



JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



GERALD D. REID  
COMMISSIONER

July 13, 2020

Mr. Boyd Smith  
Orono-Veazie Water District  
47 Penobscot Street  
Orono, Maine 04473

*Sent via electronic mail  
Delivery confirmation requested*

**RE: *Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit #ME0102601  
Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) #W007954-5S-F-R  
Proposed Draft MEPDES Permit Renewal***

Dear Mr. Smith,

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

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

The comment period begins on July 13, 2020 and ends on August 12, 2020. All comments on the proposed draft permit must be received in the Department of Environmental Protection office on or before the close of business Wednesday, August 12, 2020. Failure to submit comments in a timely fashion will result in the proposed draft/license permit document being issued as drafted.

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

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

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

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

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

Maine Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Water Quality  
Division of Water Quality Management  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0017  
[Breanne.Blaisdell@maine.gov](mailto:Breanne.Blaisdell@maine.gov)

If you have any questions regarding the matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Breanne Blaisdell  
Bureau of Water Quality  
[Breanne.Blaisdell@maine.gov](mailto:Breanne.Blaisdell@maine.gov)  
ph: 207-287-1298

Enc.

cc:

Cindy Dionne, MDEP  
Mike Loughlin, MDEP  
Pamela Parker, MDEP  
Barry Mower, MDEP  
Lori Mitchell, MDEP  
Ellen Weitzer, USEPA  
Alex Rosenberg, USEPA  
Marelyn Vega, USEPA  
Richard Carvalho, USEPA  
Shelley Puleo, USEPA  
Sean Mahoney, CLF  
Maine Dept. Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Environmental Review  
Environmental Review, Department of Marine Resources



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

**DEPARTMENT ORDER  
IN THE MATTER OF**

ORONO-VEAZIE WATER DISTRICT	)	MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
ORONO, PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE	)	ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
DRINKING WATER TREATMENT PLANT	)	AND
ME0102601	)	WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE
W007954-5S-F-R	)	<b>RENEWAL</b>
		<b>APPROVAL</b>

In compliance with the provisions of the *Federal Water Pollution Control Act*, Title 33 U.S.C. § 1251, *Conditions of licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 414-A, and applicable regulations, the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has considered the application of Orono-Veazie Water District (District), with its supportive data, agency review comments, and other related materials on file and FINDS THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

**APPLICATION SUMMARY**

On March 13, 2020, the Department accepted as complete for processing an application from the District for the renewal of combination Waste Discharge License (WDL) #W007954-5S-E-R/ Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit #ME0102601, which was issued on April 9, 2015 for a five-year term. The April 9, 2015 permit authorized the District to discharge a monthly average flow of 0.092 million gallons per day (MGD) of drinking water filter cleaning (backwash) wastewater from a drinking water treatment plant to the Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River (Stillwater River), Class B, in Orono, Maine.

**PERMIT SUMMARY**

This permitting action is carrying forward the terms and conditions of the previous permitting action except that this permit:

- 1.) Amends the “Sampling” footnote, in the Footnotes section of Special Condition A;
- 2.) Establishes a “Total Residual Chlorine” footnote in the Footnotes section of Special Condition A;

## CONCLUSIONS

BASED on the findings in the attached Fact Sheet dated July 13, 2020, and subject to the Conditions listed below, the Department makes the following **CONCLUSIONS**:

1. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any classified body of water below such classification.
2. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any unclassified body of water below the classification which the Department expects to adopt in accordance with State law.
3. The provisions of the State's antidegradation policy, *Classification of Maine Waters*, 38 M.R.S. § 464(4)(F), will be met, in that:
  - (a) Existing in-stream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect and maintain those existing uses will be maintained and protected;
  - (b) Where high quality waters of the State constitute an outstanding national resource, that water quality will be maintained and protected;
  - (c) Where the standards of classification of the receiving water body are not met, the discharge will not cause or contribute to the failure of the water body to meet the standards of classification;
  - (d) Where the actual quality of any classified receiving water body exceeds the minimum standards of the next highest classification that higher water quality will be maintained and protected; and
  - (e) Where a discharge will result in lowering the existing water quality of any water body, the Department has made the finding, following opportunity for public participation, that this action is necessary to achieve important economic or social benefits to the State.
4. The discharges will be subject to effluent limitations that require application of best practicable treatment as defined in *Conditions of licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 414-A(1)(D) and 414-A(1-B).

