC TMDL), places a cap on the maximum amount of phosphorus from point and non-point sources that is allowed to flow into the Lake while still meeting Vermont's water quality standards. The EPA developed phosphorus TMDLs for the 12 Vermont segments of Lake Champlain in collaboration with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets, and released the document titled "Phosphorus TMDLs for Vermont Segments of Lake Champlain" (June 2016). The 2016 LC TMDL specifies allowable phosphorus loads, or waste load allocations (WLA), expressed as metric tons per year (mt/yr), for each of the 59 WWTFs that discharge to the Lake's watershed. Discharge NPDES permits will be issued by the Secretary in accordance with the permit issuance schedule in the Lake Champlain TMDL Phase 1 Implementation Plan (Chapter 3, page 46). The Secretary will follow this schedule unless special circumstances are raised by the facility that warrant the issuance of the permit sooner (e.g., planned facility upgrades), and the Program has sufficient staff capacity to handle the request.

Reductions in WLAs are targeted only to WWTFs in those lake segment watersheds where the currently permitted wastewater load represents a significant (defined as being 10% or greater) portion of the total phosphorus load to that segment from all sources (Main Lake, Shelburne Bay, Burlington Bay, St. Albans Bay) or where wastewater upgrades would meaningfully reduce the phosphorus reduction burden placed on non-wastewater (non-point) sources (Missisquoi Bay). Therefore, WWTFs discharging to the Port Henry, Otter Creek, Mallets Bay, Northeast Arm, Isle LaMotte, and the South Lake A/B lake segments were not assigned a new waste load allocation. The EPA also determined that wastewater facilities with a design flow of < 0.1 MGD would be given the same allocations as in the 2002 TMDLs due their minor contribution of phosphorus loading.

The LC TMDL establishes new annual WLAs for WWTFs with a design flow capacity of above 0.1 million gallons per day (MGD) that discharge to the Main Lake, Shelburne Bay, Burlington Bay, St. Albans Bay, and Missisquoi Bay lake segments. Specifically, WWTFs with a design flow capacity of 0.1 to 0.2 MGD were assigned WLAs based on a 0.8 mg/L effluent phosphorus concentration at permitted flow while WWTFs with design capacity of > 0.2 MGD were assigned a WLA based on a 0.2 mg/L effluent phosphorus concentration at permitted flow.

In the LC TMDL, EPA acknowledged and supported the Secretary's commitment to employ flexible approaches to implementing the WWTF WLAs including "providing a period of time for optimization to be pursued and the corresponding load reduction results to be realized, and then commencement of the process to upgrade phosphorus treatment facilities will be required when actual phosphorus loads reach 80% of the LC TMDL limits." The Wastewater Management Program maintains a tracking system for phosphorus loading from

Vermont WWTFs so facilities approaching or over the 80% threshold can be identified. The 80% phosphorus load threshold is calculated by comparing the individual WWTF phosphorus WLA established in the LC TMDL to the actual phosphorus discharge load from the WWTF over last 12 months:

WWTF Annual TP Load / LC TMDL WLA x 100

There are currently WWTFs in the Lake Champlain watershed with existing discharged loads of phosphorus already at, or above, 80% of allowable loads. To ensure facilities are operating as efficiently as possible, all reissued wastewater discharge NPDES permits under the LC TMDL will specify a period of 12-months for optimization to be pursued and the corresponding load reduction results to be realized, prior to evaluating where a facility ranks relative to the 80% trigger. Discharge permits will specify that after the optimization period, when an existing facility reaches 80% of its WLA for phosphorus (evaluated as a rolling, 12-month load), the permittee will have to develop and submit a projection of whether the facility will exceed its WLA during the permit term and if it is projected to do so, then the facility will be required to develop a Phosphorus Elimination/Reduction Plan (PERP) that will ensure the facility continues to comply with its WLA.

Effluent TP limits in permits are expressed as total annual mass loads for facilities that currently have an existing monthly effluent concentration limit for TP in their NPDES permit.

Phosphorus Limit in Draft Permit:

The previous discharge permit for this facility included a mass-based, effluent limit of 2283 pounds of TP per year. This annual mass limitation was based on an allocation of 1.036 metric tons established in the 2002 Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL. The previous permit contained no effluent TP concentration limit but used a default concentration of 5.0 mg/l to establish the mass-based effluent limit.

This proposed draft permit contains a phosphorous effluent concentration limit of 0.8 mg/l, monthly average, and a mass effluent limit of 366 total pounds, annual limitation. The concentration effluent limitation is based on the requirements of 10 V.S.A. § 1266a and is a change from the previous permit. The mass annual effluent limitation is based on the LC TMDLs. The LC TMDL allocated 0.166 metric tons per year or 366 pounds per year to the Williamstown WWTF. The Secretary is adopting the WLA from the LC TMDL as the water quality based effluent limitation for this permit without additional analysis because this WLA was set by EPA less than a year ago as the limit necessary to ensure Lake Champlain is brought into compliance with the Vermont Water Quality Standards, and undertaking further analysis to determine if more stringent effluent limitations are needed would be meaningless at this time since the State has just started to implement the Vermont Lake Champlain Phosphorus TMDL Phase I Implementation Plan. *See In re Montpelier WWTF Discharge Permit, 2009 WL 4396740, 6 (Vt. Env'tl. Ct. June 30, 2009).*

This new, annual WLA represents an 83% reduction (-1917 pounds) from the previous permit and is equivalent to setting the effluent TP limit at 0.8 mg/L at the design capacity of the WWTF (0.150 MGD). To convert units of the WLA from metric tons to pounds for the annual, mass-based TP permit limit, the following equation was used and the resulting WLA rounded down to the nearest pound:

$$(0.166 \text{ mt/yr}) (2204.62 \text{ lbs/mt}) = 366 \text{ lbs/yr}$$

The LC TMDL includes WLAs for WWTFs expressed as total annual mass loads; the LC TMDL does not include monthly average concentration effluent limits for WWTFs. State law (10 V.S.A. § 1266a) requires that, “No person directly discharging into the drainage basins of Lake Champlain or Lake Memphremagog shall discharge any waste that contains a phosphorus concentration in excess of 0.80 milligrams per liter on a monthly average basis.” Therefore, in addition to the annual mass load effluent limitation required by the TMDL, the permit must also include a monthly average concentration limit for phosphorus.

The requirement for monthly sampling for total phosphorus is unchanged from the previous permit.

Condition I.G.5 of this draft permit requires the submission of monitoring reports to the Secretary specific to tracking TP in the discharge. Monthly reporting of total pounds of phosphorus discharged for the year shall be submitted via self-monitoring report form WR-43-P04. A report that documents the annual TP discharged from the facility, summarizes phosphorus removal optimization and efficiencies, and tracks trends relative to the previous year shall be attached to the December WR-43 form. The annual and monthly TP loads discharged from the facility shall also be reported electronically with other required parameters.

