



STATE OF MAINE  
Department of Environmental Protection

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

Patricia W. Aho  
COMMISSIONER

December 3, 2012

Mr. Ralph Nicola  
Penobscot Indian Nation  
12 Wabanaki Drive  
Indian Island  
Old Town, Maine 04468

RE: Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit #ME0101311  
Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) Application #W002672-6B-D-R  
**Final Permit**

Dear Mr. Nicola:

Enclosed please find a copy of your **final** MEPDES permit and Maine WDL **renewal** which was approved by the Department of Environmental Protection. Please read this permit/license renewal and its attached conditions carefully. You must follow the conditions in the order to satisfy the requirements of law. Any discharge not receiving adequate treatment is in violation of State Law and is subject to enforcement action.

Any interested person aggrieved by a Department determination made pursuant to applicable regulations, may appeal the decision following the procedures described in the attached DEP FACT SHEET entitled "*Appealing a Commissioner's Licensing Decision.*"

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

Sincerely,

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

Enc.

cc: Clarissa Trasko, DEP/EMRO  
Sandy Mojica, USEPA

AUGUSTA  
17 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017  
(207) 287-3901 FAX: (207) 287-3435  
RAY BLDG., HOSPITAL ST.

BANGOR  
106 HOGAN ROAD  
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 04769-2094  
(207) 764-6477 FAX: (207) 764-1507



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

**DEPARTMENT ORDER**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

PENOBSCOT INDIAN NATION ) MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE  
OLD TOWN, PENOBSCOT COUNTY, MAINE ) ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT  
PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS ) AND  
ME0101311 ) WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE  
W002672-6B-D-R APPROVAL ) RENEWAL

Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Title 33 USC, Section 1251, *et seq.* and *Conditions of Licenses*, 38 M.R.S.A., Section 414-A *et seq.*, and applicable regulations, the Department of Environmental Protection (Department hereinafter) has considered the application of the PENOBSCOT INDIAN NATION (PIN/permittee hereinafter) with its supportive data, agency review comments, and other related material on file and FINDS THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

**APPLICATION SUMMARY**

The PIN has submitted an application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to renew National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit #ME0101311 issued by the EPA on January 26, 2006, for a five-year term. The NPDES permit approved the discharge of up to a monthly average flow of 0.10 MGD of secondary treated sanitary wastewater from a treatment facility to the Penobscot River, Class B, in Old Town, Maine.

On October 16, 2012, the PIN submitted another application to the Department to renew Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) #W002672-5L-C-R, which was issued by the Department on March 29, 2000, for a five-year term. The WDL approved the discharge of up to a monthly average flow of 0.07 MGD of secondary treated sanitary wastewater from a treatment facility to the Penobscot River, Class B, in Old Town, Maine.

**PERMT SUMMARY**

This permitting action is carrying forward all the terms and conditions of the previous permitting action with the following exceptions:

- 1) Eliminating the seasonal monitoring requirements for total phosphorus and ortho-phosphorus as the Department has made a best professional judgment it has enough information of the quantity of total phosphorus and ortho-phosphorus discharged and determined the impact on the receiving water is *de minimis*.

**PERMT SUMMARY (cont'd)**

- 2) Increasing the technology based mass limitations for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) to correct an error in the previous permitting action.
- 3) Reducing the monitoring frequency for BOD, TSS, settleable solids and *E. coli* bacteria based on a statistical analysis of the compliance data for the previous four-year period.
- 4) Incorporating mercury limitations into this permit that were originally established in a license modification issued by the Department on May 23, 2000.

**CONCLUSIONS**

BASED on the findings in the attached Fact Sheet dated October 24, 2012, 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, 38 MRSA Section 464(4)(F), will be met, in that:
  - (a) Existing in-stream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect and maintain those existing uses will be maintained and protected;
  - (b) Where high quality waters of the State constitute an outstanding natural resource, that water quality will be maintained and protected;
  - (c) The standards of classification of the receiving water body are met or, where the standards of classification of the receiving water body are not met, the discharge will not cause or contribute to the failure of the water body to meet the standards of classification;
  - (d) Where the actual quality of any classified receiving water body exceeds the minimum standards of the next highest classification, that higher water quality will be maintained and protected; and
  - (e) Where a discharge will result in lowering the existing quality of any water body, the Department has made the finding, following opportunity for public participation, that this action is necessary to achieve important economic or social benefits to the State.