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**ACTION**

THEREFORE, the Department APPROVES the application of ORONO-VEAZIE WATER DISTRICT to discharge a monthly average of 0.092 MGD of drinking water filter cleaning (backwash) wastewater from a drinking water treatment plant to the Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River (Stillwater River), Class B, in Orono, Maine, SUBJECT TO ALL APPLICABLE STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS AND THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

1. “*Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Standard Conditions Applicable to All Permits*,” revised July 1, 2002, copy attached.
2. The attached Special Conditions, including any effluent limitations and monitoring requirements.
3. This permit becomes effective upon the date of signature below and expires at midnight five (5) years after that date. If a renewal application is timely submitted and accepted as complete for processing prior to the expiration of this permit, the terms and conditions of this permit and all subsequent modifications and minor revisions thereto remain in effect until a final Department decision on the renewal application becomes effective. *Maine Administrative Procedure Act*, 5 M.R.S. § 10002 and *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters*, 06-096 CMR 2(21)(A) (amended June 9, 2018)

PLEASE NOTE ATTACHED SHEET FOR GUIDANCE ON APPEAL PROCEDURES

DONE AND DATED AT AUGUSTA, MAINE, THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
For Gerald D. Reid, Commissioner

Date filed with Board of Environmental Protection \_\_\_\_\_

Date of initial receipt of application March 12, 2020  
Date of application acceptance March 13, 2020

This Order prepared by Breanne Blaisdell, BUREAU OF WATER QUALITY

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

**A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

1. The permittee is authorized to discharge **drinking water filter cleaning (backwash) wastewater from Outfall #001A** to the Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River (Stillwater River). Such discharges are limited and must be monitored by the permittee as specified below<sup>(1)</sup>:

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations					Minimum Monitoring Requirements
	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Flow <i>[50050]</i>	0.092 MGD <i>[03]</i>	Report MGD <i>[03]</i>	---	---	Continuous <i>[CN]</i>	Measured <i>[MS]</i>
TSS <i>[00530]</i>	23 lbs./day <i>[26]</i>	46 lbs./day <i>[26]</i>	30 mg/L <i>[19]</i>	60 mg/L <i>[19]</i>	1/Week <i>[01/07]</i>	Composite <sup>(2)</sup> <i>[CP]</i>
Settleable Solids <i>[00545]</i>	---	---	---	0.3 ml/L <i>[25]</i>	1/Week <i>[01/07]</i>	Composite <sup>(2)</sup> <i>[CP]</i>
Total Residual Chlorine <sup>(3)</sup> <i>[50060]</i>	---	---	---	1.0 mg/L <i>[19]</i>	1/Week <i>[01/07]</i>	Grab <i>[GR]</i>
pH <i>[00400]</i>	---	---	---	6.0 – 9.0 SU <i>[12]</i>	1/Week <i>[01/07]</i>	Grab <i>[GR]</i>

The italicized numeric values bracketed in the table and in subsequent text are code numbers that Department personnel utilize to code the monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs).

**Footnotes:** See Page 5 of this permit for applicable footnotes.

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

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

#### **FOOTNOTES**

1. **Sampling** – The permittee must conduct sampling and analysis in accordance with; a) methods approved by 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 136, b) alternative methods approved by the Department in accordance with the procedures in 40 CFR Part 136, or c) as otherwise specified by the Department. Samples that are sent out for analysis must be analyzed by a laboratory certified by the State of Maine’s Department of Health and Human Services. Samples that are sent to a POTW licensed pursuant to *Waste discharge licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 413 are subject to the provisions and restrictions of *Maine Comprehensive and Limited Environmental Laboratory Certification Rules*, 10-144 CMR 263 (effective December 19, 2018). If the permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by the permit using test procedures approved under 40 CFR Part 136 or as specified in this permit, the results of this monitoring must be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the DMR.
2. **Composite Samples** – Composite samples shall consist of a minimum of at least four (4) equally-spaced grab samples collected during a single discharge day, or other sampling protocol approved by the Department. Alternatively, the permittee may collect 24-hour composite samples using an automated sampler. The permittee shall indicate the type of sample collected on the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR).
3. **Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) Monitoring** –The permittee must utilize a USEPA-approved test method capable of bracketing the TRC limitations specified in this permitting action.

### **B. NARRATIVE EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS**

1. The effluent must not contain a visible oil sheen, foam or floating solids at any time which would impair the uses designated by the classification of the receiving waters.
2. The effluent must not contain materials in concentrations or combinations which are hazardous or toxic to aquatic life, or which would impair the uses designated by the classification of the receiving waters.
3. The discharges must not cause visible discoloration or turbidity in the receiving waters which would impair the uses designated by the classification of the receiving waters.
4. Notwithstanding specific conditions of this permit, the effluent must not lower the quality of any classified body of water below such classification, or lower the existing quality of any body of water if the existing quality is higher than the classification.

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

### **C. AUTHORIZED DISCHARGES**

The permittee is authorized to discharge only in accordance with: 1) the permittee's General Application for Waste Discharge Permit, accepted for processing on March 13, 2020; 2) the terms and conditions of this permit; and 3) only from Outfall #001A. Discharges of wastewater from any other point source are not authorized under this permit, and shall be reported in accordance with Standard Condition D(1)(f), *Twenty-four hour reporting D(1)(f)*, of this permit.

### **D. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT**

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

1. Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into the wastewater collection and treatment system.
2. For the purposes of this section, adequate notice shall include information on:
  - a. The quality and quantity of wastewater introduced to the wastewater collection and treatment system; and
  - b. Any anticipated change in the quality and quantity of the wastewater to be discharged from the treatment system.