Phosphorus Optimization and Elimination/Reduction Plans:

To ensure the facility is operating as efficiently as possible for purposes of phosphorus removal, Condition I.B.2 of the permit requires that within 120 days of completion of tertiary phosphorus treatment upgrades or December 1, 2017, whichever occurs first, the permittee shall develop or update (as appropriate), and submit to the Secretary, a Phosphorus Optimization Plan (POP) to increase the WWTF’s phosphorus removal efficiency by implementing optimization techniques that achieve phosphorus reductions using primarily existing facilities and equipment. The techniques to be evaluated may include operational process changes to enhance biological and/or chemical phosphorous removal, incorporation of anaerobic/anoxic zones, septage receiving policies and procedures, and side stream management.

The facility shall have 12 months from completion of tertiary phosphorus treatment upgrades or December 1, 2017, whichever occurs first, to optimize removal of total phosphorus. If, after the 12-month optimization period, the WWTF’s actual TP loads reach or exceed 80% of the LC TMDL WLA for the WWTF, based on the WWTF’s 12-month running annual load calculated using the Phosphorus Load Calculation (Condition I.B.3 of the permit) the

permittee shall, within 90 days of reaching or exceeding 80% of the LC TMDL WLA for the WWTF, develop and submit to the Secretary a projection based on the WWTF's current operations and expected future loadings of whether it will exceed its WLA during the permit term.

If the facility is not projected to exceed its WLA within the permit term, the WWTF shall reassess when it is projected to reach its WLA prior to permit renewal and submit that information with its next permit application. If the facility is projected to exceed its WLA during the permit term, the permittee shall submit a Phosphorus Elimination/Reduction Plan (PERP) within 6 months to the Secretary to ensure the WWTF continues to comply with its WLA. The PERP shall be treated as an application to amend the permit, and therefore, shall be subject to all public notice, hearing, and comment provisions, in place at the time the plan is submitted, that are applicable to permit amendments. The WWTF shall revise the PERP, if required by the Secretary.

2. Total Nitrogen (TN)

To gather data on the amount of Nitrate/Nitrite (NO_x) and Total Nitrogen (TN) in this discharge and its potential impact on the receiving water, a quarterly "monitor only" requirement for NO_x and TN has been included in this permit. TN is a calculated value based on the sum of Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) and Nitrate/Nitrite (NO_x) Nitrogen, and, shall be reported as pounds, calculated as:

$$\text{Average TN (mg/L)} \times \text{Total Daily Flow} \times 8.34$$

$$\text{where, TN (mg/L)} = \text{TKN (mg/L)} + \text{NO}_x \text{ (mg/L)}$$

Per EPA, excess nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) are the leading cause of water quality degradation in the United States. Historically nutrient management focused on limiting a single nutrient—phosphorus or nitrogen—based on assumptions that production is usually phosphorus limited in freshwater and nitrogen limited in marine waters. Scientific research demonstrates this is an overly simplistic model. The evidence clearly indicates management of both phosphorus and nitrogen is necessary to protect water quality. The literature shows that aquatic flora and fauna have differing nutrient needs, some are P dependent, others N dependent and others are co-dependent on these two nutrients.

Like P, N promotes noxious aquatic plant and algal growth. High concentrations of P and N together cause greater growth of algae than P alone. The relative abundance of these nutrients also influences the type of species within the community. Furthermore, a high N-to-P ratio may exacerbate the growth of cyanobacteria, while elevated levels of nitrogen increase toxicity in some cyanobacteria species. Given the dynamic nature of all aquatic ecosystems, for the State to fully understand the degradation to water quality it is necessary to limit P and monitor bioavailable N (including nitrate, ammonium, and certain dissolved organic nitrogen compounds).

Facilities with design flow greater than 1 MGD will complete monthly monitoring unless more frequent sampling is already required by the permit. Facilities with design flows less than 1 MGD will complete quarterly, unless more frequent sampling is already required by the permit.

For more information, see

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documents/nandpfactsheet.pdf>.

Quarterly monitoring via composite sample is required for this facility.

3. Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)

TKN is used to calculate Total Nitrogen. TKN sampling is required once per quarter. Monitoring via composite sample is required.

4. Total Ammonia Nitrogen

Because the facility's discharge has a reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an impairment in the Stevens Branch, based on the previous self-reporting data and Vermont Water Quality Standards, the draft permit contains new water quality-based effluent limitations for TAN.

Limits are imposed on both mass and concentration and vary seasonally. Annually, from June 1 to September 30 the monthly mass limit of 6.5 lbs/day will apply. Concentration limits during the period of June 1 to September 30 are 5.2 mg/L monthly average, 13.0 mg/l weekly average, and 19.2 mg/L instantaneous maximum. Annually, from October 1 to May 30 the monthly mass limit of 14.8 lbs/day will apply. Concentration limits during the period of October 1 to May 30 are 11.9 mg/L monthly average, 29.7 mg/l weekly average, and 27.1 mg/L instantaneous maximum. Monthly average limits correspond to the 30-day chronic criteria and weekly average to the 4-day chronic criteria. The instantaneous maximum is the concentration required to meet the acute water quality criteria.

These limitations have been computed based on mass loading that reflects the worst-case using the permitted flow limitation (0.15 MGD annual average), by computing the allowable mass for the lowest observed summer flows, at the 30Q10 (chronic) and 7Q10 (acute) flows. Because the facility is operating at one-third of the permitted design flow, it is expected to meet these limitations. (See RPD, Attachment B).

TAN sampling is required once per month.

5. Settleable Solids

The settleable solids limitation of 1.0 mL/L instantaneous maximum and daily monitoring remain unchanged from the current permit. This numeric limit was established in support of the narrative standard in Section 29A-303(2) of the Vermont Water Quality Standards.

6. Total Residual Chlorine

The Total Residual Chlorine limitation is 0.08 mg/l, instantaneous maximum. This limitation is changed from the previous permit. Based on the Agency's Chlorine Policy, a limit of 0.08 mg/l will ensure that the instream water quality criteria of chlorine of 0.019 mg/l, (acute) and 0.011 mg/l (chronic) of the Vermont Water Quality Standards is met. Total residual chlorine sampling is required once per day (unchanged from the previous permit).

7. Toxicity Testing

40 C.F.R. §§ 122.44(d)(1) and 122.21(j) require the Secretary to assess whether the discharge causes, or has the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an excursion above any narrative or numeric water quality criteria. The Secretary's reasonable potential analysis found a very high instream waste concentration (7Q10 IWC 55%) and elevated effluent ammonia concentrations reported in 2016, and therefore concluded that the permittee shall conduct WET testing and toxic pollutant analyses according to the schedule outlined in Section I.F. of the draft permit, which indicates yearly, 2-species, 48-hour acute and 96-hour chronic WET tests. Tests are required in August or September of 2019 and 2021 and March or April of 2018 and 2020. If the results of these tests indicate a reasonable potential to cause an instream toxic impact, the Secretary may require additional WET testing, establish a WET limit, or require a Toxicity Reduction Evaluation.

