



STATE OF MAINE
Department of Environmental Protection

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

David P. Littell
COMMISSIONER

July 14, 2009

Mr. David Gardner
Department of Veteran Affairs
Togus V.A. Medical Center
1VA Center
Augusta, ME. 04330

RE: Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit #ME0000736
Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) #W003223-5C-E-M
Minor Revision

Dear Mr. Gardner:

The Department is in receipt of your June 24th e-mail message to Beth DeHaas requesting the Department suspend further screening level testing as required by Department rule 06-096 CMR Chapter 530, *Surface Water Toxics Control Program*. Your request is based on the fact that the discharge from the Togus waste water treatment facility to Togus Stream is scheduled to be eliminated by September 30, 2009.

The above reference permit/license issued by the Department on September 20, 2004, established monthly average and or daily maximum water quality based mass and concentration limitations for total arsenic, total copper, total lead, pentachlorophenol, total thallium and total zinc. In addition, the permit established screening level limitations and quarterly monitoring requirements for whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing.

On April 10, 2006, the Department conducted another statistical evaluation and modified the monitoring frequencies for some of the aforementioned parameters and established new monitoring frequencies for others including total silver and total cadmium. The screening level WET monitoring requirements remained at quarterly.

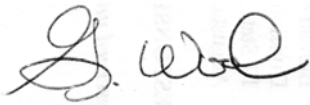
Yesterday, the Department conducted another statistical evaluation on the most recent 60 months of analytical chemistry and priority pollutant data on file. The evaluation indicates the only parameters that remain as having exceeded or have a reasonable potential to exceed applicable ambient water quality criteria are total copper, total lead

and total zinc. Therefore, this minor revision is carrying forward the monitoring frequencies in the 4/10/06 permit modification as follows: total copper (1/month), total lead (1/month) and total zinc (1/quarter). All limitations and or monitoring requirements for total arsenic, total cadmium, total silver, pentachlorophenol and total thallium have been eliminate via this minor revision.

As for WET testing, it is our understanding you have completed three of the four screening level tests and are seeking relief from conducting the last WET test as the discharge will be eliminated in the next two to three months. The Department agrees that there is limited value in conducting the final screening level WET test and is waiving said requirement.

If you have any questions regarding the matter, please feel free to call me at 287-7693.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "G. Wood".

Gregg Wood
Division of Water Quality Management
Bureau of Land and Water Quality

Enc.

cc: Beth DeHaas, DEP/CMRO
Dennis Merrill, DEP/CMRO
Lori Mitchell, DEP/CMRO
Sandy Mojica, EPA

ACTION

THEREFORE, the Department APPROVES the above noted request by the DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS to modify the toxicity testing requirements established in the April 10, 2006 permit modification, SUBJECT TO THE ATTACHED CONDITIONS, and all applicable standards and regulations including:

1. *“Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Standard Conditions Applicable to All Permits,”* revised July 1, 2002, copy attached to MEPDES permit #ME0000736/WDL W003223-5E-D-R dated September 20, 2004.
2. The attached Special Conditions, including any effluent limitations and monitoring requirements.
3. All other terms and conditions of MEPDES #ME0000736/WDL W003223-5E-D-R dated September 20, 2004, not modified by this minor revision remain in effect and enforceable.
4. This minor revision expires on September 20, 2009, concurrent with MEPDES #ME0000736/WDL W003223-5E-D-R.

PLEASE NOTE ATTACHED SHEET FOR GUIDANCE ON APPEAL PROCEDURES

Date of initial receipt of application: June 24, 2009.

Date of application acceptance: June 24, 2009.

This Order prepared by Gregg Wood, BUREAU OF LAND & WATER QUALITY

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

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

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations				Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>	<u>Measurement Frequency</u>	<u>Sample Type</u>
Copper (Total) <small>[01042]</small>	0.020 lbs/day <small>[26]</small>	0.024 lbs/day <small>[26]</small>	26 ug/L <small>[28]</small>	30 ug/L <small>[28]</small>	1/Month <small>[01/30]</small>	Composite <small>[24]</small>
Lead (Total) <small>[01051]</small>	0.0027 lbs/day <small>[26]</small>	---	3.4 ug/L <small>[28]</small>	---	1/Month <small>[01/30]</small>	Composite <small>[24]</small>
Zinc (Total) <small>[50008]</small>	0.18 lbs/day <small>[26]</small>	0.18 lbs/day <small>[26]</small>	228 ug/L <small>[28]</small>	232 ug/L <small>[28]</small>	1/Quarter <small>[01/90]</small>	Composite <small>[24]</small>