### **E. MONITORING AND REPORTING**

#### Electronic Reporting

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

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

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

Documentation submitted in support of the electronic DMR may be attached to the electronic DMR. Toxics reporting must be done using the DEP Toxsheet reporting form. An electronic copy of the Toxsheet reporting document must be submitted to your Department compliance inspector as an attachment to an email. In addition, a hardcopy form of this sheet must be signed and submitted to your compliance inspector, or a copy attached to your NetDMR submittal will suffice.



## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

### **E. MONITORING AND REPORTING(cont'd)**

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

### **F. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE (O&M) PLAN**

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

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

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

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

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

### **G. SEVERABILITY**

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

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

**FACT SHEET**

DATE: **July 13, 2020**

MEPDES PERMIT: **ME0102601**  
WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE: **W007954-5S-F-R**

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT: **ORONO-VEAZIE WATER DISTRICT  
47 PENOBSCOT STREET  
ORONO, MAINE 04473**

COUNTY: **PENOBSCOT**

NAME AND ADDRESS WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:  
  
**ORONO-VEAZIEWATER DISTRICT  
116 BENNOCH RD.  
ORONO, MAINE 04473**

RECEIVING WATER / CLASSIFICATION: **STILLWATER BRANCH OF THE  
PENOBSCOT RIVER  
(STILLWATER RIVER) / CLASS B**

COGNIZANT OFFICIAL AND TELEPHONE NUMBER:  
**MR. BOYD SMITH  
(207) 866-4449  
[info@ovwd.org](mailto:info@ovwd.org)**

**1. APPLICATION SUMMARY**

- a. Application: On March 13, 2020, the Department of Environmental Protection (Department) accepted as complete for processing an application from the Orono-Veazie Water District (District) for the renewal of combination Waste Discharge License (WDL) #W007954-5S-E-R/ Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit #ME0102601, which was issued on April 9, 2015 for a five year term. The April 9, 2015 permit authorized the monthly average discharge of 0.092 million gallons per day (MGD) of drinking water filter cleaning (backwash) wastewater from a drinking water treatment plant to the Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River (Stillwater River), Class B, in Orono, Maine.

## 2. PERMIT SUMMARY

- a. Terms and conditions: This permitting action is carrying forward the terms and conditions of the previous permitting action except that this permit:

- 1.) Amends the “Sampling” footnote, in the Footnotes section of Special Condition A;
- 2.) Establishes a “Total Residual Chlorine” footnote in the Footnotes section of Special Condition A;

- b. History: This section provides a summary of significant licensing/permitting actions and milestones that have been completed for the District.

*January 12, 2001* – The Department received authorization from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program in Maine, excluding areas of special interest to Maine Indian Tribes. From that point forward, the program has been referred to as the MEPDES program, and MEPDES permit #ME0102601 has been utilized as the primary reference number for the Orono-Veazie Water District facility.

*October 4, 2004* – The Department issued WDL #W007954-5S-C-R/ MEPDES Permit #ME0102601 to the District for a five-year term. The 10/4/04 permit superseded previous WDL Modification #W007954-5S-B-M issued on August 23, 2000, and initial WDL #W007954-ZA-A-N issued on December 19, 1996.

*June 29, 2009* – The Department provided the District with written approval of the District’s *Water Treatment Residuals Holding Tank Plans and Specifications* (reference SFR WSE Project No. 2080455). The approved plans provide for the construction of an 115,000-gallon capacity settling tank for the treatment of filter backwash wastewater, including residuals settling, generated by the facility.

*November 21, 2009* – The Department issued WDL #W007954-5S-D-R / MEPDES #ME0102601 for a five-year term. This permitting action superseded the previous permitting action issued on October 4, 2004.

*August 1, 2014* – The District submitted a timely and complete application to the Department for renewal of the November 21, 2009 MEPDES permit. The application was accepted for processing on August 14, 2014, and was assigned WDL #W007954-5S-E-R / MEPDES #ME0102601.

*April 9, 2015* – The Department issued WDL #W007954-5S-E-R / MEPDES #ME0102601 for a five-year term. This permitting action superseded the previous permitting action issued on November 21, 2009.

*March 12, 2020*- The District submitted a timely and complete application to the Department for renewal of the April 9, 2015 MEPDES permit. The application was accepted for processing on March 13, 2020, and was assigned WDL #W007954-5S-F-R / MEPDES #ME0102601.

## 2. PERMIT SUMMARY (cont'd)

- c. Source Description: The Orono -Veazie Water District operates a municipal drinking water treatment plant on the shore of the Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River in Orono to provide potable water to customers in the town of Orono. The facility was constructed in 1967 and currently serves approximately 2,200 customers, with the University of Maine being the largest. The facility utilizes three (3) approximately 65-foot deep, gravel-packed ground water wells located in the Stillwater River aquifer as a raw water source.

The District pre-chlorinates raw water entering the facility to a residual concentration of approximately 1 part per million (ppm) using sodium hypochlorite. The flow is then uniformly distributed to two filter trains which each consist of three filtration units (6 total filter vessels). The three units on the right side of the facility are dual-media anthracite/greensand filters and the other three units are single-media greensand filters.