8. Annual Monitoring

For all facilities with a design flow of greater than 0.1 MGD, 40 CFR § 122.21(j) requires the submittal of effluent monitoring data for those parameters identified in Section I.G.3 of the draft permit. Samples must be collected once annually such that by the end of the term of the permit, all quarters have been sampled at least once, and the results will be submitted by December 31 of each year. Sampling in 2017 should be taken in Fall. For subsequent sampling, the "Guidance for Annual Constituent Monitoring" document should be referred to determine the season in which samples should be taken each year.

D. Special Conditions

1. Waste Management Zone (WMZ)

As defined under 10 V.S.A. § 1251(16), a WMZ is "a specific reach of Class B waters designated by a permit to accept the discharge of properly treated wastes that prior to treatment contained organisms pathogenic to human beings. Throughout the receiving waters, water quality criteria must be achieved but increased health risks exist due to the authorized discharge."

The WMZ in the proposed permit extends from a new outfall, which discharges directly to the Stevens Branch, downstream 1.0 mile, pursuant to Appendix A of the Agency's "Waste Management Zone Designation Procedure" (December 1, 1995). The prior WMZ extended from the facility's old outfall, which discharged to Tributary 23 (which flows to the Stevens

Branch), downstream 1.2 miles. The proposed WMZ overlaps with the prior WMZ and does not include any new areas of river.

The relocation of the outfall is necessary to address high levels of phosphorus and ammonia in the small Tributary.

In support of this change to the WMZ for the Williamstown WWTF, the Secretary has conducted the analysis included with this Fact Sheet as Attachment A.

In accordance with the Secretary's Waste Management Zone Designation Procedure (December 1995), the Secretary will accept public comment on this WMZ designation during the public comment period for the proposed discharge permit, and the hearing for the proposed discharge permit will also serve as the hearing for the WMZ.

2. Laboratory Proficiency Testing

To ensure there are adequate laboratory controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures, the permittee shall conduct an annual laboratory proficiency test for the analysis of all pollutant parameters performed within their facility laboratory and reported as required by their NPDES permit. Proficiency test samples must be obtained from an accredited laboratory or as part of an EPA DMR-QA study. Results shall be submitted to the Secretary by December 31, annually.

3. Operation, Management, and Emergency Response Plans

As required by the revisions to 10 V.S.A. § 1278, promulgated in the 2006 legislative session, Section I.I. has been included in the draft permit. This condition requires that the permittee implement the Operation, Management, and Emergency Response Plans for the WWTF, sewage pump/ejector stations, and stream crossings as approved by the Secretary on April 21, 2010 and Emergency Response Plan for the sewage collection system as approved by the Secretary on September 24, 2010.

4. Electric Power Failure Plan

To ensure the facility can continue operations even during the event of a power failure, **within 90 days of the effective date of the permit**, the permittee must submit to the Secretary updated documentation addressing how the discharge will be handled in the event of an electric power outage.

5. Electronic Reporting

The EPA recently promulgated a final rule to modernize the Clean Water Act reporting for municipalities, industries, and other facilities by converting to an electronic data reporting system. The final rule requires the inclusion of electronic reporting requirements in NPDES permits that become effective after December 21, 2015. The rule requires that NPDES regulated entities that are required to submit discharge monitoring reports (DMRs), including

majors and nonmajors, individually permitted or covered by a general permit, must do so electronically after December 2016. The Secretary has created an electronic reporting system for DMRs and has recently trained facilities in its use. The Secretary completed a phased roll out of mandatory electronic reporting. As of December 2020, these NPDES facilities will also be expected to submit additional information electronically as specified in Appendix A in 40 C.F.R. Part 127.

6. Noncompliance Notification

As required by the passage of 10 V.S.A. § 1295, promulgated in the 2016 legislative session, Section II.A.2 has been included in the proposed permit. Section 1295 requires the permittee to provide public notification of untreated discharges from wastewater facilities. The permittee is required to post a public alert within one hour of discovery, and submit to the Secretary specified information regarding the discharge within 12 hours of discovery.

7. Reopener

This draft permit includes a reopener whereby the Secretary reserves the right to reopen and amend the permit to implement an integrated plan to address multiple Clean Water Act obligations.

E. Reasonable Potential Analysis

The Secretary has conducted a reasonable potential analysis, which is attached to this Fact Sheet as Attachment B. Based on this analysis, the Secretary has determined the available data indicate that, due to ammonia, this discharge has a reasonable potential to cause, or contribute to an impairment in the Stevens Branch. In this case, federal requirements require the Secretary to impose appropriate effluent limitations. The Monitoring, Assessment, and Planning Program therefore recommended inclusion of the ammonia monitoring requirements noted above, and provided effluent limitations computed to maintain water quality standards.

VIII. Procedures for Formulation of Final Determinations

The public comment period for receiving comments on this draft permit is from **July 12 through August 30, 2017** during which time interested persons may submit their written views on the draft permit. All written comments received by 4:30 PM on **August 30, 2017** will be retained by the Secretary and considered in the formulation of the final determination to issue, deny, or modify the draft permit. The period of comment may be extended at the discretion of the Secretary.

Written comments should be sent to:

Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation
Watershed Management Division
One National Life Drive, Main Building, 2nd Floor

Montpelier, VT 05620-3522

Comments may be submitted by e-mail to:

ANR.WSMDWastewaterComments@vermont.gov

For additional information, contact Jessica Bulova at 802-828-1535

The Secretary will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, August 22, 2017 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM** at the **Agency of Natural Resources Annex Building**, located at **190 Junction Road, Berlin, Vermont 05602**. Any person may submit oral or written statements and data concerning the draft permit at the public hearing. The Secretary may establish reasonable limits on the time allowed for oral statements and may require the submission of statements in writing. All statements, comments, and data presented at the public hearing will be retained by the Secretary and considered in the formulation of the final determination to issue, deny, or modify the draft permit.

The complete application, draft permit, and other information are on file and may be inspected by appointment on the 2nd floor of the Main Building at One National Life Drive, Montpelier, Vermont. Copies may be obtained by calling 802-828-1535 from 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, and will be made at a cost based upon the current Secretary of State Official Fee Schedule for Copying Public Records. The draft permit and fact sheet may also be viewed on the Watershed Management Division's website at <http://www.watershedmanagement.vt.gov/>

**ATTACHMENT A – WASTE MANAGEMENT ZONE DESIGNATION ANALYSIS FOR THE
NEW OUTFALL LOCATION**Williamstown Wastewater Treatment Facility

Due to impairment caused by high levels of phosphorus and ammonia in Tributary 23 of the Stevens Branch, the Secretary has recommended relocation of the outfall to the Stevens Branch. The waste management zone (WMZ) in the proposed permit extends from a new outfall, which discharges directly to the Stevens Branch, downstream 1.0 mile, pursuant to Appendix A of the Agency's "Waste Management Zone Designation Procedure" (December 1, 1995). The prior WMZ extended from the facility's old outfall, which discharged to Tributary 23 (which flows to the Stevens Branch), downstream 1.2 miles. The proposed WMZ overlaps with the prior WMZ and does not include any new areas of river.

The Town of Williamstown provided an existing use determination, pursuant to the "Waste Management Zone Designation Procedure" (December 1, 1995).