**CONCLUSIONS (cont'd)**

- 4. The discharge will be subject to effluent limitations that require application of best practicable treatment.
- 5. The discharge is necessary and that there are no other reasonable alternatives available.

**ACTION**

THEREFORE, the Department APPROVES the above noted application of the PENOBSCOT INDIAN NATION to discharge up to a monthly average flow of 0.10 MGD of secondary treated waste waters from a publicly owned treatment works to the Penobscot, Class B, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS, and all applicable standards and regulations including:

- 1. "Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Standard Conditions Applicable To All Permits," revised July 1, 2002, copy attached.
- 2. The attached Special Conditions, including any effluent limitations and monitoring requirements.
- 3. This permit 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 the this permit, the terms and conditions of the 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.A. § 10002 and Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters, 06-096 CMR 2(21)(A) (effective April 1, 2003)].

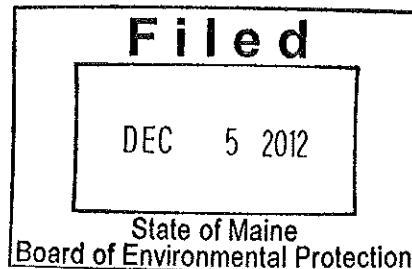
PLEASE NOTE ATTACHED SHEET FOR GUIDANCE ON APPEAL PROCEDURES

DONE AND DATED AT AUGUSTA, MAINE, THIS 4<sup>th</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2012.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BY: Michael Keenan  
For Patricia W. Aho, Commissioner

Date of initial receipt of application: October 16, 2012  
Date of application acceptance: October 16, 2012



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

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

**A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

The permittee is authorized to discharge secondary treated waste waters to the Penobscot River. Such treated waste water discharges shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below. The italicized numeric values bracketed in the table below are code numbers that Department personnel utilize to code the monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports.

**OUTFALL #001**

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations						Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Daily Maximum	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Daily Maximum	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Flow [50050]	0.100 MGD [03]	---	Report (MGD) [03]	---	---	---	Continuous [99/99]	Recorder [RC]
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD <sub>5</sub> ) [00310]	25 lbs/Day [26]	38 lbs/Day [26]	42 lbs/Day [26]	30 mg/L [19]	45 mg/L [19]	50 mg/L [19]	1/Month [01/30]	Composite [24]
BOD <sub>5</sub> % Removal <sup>(1)</sup> [81010]	---	---	---	85% [23]	---	---	1/Month [01/30]	Calculate [CA]
Total Suspended Solids (TSS) [00530]	25 lbs/Day [26]	38 lbs/Day [26]	42 lbs/Day [26]	30 mg/L [19]	45 mg/L [19]	50 mg/L [19]	1/Month [01/30]	Composite [24]
TSS % Removal <sup>(1)</sup> [81011]	---	---	---	85% [23]	---	---	1/Month [01/30]	Calculate [CA]
Settleable Solids [00545]	---	---	---	---	---	0.3 ml/L [25]	1/Week [01/07]	Grab [GR]
<i>E. coli</i> Bacteria <sup>(2)</sup> [31633] (May 15 – September 30)	---	---	---	64/100 ml [13]	---	427/100 ml [13]	1/Month [01/30]	Grab [GR]
Total Residual Chlorine <sup>(3)</sup> [50060]	---	---	---	---	---	1.0 mg/L [19]	1/Day [01/01]	Grab [GR]
Mercury <sup>(4)</sup> [71900]	---	---	---	7.2 ng/L [3M]	---	10.9 ng/L [3M]	1/Year [01/YR]	Grab [GR]
pH (Std. Units) [00400]	---	---	---	---	---	6.0-9.0 [12]	1/Day [01/01]	Grab [GR]

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

#### Sampling Locations:

**Influent sampling** for BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS shall be sampled prior to primary treatment.

**Effluent sampling** shall be sampled for all parameters at the end of the chlorine contact chamber on a year-round basis.

Any change in sampling location(s) must be reviewed and approved by the Department in writing.