The greensand filter units are simultaneously cleaned through a backwashing and rinsing process that uses finished treated water to backwash the filters and remove accumulated particulate matter. The District uses sodium hypochlorite to regenerate the ion exchange capacity of the greensand filter units. Water from the backwashing and rinsing process is transferred to a settling tank after adding sodium bisulfite to eliminate the residual chlorine.

At the time the plant was upgraded in 2010 a period of field trials were conducted and evaluated using potassium permanganate. It was found that filter runs were considerably shortened using this treatment chemical and the plant went back to running hypochlorite as the oxidant/regenerator.

A map showing the OVWD facility and the outfall location is included as Fact Sheet **Attachment A**.

- d. Wastewater Treatment: Wastewater is generated during filter cleaning and filter media regeneration processes that are performed on a weekly basis. The District typically performs two filter cleaning cycles per week (each filter train is cleaned once), which generates approximately 67,470 gallons of wastewater. The filter cleaning/media regeneration process utilizes finished potable water and consists of an up-flow process, a filter media regeneration process using sodium hypochlorite, a slow rinse, and a fast rinse. In 2012, the District completed construction of a 115,000-gallon settling tank for the treatment of filter cleaning wastewater and settling and subsequent removal of sludge (residuals). The District has indicated that sludge will be hauled to the Juniper Ridge Landfill for final disposal.

Final effluent is conveyed for discharge to the Stillwater River (Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River) in Orono via a 12-inch diameter cast iron pipe designated Outfall #001A. The outfall pipe extends approximately 80 feet out into the river to a depth of approximately 15 feet below the surface of the river during mean low water.

### 3. CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

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

### 4. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

*Classification of Major River Basins*, 38 M.R.S. § 467(7)(A)(5) classifies the Stillwater Branch of the Penobscot River (Stillwater River) at the point of discharge (Assessment Unit ME0102000509\_226R) as a Class B waterway. *Standards for Classification of Fresh Surface Waters*, 38 M.R.S. § 465(3) describes the standards for classification of Class B waterways as follows:

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

*The dissolved oxygen content of Class B waters may not be less than 7 parts per million or 75% of saturation, whichever is higher, except that for the period from October 1st to May 14th, in order to ensure spawning and egg incubation of indigenous fish species, the 7-day mean dissolved oxygen concentration may not be less than 9.5 parts per million and the one-day minimum dissolved oxygen concentration may not be less than 8.0 parts per million in identified fish spawning areas. Between April 15th and October 31st, the number of Escherichia coli bacteria in these waters may not exceed a geometric mean of 64 CFU per 100 milliliters over a 90-day interval or 236 CFU per 100 milliliters in more than 10% of the samples in any 90-day interval.*

*Discharges to Class B waters may not cause adverse impact to aquatic life in that the receiving waters must be of sufficient quality to support all aquatic species indigenous to the receiving water without detrimental changes in the resident biological community. For the purpose of allowing the discharge of aquatic pesticides or chemicals approved by the department and conducted by the department, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or an agent of either agency to restore resident biological communities affected by an invasive species, the department may find that the discharged effluent will not cause adverse impact to aquatic life as long as the materials and methods used do not cause a significant loss of any nontarget species and allow restoration of nontarget species. The department may find that an unavoidable, temporary loss of nontarget species does not constitute a significant loss of nontarget species. For the purpose of allowing the discharge of aquatic pesticides approved by the department for the control of mosquito-borne diseases in the interest of public health and*

#### 4. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS (cont'd)

*safety, the department may find that the discharged effluent will not cause adverse impact to aquatic life as long as the materials and methods used provide protection for nontarget species. When the department issues a license for the discharge of aquatic pesticides authorized under this subparagraph, the department shall notify the municipality in which the application is licensed to occur and post the notice on the department's publicly accessible website.*

#### 5. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY CONDITIONS

*The State of Maine 2016 Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report*, prepared by the Department pursuant to Sections 303(d) and 305(b) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, lists the Penobscot River, main stem, from Orson Island to the Veazie Dam (Integrated Report Assessment Unit ID ME0102000509\_233R\_01) as “Category 4-B: Rivers and Streams Impaired by Pollutants-Pollution Control Requirements Reasonably Expected to Result in Attainment,” due to nutrients/eutrophication, dissolved oxygen and Dioxin (including 2,3,7,8-TCDD) levels. This segment is also listed in “Category 5-D- Impairment caused by a legacy pollutant” for the presence of Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

The Report lists all of Maine’s fresh waters as, “Category 4-A: Waters Impaired by Atmospheric Deposition of Mercury.” Impairment in this context refers to a statewide fish consumption advisory due to elevated levels of mercury in some fish tissues. The Report states, “All freshwaters are listed in Category 4A (TMDL Completed) due to USEPA approval of a Regional Mercury TMDL. Maine has a fish consumption advisory for fish taken from all freshwaters due to mercury. Many waters and many fish from any given water, do not exceed the action level for mercury. However, because it is impossible for someone consuming a fish to know whether the mercury level exceeds the action level, the Maine Department of Human Services decided to establish a statewide advisory for all freshwater fish that recommends limits on consumption. Maine has already instituted statewide programs for removal and reduction of mercury sources.” Pursuant to 38 M.R.S. § 420(1-B)(B), “a facility is not in violation of the ambient criteria for mercury if the facility is in compliance with an interim discharge limit established by the Department pursuant to section 413 subsection 11.”