The Secretary has conducted the following analysis pursuant to the Agency's Procedure.

I. Section 29A-105(b) of the Vermont Water Quality Standards and Section VII.F. of the Interim Antidegradation Procedure

Section 29A-105(b) of the Vermont Water Quality Standards and Section VII.F. of the Interim Antidegradation Procedure require that the existing uses of receiving waters be protected and maintained and the Secretary must consider the following factors in making a determination:

- a. Aquatic biota and wildlife that utilize or are present in the waters;
- b. Habitat that supports or is capable of supporting aquatic biota, wildlife, or plant life;
- c. The use of the waters for recreation or fishing;
- d. The use of the water for water supply, or commercial activity that depends directly on the preservation of an existing high level of water quality; and
- e. For factors (a) and (b) above, evidence of the use's ecological significance in the functioning of the ecosystem or evidence of the use's rarity.

While the Reasonable Potential Determination, included as Attachment B, found the discharge has a reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an impairment in the Stevens Branch, the proposed permit contains effluent limitations for Total Ammonia Nitrogen and monitoring requirements that are protective of the Vermont Water Quality Standards for Class B(2) waters. The proposed discharge shall comply with all terms and conditions of the draft discharge permit, including effluent limitations. Based upon this analysis, the Secretary finds that the discharge will not cause or contribute to the lowering of existing water quality. Because the facility has proposed an increase in treatment and will relocate the discharge, an impairment will be eliminated and the existing water quality will improve. As a result, the receiving water's high quality aquatic habitat and suitability for use by aquatic biota, wildlife, and plant life will be maintained and protected.

Next, based upon the existing use determination provided by Williamstown, there is no evidence of

the water being used for recreation and fishing. There are no public accesses within the WMZ; the tall dense brush adjacent to the Stevens Branch impedes access for recreation; and the shallow stream depth would limit recreational uses such as swimming, wading, and bathing. Therefore, the WMZ will not impact such uses.

Finally, the Secretary has determined there are no water supplies or commercial enterprises that depend directly on the preservation of an existing high level of water quality in the one-mile stretch that is the proposed WMZ, so there will not be any impact to those uses.

Based upon this analysis, the Secretary has determined that the proposed discharge satisfies the criteria of Section 29A-105(b) of the Vermont Water Quality Standards and Section VII.F. of the Interim Antidegradation Procedure.

II. Section 29A-105(c) of the Vermont Water Quality Standards and Section VII.E. of the Interim Antidegradation Procedure

Section 29A-105(c) of the Vermont Water Quality Standards and Section VII.E. of the Interim Antidegradation Procedure require that higher quality water be protected and the risk minimized to existing and designated uses, and prohibit limited reductions in the existing higher quality of such waters unless the criteria under 29A-105(c)(2) are met.

As mentioned above, the discharge shall satisfy effluent limitations in the discharge permit that ensure compliance with the Vermont Water Quality Standards. Additionally, while the outfall is moving from Tributary 23 to the Stevens Branch, the WMZ proposed for the Stevens Branch is identical to the existing WMZ on the Stevens Branch. Therefore, the higher water quality will be protected; there will be no impacts to existing uses, as discussed above; there will be no new impacts to designated uses; and therefore, the discharge will not result in a limited lowering of water quality.

III. Waste Management Zone Designation and Criteria, Section 29A-204(b) of the Vermont Water Quality Standards

Section 29A-204(b) establishes the following criteria for waste management zones:

- a. It shall be the minimum length necessary to accommodate the authorized discharge;
- b. It shall be consistent with the anti-degradation policy (Section 29A-105) of these rules;
- c. It shall not result in significantly increased health risks when evaluated using reasonable assumptions about exposure pathways;
- d. It will be located and managed so as to not result in more than a negligible increased risk to public health adjacent to or downstream of the waste management zone; and
- e. It will not constitute a barrier to the passage or movement of fish or prevent the full support of aquatic biota, wildlife, and aquatic habitat uses.

As described above and throughout the fact sheet of the draft discharge permit, the WMZ shall begin at the new facility discharge point S/N 001, which discharges directly to the Stevens Branch rather than Tributary 23, and extend 1.0 river mile downstream. The discharge shall satisfy all effluent limitations specified in the draft discharge permit which does not authorize an increase in flow or

pollutants within the discharge. Therefore, pursuant to Appendix A of the Agency's "Waste Management Zone Designation Procedure" (December 1, 1995), the waste management zone is sufficient.

Sections I and II of this analysis conclude that the waste management zone designation satisfies the Antidegradation Policy within the Vermont Water Quality Standards and Interim Antidegradation Procedure. In addition, as stated in the Antidegradation analysis, because the discharge will comply with the Vermont Water Quality Standards, the WMZ will not constitute a barrier to the passage or movement of fish, and will continue to support aquatic biota, wildlife, and aquatic habitat uses.

Due to the absence of contact recreation occurring downstream of the discharge, it is determined that the WMZ designation will not cause significantly increased health risks or pose more than a negligible increased risk to public health adjacent or downstream of the WMZ.

IV. The Public Interest – 10 V.S.A. § 1253(e)

Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 1252(d)(6), the Secretary must also "[d]etermine that the creation or expansion of such a waste management zone is in the public interest after giving due consideration to the factors specified in subdivisions 1253(e)(1) through (10)."

While the WMZ for this facility is technically new because the outfall is being relocated, no new section of river is being designated as a WMZ. The proposed 1.0 mile WMZ overlaps entirely with the existing 1.2 mile WMZ. Additionally, moving the outfall from Tributary 23 addresses water quality impairments in the small tributary due to high levels of phosphorus and ammonia. Therefore, because this 1.0 reach is currently a WMZ, relocating the outfall will address a water quality issue, and the effluent limitations in the permit are protective of water quality and existing uses, the Secretary finds that the proposed 1.0 WMZ is in the public interest.

In closing, after giving due consideration to the applicable conditions of the Vermont Water Quality Standards, the Interim Antidegradation Procedure, and requirements under state statute, the Secretary believes the new discharge location complies with all applicable standards. The Secretary will hold a public hearing pertaining to this proposed discharge, WMZ designation, and draft permit, convenient to the waters affected, to accept verbal and written public comments on the items described above. Those comments will be used to supplement this analysis.

ATTACHMENT B – REASONABLE POTENTIAL DETERMINATION

Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation

Watershed Management Division
1 National Life Drive 2 Main
802-828-1535

MEMORANDUM

To: Allison Lowry, Wastewater Program

From: Rick Levey, Monitoring, Assessment and Planning Program (MAPP)

Cc: Pete LaFlamme, Director, WSMD
Jessica Bulova, Manager, Wastewater Program
Neil Kamman, Manager, MAPP

Date: June 9, 2017

Subject: MAPP Reasonable Potential Determination for the Williamstown Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF).

MAPP has evaluated the draft permit limits for the Williamstown WWTF in Williamstown, Vermont pursuant to the 2012 procedure outlining WWM-WSMD roles and responsibilities. This memo provides MAPP's concurrence with the permit limits set forth by the draft permit for Williamstown WWTF prepared by the WWM.