**Sampling** - Sampling and analysis must be conducted in accordance with; a) methods approved in 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 shall be analyzed by a laboratory certified by the State of Maine's Department of Human Services. Samples that are sent to another POTW licensed pursuant to *Waste discharge licenses*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 413 or laboratory facilities that analyze compliance samples in-house are subject to the provisions and restrictions of *Maine Comprehensive and Limited Environmental Laboratory Certification Rules*, 10-144 CMR 263 (last amended February 13, 2000).

All analytical test results shall be reported to the Department including results which are detected below the respective reporting limits (RLs) specified by the Department or as specified by other approved test methods. If a non-detect analytical test result is below the respective RL, the concentration result shall be reported as <Y where Y is the RL achieved by the laboratory for each respective parameter. Reporting a value of <Y that is greater than an established RL or reporting an estimated value ("J" flagged) is not acceptable and will be rejected by the Department. Reporting analytical data and its use in calculations must follow established Department guidelines specified in this permit or in available Department guidance documents.

1. **Percent removal** - The treatment facility shall maintain a minimum of 85 percent removal of both BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS. The percent removal shall be based on a monthly average calculation using influent and effluent concentrations. The percent removal shall be waived when the monthly average influent concentration is less than 200 mg/L. For instances when this occurs, the facility shall report "NODI-9" on the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report.
2. ***E. coli* bacteria** - Limits are seasonal and apply between May 15 and September 30 of each calendar year. The Department reserves the right to require disinfection on a year-round basis to protect the health and welfare of the public. The monthly average limitation is a geometric mean limitation and shall be calculated and reported as such.

## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

3. **Total Residual Chlorine** – Limitations and monitoring requirements are applicable whenever elemental chlorine or chlorine based compounds are being used to disinfect the discharge. The permittee shall utilize approved test methods that are capable of bracketing the limitations in this permit.
4. **Mercury** - All mercury sampling required by this permit or required to determine compliance with interim limitations established pursuant to Department rule Chapter 519, shall be conducted in accordance with EPA's "clean sampling techniques" found in EPA Method 1669, Sampling Ambient Water For Trace Metals At EPA Water Quality Criteria Levels. All mercury analysis shall be conducted in accordance with EPA Method 1631, Determination of Mercury in Water by Oxidation, Purge and Trap, and Cold Vapor Fluorescence Spectrometry. See **Attachment A** for a Department report form for mercury test results.

The limitation in the monthly average column in table Special Condition A of this permit is defined as the arithmetic mean of all the mercury tests ever conducted for the facility utilizing sampling Methods 1669 and analysis Method 1631E.

### B. NARRATIVE EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

1. The effluent shall not contain a visible oil sheen, foam or floating solids at any time which would impair the usages designated for the classification of the receiving waters.
2. The effluent shall not contain materials in concentrations or combinations which are hazardous or toxic to aquatic life, or which would impair the usages designated for the classification of the receiving waters.
3. The discharge shall not cause visible discoloration or turbidity in the receiving waters, which would impair the usages designated for 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.

### C. TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

The person who has the management responsibility over the treatment facility must hold a **Grade II** certificate (or higher) or must be a Maine Registered Professional Engineer pursuant to *Sewerage Treatment Operators*, Title 32 M.R.S.A., Sections 4171-4182 and *Regulations for Wastewater Operator Certification*, 06-096 CMR 531 (effective May 8, 2006). All proposed contracts for facility operation by any person must be approved by the Department before the permittee may engage the services of the contract operator.

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

### **D. AUTHORIZED DISCHARGES**

The permittee is authorized to discharge only in accordance with: 1) the permittee's NPDES Permit Application submitted to the USEPA and accepted for processing on February 25, 2011, and the General Application submitted to the Department on October 16, 2012, 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 B(5), *Bypasses*, of this permit.

### **E. LIMITATIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL USERS**

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

### **F. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT**

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

1. Any introduction of pollutants into the waste water collection and treatment system from an indirect discharger in a primary industrial category discharging process waste water; and
2. Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into the waste water collection and treatment system by a source introducing pollutants into the system at the time of permit issuance. For the purposes of this section, notice regarding substantial change shall include information on:
  - (a) the quality and quantity of waste water introduced to the waste water collection and treatment system; and
  - (b) any anticipated impact caused by the change in the quantity or quality of the waste water to be discharged from the treatment system.