Pursuant to 06-096 CMR 519(1)(A)(2), the Department is making a best professional judgment decision that the discharge of filter backwash from this facility is exempt from interim mercury limits, and the Department has no information that this discharge causes or contributes to the mercury impairment.

**6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS & MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

- a. Flow: This permitting action is carrying forward the monthly average discharge flow limitation of 0.092 MGD, which is considered representative of anticipated wastewater flows generated by this facility.

This permitting action is also carrying forward a daily maximum discharge flow reporting requirement to assist in compliance evaluations.

The Department reviewed 55 DMRs that were submitted for the period May 2015 – January 2020. A review of the data indicates the following:

**Flow (DMRs = 55)**

Discharge Flow	Limit (MGD)	Range (MGD)	Mean (MGD)
Monthly Average	0.092	0.03-0.08	0.05
Daily Max	Report	0.04-0.10	0.07

- b. Dilution Factors: Dilution factors associated with the permitted discharge flow of 0.092 MGD were derived in accordance with 06-096 CMR 530(4)(A) and were calculated as follows:

Mod. Acute: ¼ Q10 = 133 cfs  $\frac{(133 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.092 \text{ MGD}}{0.092 \text{ MGD}} = 935:1$

Acute: 1Q10 = 532 cfs  $\frac{(532 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.092 \text{ MGD}}{0.092 \text{ MGD}} = 3,739:1$

Chronic: 7Q10 = 532 cfs  $\frac{(532 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.092 \text{ MGD}}{0.092 \text{ MGD}} = 3,739:1$

Harmonic Mean = 1,596 cfs  $\frac{(1,596 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.092 \text{ MGD}}{0.092 \text{ MGD}} = 11,215:1$

06-096 CMR 530(4)(B)(1) states,

*Analyses using numerical acute criteria for aquatic life must be based on 1/4 of the 1Q10 stream design flow to prevent substantial acute toxicity within any mixing zone and to ensure a zone of passage of at least 3/4 of the cross-sectional area of any stream as required by Chapter 581. Where it can be demonstrated that a discharge achieves rapid and complete mixing with the receiving water by way of an efficient diffuser or other effective method, analyses may use a greater proportion of the stream design flow, up to and including all of it, as long as the required zone of passage is maintained.*

The Department has determined that the District’s outfall pipe does not achieve rapid and complete mixing with the receiving water. Consequently, the Department is utilizing the default stream flow of ¼ of the 1Q10 in acute evaluations.

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

- c. **Total Suspended Solids (TSS):** The 2004 permitting action established, and this permitting action is carrying forward, monthly average and daily maximum concentration limits of 30 mg/L and 60 mg/L, respectively. These limits are based on Department best professional judgment(BPJ) of best practicable treatment(BPT) for discharges from drinking water treatment facilities in Maine.

Flow based monthly average and daily maximum mass limits of 23 lbs./day and 46 lbs./day respectively, first established in the 2004 permitting action, are being carried forward as well.

This permitting action is carrying forward the monitoring frequency requirement of once per week (1/Week) based on Department BPJ and in consideration of the effluent data summarized above.

The Department reviewed 55 DMRs that were submitted for the period May 2015 – January 2020. A review of the data indicates the following:

**TSS Mass (DMRs = 55)**

Value	Limit (lbs./day)	Range (lbs./day)	Mean (lbs./day)
Monthly Average	23	0.35 – 11	4.2
Daily Maximum	46	1.4 – 18	6.3

**TSS Concentration (DMRs = 55)**

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Monthly Average	30	2.0 - 22	9.9
Daily Maximum	60	2.7 – 35	14

**Settleable Solids:** Previous permitting action established, and this permitting action is carrying forward, a technology based daily maximum concentration limit of 0.3 ml/L for settleable solids. This is considered a BPT limitation for discharges from drinking water treatment facilities in Maine.

This permitting action is also carrying forward the monitoring frequency requirement of once per week (1/Week) based on Department BPJ.

The Department reviewed 55 DMRs that were submitted for the period May 2015 – January 2020. A review of the data indicates the following:

**Settleable Solids Concentration (DMRs = 55)**

Value	Limit (ml/L)	Range (ml/L)	Average (ml/L)
Daily Maximum	0.3	< 0.10 – 0.20	< 0.105

- d. **pH:** The November 2009 permitting action revised the pH range limit to 6.0 – 9.0 standard units (SU). This pH range is considered by the Department as BPT, and is consistent with limits established for other drinking water plants and POTWs in Maine.



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

The monitoring frequency of once per week (1/Week), based on Department BPJ, is also being carried forward in this permit.