Facility:

Williamstown Wastewater Treatment Facility
Permit No. 3-1176
NPDES No. VT0100722

Hydrology for Williamstown WWTF used in this evaluation:

Design Flow: 0.15 MGD = 0.232 CFS
7Q10 = 1.4 CFS
30Q10 = 1.9 CFS
LMM = 5.3 CFS
IWC-7Q10 = 0.14 (IWC > 10%)
IWC-30Q10 = 0.109 (IWC > 10%)
IWC-LMM = 0.042 (IWC > 1%)

Receiving Water:

Stevens Branch, Williamstown, VT
Facility Location: Lat. 44.12747 Long. 72.53290 (NAD 83)

The Stevens Branch downstream of the Williamstown WWTF is classified as Class B and is designated a Cold-Water Fish Habitat. At the point of discharge, the river has a contributing drainage area of 15.7 square miles. The proposed permit waste management zone (WMZ) in the Stevens Branch begins at the

ATTACHMENT B – REASONABLE POTENTIAL DETERMINATION

outfall of this WWTF and extends downstream approximately 1.0 mile downstream (Figure 1). There are no permitted discharges upstream of this discharge.

The outfall is newly located. The previous permit authorized the discharge from the outfall of the WWTF to Tributary 23 of the Stevens Branch. The Agency recommended the outfall be moved from Tributary 23 to address the impairment due to high levels of phosphorous and ammonia in the tributary. A determination was made that no lowering of water quality would occur as a result of the outfall relocation; in fact, water quality is being improved under the proposed permit, which eliminates a discharge to Tributary 23 which to-date has caused an impairment.

Since the waste management zone was being modified, an existing use determination was also made pursuant to the Procedure for the Determination for Waste Management Zones. There were no impacts to recreational waters downstream of the outfall. These determinations satisfy the requirements of the Interim Anti-Degradation Implementation Procedure, as documented by the Antidegradation Review.

General Assessment – VTDEC Assessment Database:

MAPP maintains the VTDEC assessment database, an EPA-required database which describes the conditions of Vermont's surface waters with respect to their attainment of VWQS. For the Stevens Branch segment to which this facility discharges, the database indicates full support of all designated uses.

Ambient Chemistry Data for the Stevens Branch above and below the Williamstown WWTF:

There is ambient chemistry data available above and below the "new outfall" location which is located just below the confluence of Tributary 23. Although the VTDEC water quality sampling conducted in 2015 at River Mile (RM) 12.1 and RM 11.9 respectively was sampled prior to the operation of the new outfall in 2016, the water chemistry below the confluence with Tributary 23 (RM 11.9) is reflective of the "new outfall" receiving water conditions since the distance from the prior outfall on Tributary 23 to the "new outfall" location is only 0.3 miles, and there is no further dilution within this section. VTDEC established monitoring sites on Stevens Branch (RM 12.1 & 11.9) in 1991 to further delineate the Williamstown facility discharge on receiving waters downstream.

Water chemistry measures for the following parameters are available: pH, hardness, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, total phosphorus (TP), total nitrogen (TN) and total ammonia is summarized in Table 1. Priority metals were analyzed below the WWTF at RM 11.9 and were all below detection limits (Table 4).

Data representativeness was assessed by evaluating the flow conditions at which samples were collected from field sheets and from the most proximally-located USGS gauge for which data were available, and in consideration of possible downstream sensitive reaches. The location of the upstream and downstream sampling locations RM 12.1 and RM 11.9 effectively bracket the WWTF outfall (Figure 1). The downstream sampling location is the most sensitive location, and the sampling results are representative of low flows based on the actual flows shown from the USGS gauge, and field notes collected by DEC technical staff. Thus, the data presented below are relevant for inclusion in this analysis.

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Table 1: Concentrations of surface-water chemistry above and below the Williamstown Wastewater Treatment Facility (River Mile 12.1 and RM 11.9 refer to stations above and below the “new” outfall respectively).

| Sample Date | River Mile | pH | Hardness | DO (%) | DO (mg/l) | Turbidity (NTU) | Total Phosphorus (ug/l) | Total Nitrogen (mg/l) | Total Ammonia Nitrogen (mg/l) | Water Temp (deg C) |
|-------------|------------|------|----------|--------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 7/14/2015 | 11.9 | 8.06 | - | 103.1 | 9.01 | 1.31 | 55.3 | 0.6 | < 0.05 | 20.1 |
| 8/3/2015 | 11.9 | 8.11 | - | 85.9 | 7.95 | 0.88 | 142 | 0.84 | 0.197 | 17.55 |
| 8/19/2015 | 11.9 | 8.11 | - | 97.3 | 9.02 | 0.73 | 108 | 0.78 | 0.068 | 18.15 |
| 9/24/2015 | 12.1 | 8.26 | 172.0 | - | - | 1.11 | 11.6 | 0.39 | | 15.1 |
| 9/24/2015 | 11.9 | 8.2 | 198 | 92.2 | 9.85 | 0.92 | 19.4 | 0.45 | <0.05 | 12.4 |

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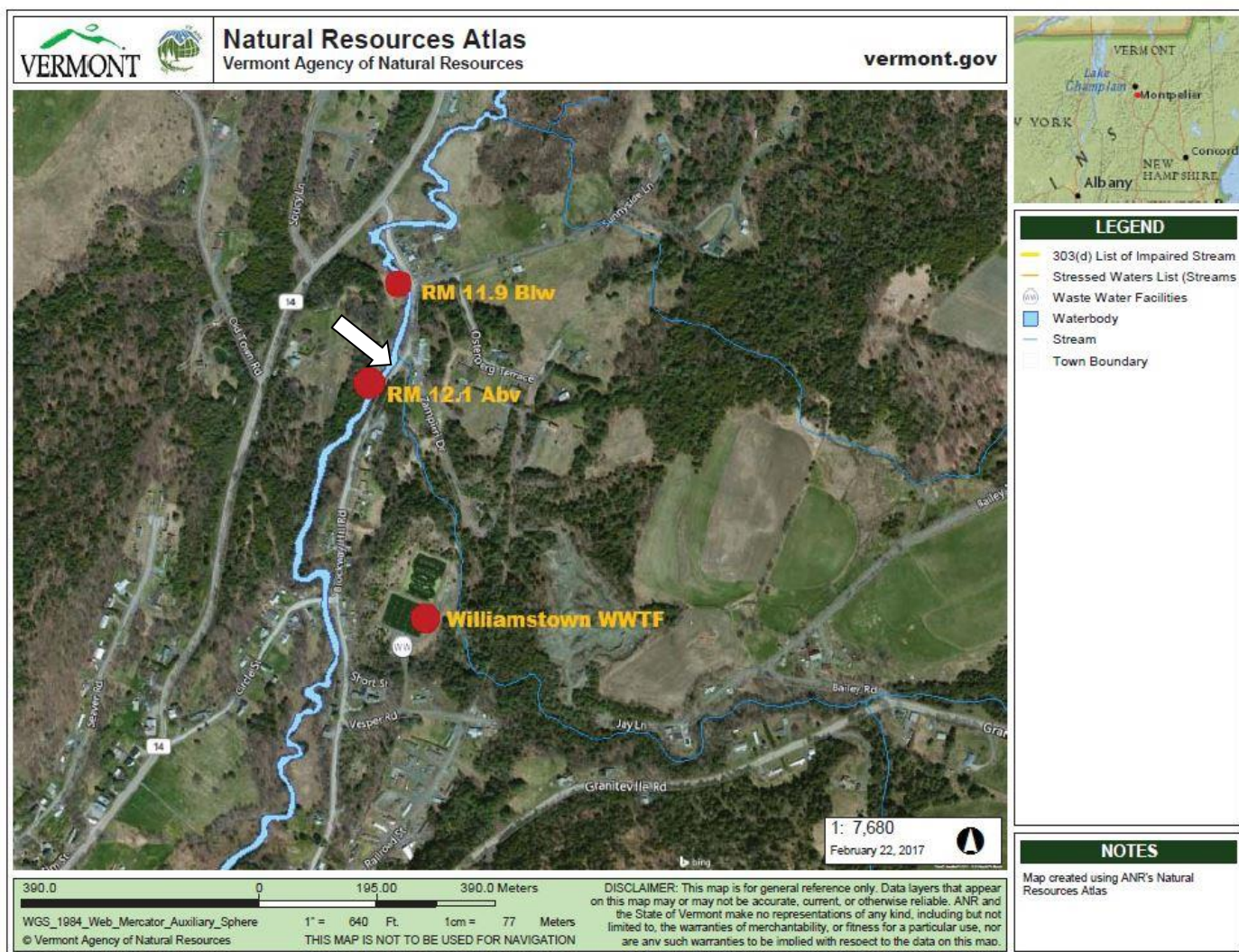


Figure 1. Stevens Branch near the Williamstown WWTF, showing up and downstream sampling locations (RM 12.1 & 11.9). New outfall location shown by arrow. Figure taken from the Vermont Integrated Watershed Assessment System on the VTANR Atlas (<https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/IWIS/>).

Total Phosphorus (TP) values below the outfall (RM 11.9) ranged from 19.4 – 142 µg/L, the highest concentration observed was on 8/19/2015. TP values above the outfall (RM 12.1) were 11.6 µg/L.

Total Nitrogen (TN) values below the outfall (RM 11.9) ranged from 0.45 – 0.84 mg/L, and above the outfall (RM 12.1) were 0.39mg/L.

Turbidity, Dissolved Oxygen, pH:

Turbidity values below the outfall (RM 11.9) ranged from 0.73 – 1.31 Nephelometric Turbidity (NTU). Turbidity above the outfall (RM 12.1) were 1.1 NTU. Dissolved oxygen below ranged from 7.95 mg/L to 9.85 mg/L, percent saturation below ranged from 85.9 – 103.1 percent. There is no dissolved oxygen data from above location. All pH values were within the range of VWQS, at RM 11.9 the pH ranged from 8.06 - 8.2, above at RM 12.1 the pH was 8.26.

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Biological Assessments:

Biological assessments were conducted below the confluence with Tributary 23 in 1991, 2005 and 2015 at RM 11.9 (Table 2). The bioassessments conducted at RM 11.9 have met and exceeded water quality standards for all years sampled for Medium High Gradient Stream Type. Biological assessments have not been conducted above the confluence of Tributary 23 at RM 12.1.

Table 2. Results of the Biological Monitoring for Macroinvertebrates on the Stevens Branch, downstream (RM 11.9) of the Williamstown WWTF discharge.

Macroinvertebrate Site Summary

| | | | |
|---------------------|--|---------------------|--------------|
| Location: | Stevens Branch RM 11.9 | Location ID: | 502141 |
| Town: | Williamstown | Bio Site ID: | 495600000119 |
| Description: | Approx. 100m below “New” Williamstown WWTF Outfall | WBID: | VT08-16 |
| Stream Type: | Medium High Gradient | | |

| Date | Density | Richness | EPT Richness | PMA O | B.I. | Oligo. | EPT/EPT + Chiro | PPCS F | Community Assessment |
|-----------------|---------|----------|--------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------------|--------|----------------------|
| 8/28/1991 | 3600 | 60.0 | 26.5 | 83.2 | 4.05 | 0.00 | 0.76 | 0.54 | Meets WQS |
| 9/13/2005 | 6060 | 58.0 | 25.0 | 69.1 | 4.92 | 0.07 | 0.70 | 0.49 | Meets WQS |
| 9/24/2015 | 1461 | 39.0 | 22.0 | 73.5 | 3.73 | 0.62 | 0.84 | 0.48 | Meets WQS |
| Full Support | ≥ 350 | ≥ 32 | ≥ 20 | ≥ 50 | ≤ 4.85 | ≤ 9.5 | ≥ 0.47 | ≥ 0.45 | |
| Meets Threshold | ≥ 300 | ≥ 30 | ≥ 18 | ≥ 45 | ≤ 5 | ≤ 12 | ≥ 0.45 | ≥ 0.4 | |
| Near Threshold | ≥ 250 | ≥ 28 | ≥ 16 | ≥ 40 | ≤ 5.15 | ≤ 14.5 | ≥ 0.43 | ≥ 0.35 | |
| Non-Support | < 250 | < 28 | < 16 | < 40 | > 5.15 | > 14.5 | < 0.43 | < 0.35 | |

*Scoring Guidelines for Stream Type MHG and WQ Class B.

Total Phosphorus:

Instream Phosphorus Concentrations were calculated using the low monthly median flow (LMM) of 5.3 CFS at design flow of 0.232 CFS (0.15 MGD) and using the effluent phosphorus concentration of 5.0 mg/L which is about the average monthly effluent concentration observed in 2016 (4.5 – 6.7 mg/L-TP) from facility monitoring records. The calculated phosphorus concentration at these conditions attributable to discharge was 0.21 mg/L (210 µg/L).

The average instream TP observed below the outfall at RM 11.9 (Table 1) was 81µg/L-TP considerably less than the calculated TP concentration of 210 µg/L. Review of the Williamstown WWTF flow records indicate that average flow for 2016 was 1/3rd (0.05 MGD) of the design flow (0.15 MGD). Instream TP concentrations at these flow rates would be 70 µg/L-TP, and are in alignment with instream TP monitoring results after adjusting for upstream TP concentrations.

The Williamstown WWTF is currently undergoing facility upgrades which will be reflected in a TP permit limit of 0.8 mg/L by December 01, 2017 or sooner, this will significantly decrease the instream phosphorus concentrations. At full design flow, TP attributable to the facility will be 0.033mg/L (33 µg/L) and at current facility flow instream TP concentrations will be only 11 µg/L-TP.

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The potential impacts of phosphorus discharges from this facility to the receiving water have been assessed in relation to the narrative criteria in §29A-302(2)(A) of the 2017 VWQS, which states:

In all waters, total phosphorous loadings shall be limited so that they will not contribute to the acceleration of eutrophication or the stimulation of the growth of aquatic biota in a manner that prevents the full support of uses.