The Department reviewed 55 DMRs that were submitted for the period May 2015 – January 2020. A review of the data indicates the following:

**pH (DMRs = 55)**

Value	Limit (SU)	Minimum (SU)	Maximum (SU)
Range	6.0 – 9.0	6.0	8.48

- e. **Total Residual Chlorine (TRC):** The August 2004 permitting action established a daily maximum technology-based concentration limit of 1.0 mg/L for TRC. Limitations on TRC are specified to ensure that ambient water quality standards are maintained at all times of the year and that BPT technology is being applied to the discharge. Department permitting actions impose the more stringent of either a water quality-based or BPT-based limit. With dilution factors as determined in Section 6(b) of this Fact Sheet, end-of-pipe (EOP) water quality-based concentration thresholds for TRC may be calculated as follows:

Acute (A) Criterion	Chronic (C) Criterion	Mod. A & C Dilution Factors	Calculated	
			Acute Threshold	Chronic Threshold
0.019 mg/L	0.011 mg/L	935:1 (Mod. A) 3,739:1 (C)	18 mg/L	41 mg/L

Acute Threshold = Acute Criterion x Acute Dilution Factor

Acute Threshold = 0.019 mg/L x 935 = 18 mg/L

Chronic Threshold = Chronic Criterion x Chronic Dilution Factor

Chronic Threshold = 0.011 mg/L x 3,739 = 41 mg/L

The Department has established a daily maximum BPT-based limitation of 1.0 mg/L for facilities that disinfect their effluent with elemental chlorine or chlorine-based compounds, which is more stringent than either water quality-based threshold calculated above and is therefore being carried forward in this permitting action.

This permitting action is also carrying forward the monitoring frequency requirement of once per week (1/Week) for TRC based on BPJ.

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

The Department reviewed 55 DMRs that were submitted for the period of May 2015 – January 2020. It is noted that the daily maximum limitation was exceeded in March 2016. A review of the data indicates the following:

### Total Residual Chlorine (DMRs = 55)

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Minimum (mg/L)	Maximum (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Daily Maximum	1.0	0.04	1.46	0.470

## 7. DISCHARGE IMPACT ON RECEIVING WATER QUALITY

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

## 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public notice of this application was made in the Penobscot Times newspaper on or about February 20, 2020. The Department receives public comments on an application until the date a final agency action is taken on the application. Those persons receiving copies of draft permits shall have at least 30 days in which to submit comments on the draft or to request a public hearing, pursuant to *Application Processing Procedures for Waste Discharge Licenses*, 06-096 CMR 522 (effective January 12, 2001).

## 9. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

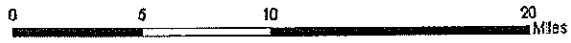
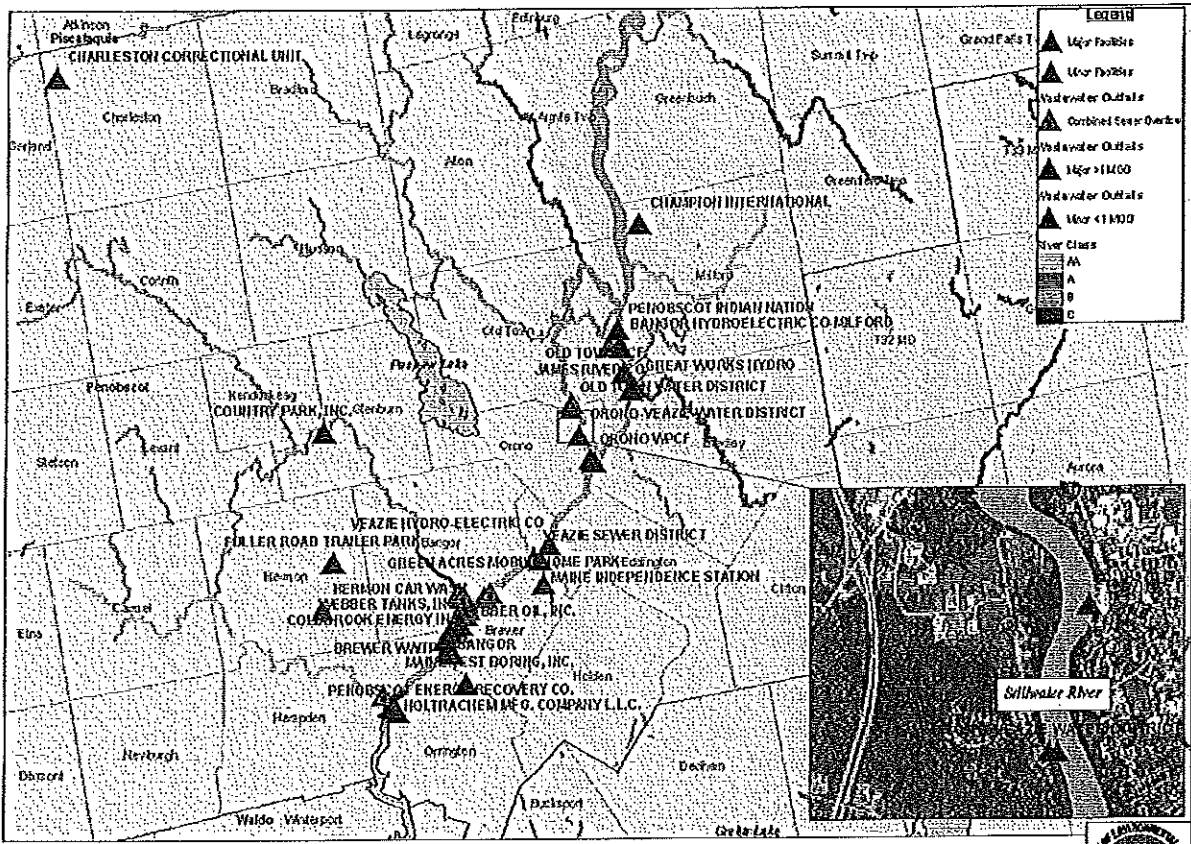
Additional information concerning this permitting action may be obtained from, and written comments sent to:

Breanne Blaisdell  
Bureau of Water Quality  
Department of Environmental Protection  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017 Telephone: (207) 287-1298  
e-mail: [Breanne.Blaisdell@maine.gov](mailto:Breanne.Blaisdell@maine.gov)

## 10. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

*This section reserved for future comments*

***ATTACHMENT A***



Orono-Veazie Water District  
Orono, Maine



Map created by Maine DEP  
September 2009



MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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CONTENTS

SECTION	TOPIC	PAGE
A	GENERAL PROVISIONS	
1	General compliance	2
2	Other materials	2
3	Duty to Comply	2
4	Duty to provide information	2
5	Permit actions	2
6	Reopener clause	2
7	Oil and hazardous substances	2
8	Property rights	3
9	Confidentiality	3
10	Duty to reapply	3
11	Other laws	3
12	Inspection and entry	3
B	OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES	
1	General facility requirements	3
2	Proper operation and maintenance	4
3	Need to halt reduce not a defense	4
4	Duty to mitigate	4
5	Bypasses	4
6	Upsets	5
C	MONITORING AND RECORDS	
1	General requirements	6
2	Representative sampling	6
3	Monitoring and records	6
D	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	
1	Reporting requirements	7
2	Signatory requirement	8
3	Availability of reports	8
4	Existing manufacturing, commercial, mining, and silvicultural dischargers	8
5	Publicly owned treatment works	9
E	OTHER PROVISIONS	
1	Emergency action - power failure	9
2	Spill prevention	10
3	Removed substances	10
4	Connection to municipal sewer	10
F	DEFINITIONS	10

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

---

**A. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**B. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES**

**1. General facility requirements.**

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

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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

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

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

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

**5. Bypasses.**

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



MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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

**6. Upsets.**

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

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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**C. MONITORING AND RECORDS**

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

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

**3. Monitoring and records.**

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

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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**D. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Reporting requirements.**

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

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

## STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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

### 5. Publicly owned treatment works.

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

## E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

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

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

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

## STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





# DEP INFORMATION SHEET

## Appealing a Department Licensing Decision

**Dated: November 2018**

**Contact: (207) 287-2452**

### **SUMMARY**

There are two methods available to an aggrieved person seeking to appeal a licensing decision made by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Commissioner: (1) an administrative process before the Board of Environmental Protection (Board); or (2) a judicial process before Maine's Superior Court. An aggrieved person seeking review of a licensing decision over which the Board had original jurisdiction may seek judicial review in Maine's Superior Court.

A judicial appeal of final action by the Commissioner or the Board regarding an application for an expedited wind energy development (35-A M.R.S. § 3451(4)) or a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project (38 M.R.S. § 480-HH(1)) or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project (38 M.R.S. § 636-A) must be taken to the Supreme Judicial Court sitting as the Law Court.

This information sheet, in conjunction with a review of the statutory and regulatory provisions referred to herein, can help a person to understand his or her rights and obligations in filing an administrative or judicial appeal.

### **I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TO THE BOARD**

#### **LEGAL REFERENCES**

The laws concerning the DEP's *Organization and Powers*, 38 M.R.S. §§ 341-D(4) & 346; the *Maine Administrative Procedure Act*, 5 M.R.S. § 11001; and the DEP's *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters* ("Chapter 2"), 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 2.

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

The Board must receive a written appeal within 30 days of the date on which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board. Appeals filed more than 30 calendar days after the date on which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board will be dismissed unless notice of the Commissioner's license decision was required to be given to the person filing an appeal (appellant) and the notice was not given as required.

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

Signed original appeal documents must be sent to: Chair, Board of Environmental Protection, 17 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0017. An appeal may be submitted by fax or e-mail if it contains a scanned original signature. It is recommended that a faxed or e-mailed appeal be followed by the submittal of mailed original paper documents. The complete appeal, including any attachments, must be received at DEP's offices in Augusta on or before 5:00 PM on the due date; materials received after 5:00 pm are not considered received until the following day. The risk of material not being received in a timely manner is on the sender, regardless of the method used. The appellant must also send a copy of the appeal documents to the Commissioner of the DEP; the applicant (if the appellant is not the applicant in the license proceeding at issue); and if a hearing was held on the application, any intervenor in that hearing process. All of the information listed in the next section of this information sheet must be submitted at the time the appeal is filed.