To interpret this standard, MAPP typically relies on a framework which examines TP concentrations in relation to existing numeric phosphorus criteria and response criteria in §29A-306(a)(3)(c) of the water quality standards, for streams that can be assessed using macroinvertebrate biocriteria. Under this framework, MAPP can make a positive finding of compliance with the narrative standard when nutrient criteria are attained, or when specific nutrient response variables; pH, Turbidity, Dissolved Oxygen, and aquatic life use, all display compliance with their respective criteria in the Water Quality Standards.

The total phosphorus concentrations in receiving waters are presently elevated when comparing the above and below chemistry results, and this finding, coupled with the mass balance calculation presented above, indicated that very slight increases in phosphorus attributable to the facility are occurring, which exceed the numeric nutrient criterion of 15 ug/L TP for streams of this type. However, aquatic life use is shown to be fully supported at high levels immediately downstream of the facility, and the stream complies with VWQS for all identified response variables. Therefore, the narrative standard presented in the VWQS is supported (Table 3), as are the combined numeric nutrient criteria in §29A-306(a)(3)(c). As described below, for facilities where there are increases in phosphorus attributable to the discharge, and biological monitoring results do consistently indicate attainment of all thresholds, MAPP supports the effluent monitoring which included TP required by the permit, this will help to better assess compliance with the 2014 nutrient criteria at the next permit issuance.

Table 3. Assessment of phosphorus response variables for Williamstown WWTF. The relevant target values are referenced to the appropriate section of the VWQS.

| Response variable (VWQS reference) | Target Value | River-mile 12.1 (Upstream) | River-mile 11.9 (Downstream) |
|--|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| pH (§3-01.B.9), range | <8.5 s.u. | 8.26 | 8.2 |
| Turbidity (§3-04.B.1), range | < 10 NTU at low mean annual flow | 1.11 | 0.92 |
| Dissolved Oxygen (§3-04.B.2), min | >6 mg/L and 70% saturation | - | 9.85 (92.2%) |
| Aquatic biota, based on macroinvertebrates, (§3-04-B.4), also see Table 2. | Attaining an assessment of good, or better. | NA | Meets WQS (2015) |

Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) and Priority Pollutant Testing:

40 CFR Part 122.44(d)(1) requires the Agency to assess whether the discharge causes, or has the reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an excursion above any narrative or numeric water quality criteria. The goal of the Vermont Toxic Discharge Control Strategy is to assure that the state water quality standards and receiving water classification criteria are maintained. The 2006 permit required a two-species WET test (acute/chronic) be conducted in January or February of 2008 and June 2008. There was no toxicity observed in the June 2008 WET test, however the February 2008 WET test indicated the LC50 for the Fathead minnow was 61.6% and the A-NOEC was 25%. The toxicity observed from this test was likely due to high ammonia levels, effluent ammonia levels reported from WET test

ATTACHMENT B – REASONABLE POTENTIAL DETERMINATION

were 23 mg/L-TAN. WET test toxicity results from 2006 also indicated toxicity for *C. dubia* and Fathead minnow with LC50's of 72.8% and 47.8% respectively.

The draft permit requires a two-species WET test 48-hour acute and 96-hour chronic be conducted in August or September 2019 and 2021 and in March or April 2018 and 2020. If the results of this test indicate a reasonable potential to cause an instream toxic impact, the Department may require additional WET testing, establish a WET limit, or require a Toxicity Reduction Evaluation.

Ammonia Monitoring:

Williamstown WWTF has been conducting monthly effluent monitoring (January -December) for ammonia for several years. Effluent ammonia concentrations in 2016 ranged from 0.5 to 31 mg/L total ammonia nitrogen (TAN), the average was 12.8 mg TAN/L.

Under the WQS, two ammonia criteria apply – chronic and acute – which are temperature and pH dependent. The chronic criteria are applied at the 30Q10 flow and the acute criteria are applied at the 7Q10 flow. Using the maximum ammonia concentration of 31 mg/L (TAN) observed during this period, the receiving water concentration (RWC) at 7Q10 instream waste concentration (IWC) of 14% used for implementing the acute criteria would be 4.34 mg TAN/L ($7Q10\ IWC\ 0.14 \times 31\ \text{mg TAN/L}$). The RWC at 30Q10 IWC of 10% used for implementing the chronic criteria would be 3.1 mg TAN/L ($30Q10\ IWC\ 0.10 \times 31\ \text{mg TAN/L}$).

Monitoring data indicates the pH of the Stevens Branch within this reach is 8.2, using the temperature and pH dependent values provided in Tables 5a, b and 6 within the [2013 EPA Ammonia Criteria](#) we find that a value of 4.34 mg TAN/L and 3.1 mg TAN/L exceed the chronic and acute criteria of 0.57 mg/L and 2.7 mg/L respectively, when water temperature is 20°C. In fact, the chronic criteria are exceeded for all temperature conditions at the concentration of 3.1 mg TAN/L. Using the average effluent TAN observed of 12.8 mg/L, the chronic criteria would still be exceeded for all temperature conditions, and the acute criteria would be exceeded when temperatures were greater than 24°C. MAPP recommends monthly ammonia monitoring be continued to provide additional data for evaluation.

With respect to ammonia, there exists reasonable potential to cause or contribute to a violation of the toxic criteria contained within the VWQS. As such, effluent limitations are appropriate for insertion into the permit. The following effluent limitations presented in Table 4 have been calculated to reflect seasonal mass limitations that will ensure that ammonia criteria are not exceeded. These limitations have been computed based on mass loading that reflects the worst-case for current facility flows (0.15 MGD annual average), by computing the allowable mass for the lowest observed summer flows, at the 30Q10 (chronic) and 7Q10 (acute) flows.

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Table 4. Ammonia Effluent Limits for Williamstown WWTF, using pH default of 8.2 and temperature defaults of 20°C and 5°C for summer and winter seasons respectively. Limits are expressed as mass (lbs./day) and as concentration (mg/L).

| Season | Mass (lbs./day) | Concentration (mg/L) | | |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| | Monthly Average | Monthly Average | Weekly Average | Instantaneous Maximum |
| Total Ammonia Nitrogen (June 1 – September 30) | 6.5 | 5.2 | 13.0 | 19.2 |
| Total Ammonia Nitrogen (October 1 – May 31) | 14.8 | 11.9 | 29.7 | 27.1 |

Sediment, Hardness, and Metals:

Instream total suspended solids were calculated using the 7Q10 of 1.4 CFS at design flow of 0.232 CFS (0.15 MGD), assuming the maximum permitted daily concentration of 50 mg/L. The calculated suspended sediment concentration at these conditions was 7.0 mg/l, indicating a moderate increase of instream ambient suspended sediment concentrations in receiving waters.

The hardness of the Stevens Branch below the Williamstown WWTF (RM 11.9) was recorded to be 198 mg/l CaCO₃ on 9/24/2015 (Table 1). Hardness data is utilized to determine compliance with Vermont's aquatic biota based metals criteria as specified in § 29A-303(7) and Appendix C of the Vermont Water Quality Standards. Vermont DEC priority metal chemistry data below the outfall (Table 5) did not detect any exceedances and were below detection for all priority metals.

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Table 5. Stevens Branch Metals Water Chemistry – below the Williamstown WWTF outfall at RM 11.9.

| Date | 9/24/2015 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Site | Stevens Branch (RM 11.9) |
| Total Aluminum (ug/l) | < 50 |
| Total Antimony (ug/l) | < 10 |
| Total Arsenic (ug/l) | < 1 |
| Total Barium (ug/l) | 8.863 |
| Total Beryllium (ug/l) | < 1 |
| Total Cadmium (ug/l) | < 1 |
| Total Calcium (mg/l) | 67.67 |
| Total Chromium (ug/l) | < 5 |
| Total Cobalt (ug/l) | < 1 |
| Total Copper (ug/l) | < 10 |
| Total Iron (ug/l) | 93.1 |
| Total Lead (ug/l) | < 1 |
| Total Magnesium (mg/l) | 7.076 |
| Total Manganese (ug/l) | 16.62 |
| Total Molybdenum (ug/l) | < 5 |
| Total Nickel (ug/l) | < 5 |
| Total Potassium (mg/l) | 2.01 |
| Total Selenium (ug/l) | < 5 |
| Total Silver (ug/l) | < 1 |
| Total Sodium (mg/l) | 21.66 |
| Total Sulfate (mg/l) | 10.92 |
| Total Thallium (ug/l) | < 1 |
| Total Zinc (ug/l) | < 50 |

Lake Champlain TMDL – Main Lake Segment.

The ultimate receiving water for this facility is the Main Lake Segment, a phosphorus-impaired segment of Lake Champlain subject to the 2016 Lake Champlain TMDLs promulgated by USEPA. That TMDL establishes a wasteload allocation for this facility not to exceed 0.166 MT/yr, a reduction of 0.870 MT from the prior limitation in the 2002 TMDL to which this facility was permitted previously. This equates to an effluent concentration limit of 0.8 mg/L pursuant to the TMDL. Effluent limitations in the draft permit reflect the TMDL. The Lake Champlain TMDL also contains a reasonable assurance analysis and accountability framework demonstrating that the Main Lake Segment will achieve standards following implementation of the TMDL.

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Recommended Biological and Water Quality Monitoring:

In light of the fact that biological monitoring results consistently indicate attainment of all thresholds, and the stream complies with VWQS for all identified response variables, and that the narrative standard presented in §29A-302(2)(A) of the VWQS is supported (Table 3), MAPP does not recommend biomonitoring be included in the permit. To better assess compliance with the 2014 nutrient criteria at the next permit issuance, MAPP does support the effluent monitoring required by the permit which includes monthly effluent monitoring for TP and TAN.

Conclusion:

The available data indicate that due to ammonia, this discharge does have a reasonable potential to cause or contribute to an impairment in the Stevens Branch. In this case, Federal requirements indicate that DEC impose appropriate effluent limitations. MAPP therefore recommends inclusion of the ammonia monitoring requirements noted above, and also provided effluent limitations computed to maintain WQS.

AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT DIVISION
1 NATIONAL LIFE DRIVE – MAIN 2
MONTPELIER, VERMONT 05620-3522

NOTICE: **DRAFT DISCHARGE PERMIT**

PUBLIC NOTICE NUMBER: 3-1176

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: **July 12 – August 30, 2017**

PERMITTEE INFORMATION

PERMITTEE NAME: Town of Williamstown

PERMITTEE ADDRESS: PO Box 646
Williamstown, Vermont 05679

PERMIT NUMBER: 3-1176

PROJECT ID NUMBER: BR95-0057

DISCHARGE INFORMATION

NATURE: Treated and disinfected municipal wastewater

VOLUME: 0.150 MGD, annual average flow limit

RECEIVING WATER: Stevens Branch

EXPIRATION DATE: **June 30, 2022**

DESCRIPTION: This is a draft discharge permit proposed for issuance to the Town of Williamstown for the discharge of treated municipal wastewater from the Williamstown Wastewater Treatment Facility. This permit is a renewal, and implements the requirements of the Lake Champlain Total Maximum Daily Load for total phosphorus.

TENTATIVE DETERMINATIONS

Tentative determinations regarding effluent limitations and other conditions to be imposed on the pending Vermont permit have been made by the State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (VANR). The limitations imposed will assure that the Vermont Water Quality Standards and applicable provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act, PL 92-500, as amended, will be met.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The complete application, proposed permit, and other information are on file and may be inspected by appointment on the 2nd floor of the Main Building at 1 National Life Drive, Montpelier, Vermont. Copies, obtained by calling 802-828-1535 from 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, will be made at a cost based upon the current Secretary of State Official Fee Schedule for Copying Public Records. The draft permit and fact sheet may also be viewed on the Division's website at <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wastewater>.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/PUBLIC MEETINGS

Written public comments on the proposed permit are invited and must be received on or before the close of the business day (4:30 pm) on **August 30, 2017** to the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation, Watershed Management Division, 1 National Life Drive – Main 2, Vermont 05620-3522. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail using the e-mail comment provisions included at <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wastewater>. All comments received by the above date will be considered in formulation of the final determinations.

A public meeting will be held on **August 22, 2017 from 4:00 – 6:00 PM** at the **Agency of Natural Resources Annex Building**, located at **190 Junction Road, Berlin, Vermont 05602**. Any person may submit oral or written statements and data concerning the draft permit at the public meeting. The Secretary may establish reasonable limits on the time allowed for oral statements and may require the submission of statements in writing. All statements, comments, and data presented at the public meeting will be retained by the Secretary and considered in the formulation of the final determination to issue, deny, or modify the draft permit.

FINAL ACTION/RIGHTS TO APPEAL TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL COURT

At the conclusion of the public notice period and after consideration of additional information received during the public notice period, the VANR will make a final determination to issue or to deny the permit. Pursuant to 10 V.S.A. Chapter 220, any appeal of this decision must be filed with the clerk of the Environmental Court within 30 days of the date of the decision. The appellant must submit the Notice of Appeal and include the applicable filing fee, payable to the state of Vermont.

The Notice of Appeal must specify the parties taking the appeal and the statutory provision under which each party claims party status; must designate the act or decision appealed from; must name the Environmental Court; and must be signed by the appellant or their attorney. In addition, the appeal must give the address or location and the description of the property, project or facility with which the appeal is concerned and the name of the applicant or any permit involved in the appeal.

The appellant must also serve a copy of the Notice of Appeal in accordance with Rule 5(b)(4)(B) of the Vermont Rules for Environmental Court Proceedings.

The address for the Vermont Environmental Court is: Vermont Superior Court, Environmental Division, 32 Cherry Street, 2nd Floor, Suite 303, Burlington VT 05401 (Tel. (802) 951-1740). For further information, see the Vermont Rules for Environmental Court Proceedings, available online at www.vermontjudiciary.org.

Emily Boedecker, Commissioner
Department of Environmental Conservation