### **INFORMATION APPEAL PAPERWORK MUST CONTAIN**

Appeal materials must contain the following information at the time the appeal is submitted:

1. *Aggrieved Status.* The appeal must explain how the appellant has standing to maintain an appeal. This requires an explanation of how the appellant may suffer a particularized injury as a result of the Commissioner's decision.
2. *The findings, conclusions, or conditions objected to or believed to be in error.* The appeal must identify the specific findings of fact, conclusions regarding compliance with the law, license conditions, or other aspects of the written license decision or of the license review process that the appellant objects to or believes to be in error.
3. *The basis of the objections or challenge.* For the objections identified in Item #2, the appeal must state why the appellant believes that the license decision is incorrect and should be modified or reversed. If possible, the appeal should cite specific evidence in the record or specific licensing requirements that the appellant believes were not properly considered or fully addressed.
4. *The remedy sought.* This can range from reversal of the Commissioner's decision on the license or permit to changes in specific permit conditions.
5. *All the matters to be contested.* The Board will limit its consideration to those matters specifically raised in the written notice of appeal.
6. *Request for hearing.* If the appellant wishes the Board to hold a public hearing on the appeal, a request for public hearing must be filed as part of the notice of appeal, and must include an offer of proof in accordance with Chapter 2. The Board will hear the arguments in favor of and in opposition to a hearing on the appeal and the presentations on the merits of an appeal at a regularly scheduled meeting. If the Board decides to hold a public hearing on an appeal, that hearing will then be scheduled for a later date.
7. *New or additional evidence to be offered.* If an appellant wants to provide evidence not previously provided to DEP staff during the DEP's review of the application, the request and the proposed evidence must be submitted with the appeal. The Board may allow new or additional evidence, referred to as supplemental evidence, to be considered in an appeal only under very limited circumstances. The proposed evidence must be relevant and material, and (a) the person seeking to add information to the record must show due diligence in bringing the evidence to the DEP's attention at the earliest possible time in the licensing process; or (b) the evidence itself must be newly discovered and therefore unable to have been presented earlier in the process. Specific requirements for supplemental evidence are found in Chapter 2 § 24.

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

1. *Be familiar with all relevant material in the DEP record.* A license application file is public information, subject to any applicable statutory exceptions, and is made easily accessible by the DEP. Upon request, the DEP will make application materials available during normal working hours, provide space to review the file, and provide an opportunity for photocopying materials. There is a charge for copies or copying services.
2. *Be familiar with the regulations and laws under which the application was processed, and the procedural rules governing your appeal.* DEP staff will provide this information on request and answer general questions regarding the appeal process.
3. *The filing of an appeal does not operate as a stay to any decision.* If a license has been granted and it has been appealed, the license normally remains in effect pending the processing of the appeal. Unless a stay of the decision is requested and granted, a license holder may proceed with a project pending the outcome of an appeal, but the license holder runs the risk of the decision being reversed or modified as a result of the appeal.

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

The Board will formally acknowledge receipt of an appeal, and will provide the name of the DEP project manager assigned to the specific appeal. The notice of appeal, any materials accepted by the Board Chair as supplementary evidence, any materials submitted in response to the appeal, and relevant excerpts from the DEP's application review file will be sent to Board members with a recommended decision from DEP staff. The appellant, the license holder if different from the appellant, and any interested persons are notified in advance of the date set for Board consideration of an appeal or request for public hearing. The appellant and the license holder will have an opportunity to address the Board at the Board meeting. With or without holding a public hearing, the Board may affirm, amend, or reverse a Commissioner decision or remand the matter to the Commissioner for further proceedings. The Board will notify the appellant, the license holder, and interested persons of its decision.

## **II. JUDICIAL APPEALS**

Maine law generally allows aggrieved persons to appeal final Commissioner or Board licensing decisions to Maine's Superior Court (see 38 M.R.S. § 346(1); 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 2; 5 M.R.S. § 11001; and M.R. Civ. P. 80C). A party's appeal must be filed with the Superior Court within 30 days of receipt of notice of the Board's or the Commissioner's decision. For any other person, an appeal must be filed within 40 days of the date the decision was rendered. An appeal to court of a license decision regarding an expedited wind energy development, a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project, or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project may only be taken directly to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. See 38 M.R.S. § 346(4).

Maine's Administrative Procedure Act, DEP statutes governing a particular matter, and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure must be consulted for the substantive and procedural details applicable to judicial appeals.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

If you have questions or need additional information on the appeal process, for administrative appeals contact the Board's Executive Analyst at (207) 287-2452, or for judicial appeals contact the court clerk's office in which your appeal will be filed.

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**Note: The DEP provides this INFORMATION SHEET for general guidance only; it is not intended for use as a legal reference. Maine law governs an appellant's rights.**

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