## SPECIAL CONDITIONS

### G. WET WEATHER MANAGEMENT PLAN

The permittee shall maintain a current written Wet Weather Management Plan to direct the staff on how to operate the facility effectively during periods of high flow. The Department acknowledges that the existing collection system may deliver flows in excess of the monthly average design capacity of the treatment plant during periods of high infiltration and rainfall. The revised plan shall include operating procedures for a range of intensities, address solids handling procedures (including septic waste and other high strength wastes if applicable) and provide written operating and maintenance procedures during the events. **The permittee shall review their plan annually** and record any necessary changes to keep the plan up to date.

### H. OPERATION & MAINTENANCE (O&M) PLAN

This facility shall maintain a current written comprehensive Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Plan. The plan shall provide a systematic approach by which 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.

**Within 90 days of completion of new and or substantial upgrades of the waste water treatment facility**, the permittee shall submit an updated O&M Plan to their Department inspector for review and comment. The plan shall provide a systematic approach by which 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.

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

### I. 06-096 CMR 530(2)(D)(4) STATEMENT FOR REDUCED/WAIVED TOXICS TESTING

**By December 31 of each calendar year**, the permittee shall provide the Department with a certification describing any of the following that have occurred since the effective date of this permit [*PCS Code 95799J*]: See **Attachment B** of the Fact Sheet for an acceptable certification form to satisfy this Special Condition.

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

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

### **I. 06-096 CMR 530(2)(D)(4) STATEMENT FOR REDUCED/WAIVED TOXICS TESTING**

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

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

- (d) Changes in storm water collection or inflow/infiltration affecting the facility that may increase the toxicity of the discharge.

- (e) Increases in the type or volume of hauled wastes accepted by the facility.

The Department reserves the right to reinstate annual (surveillance level) testing or other toxicity testing if new information becomes available that indicates the discharge may cause or have a reasonable potential to cause exceedences of ambient water quality criteria/thresholds.

### **J. MONITORING AND REPORTING**

Monitoring results obtained during the previous month shall be summarized for each month and reported on separate Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) forms provided by the Department and shall be postmarked by the thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) day of the month or hand-delivered to a Department Regional Office such that the DMRs are received by the Department by the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of the month following the completed reporting period. A signed copy of the DMR and all other reports required herein shall be submitted, unless otherwise specified, to the Department's facility inspector at:

Department of Environmental Protection  
Eastern Maine Regional Office  
Bureau of Land and Water Quality  
Division of Water Quality Management  
106 Hogan Road  
Bangor, Maine 04011

Alternatively, if you are submitting an electronic DMR (eDMR), the completed eDMR must be electronically submitted to the Department by a facility authorized DMR Signatory not later than close of business on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the completed reporting period. Hard Copy documentation submitted in support of the eDMR must be postmarked on or before the thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) day of the month or hand-delivered to the Department's Regional Office such that it is received by the Department on or before the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of the month following the completed reporting period. Electronic documentation in support of the eDMR must be submitted not later than close of business on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the completed reporting period.

## **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

### **K. REOPENING OF PERMIT FOR MODIFICATIONS**

Upon evaluation of the tests results or monitoring requirements specified in 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 effluent or ambient water quality monitoring if results on file are inconclusive; or (3) change monitoring requirements or limitations based on new information.

### **L. SEVERABILITY**

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

# ATTACHMENT A

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

**Effluent Mercury Test Report**

Name of Facility: \_\_\_\_\_ Federal Permit # ME \_\_\_\_\_

Pipe # \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of this test:  Initial limit determination  
 Compliance monitoring for: year \_\_\_\_\_ calendar quarter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Supplemental or extra test

**SAMPLE COLLECTION INFORMATION**

Sampling Date: 

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 mm dd yy      Sampling time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM

Sampling Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Weather Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any unusual conditions with the influent or at the facility during or preceding the time of sample collection:

Optional test - not required but recommended where possible to allow for the most meaningful evaluation of mercury results:

Suspended Solids \_\_\_\_\_ mg/L      Sample type: \_\_\_\_\_ Grab (recommended) or \_\_\_\_\_ Composite

**ANALYTICAL RESULT FOR EFFLUENT MERCURY**

Name of Laboratory: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of analysis: \_\_\_\_\_      Result: \_\_\_\_\_ ng/L (PPT)

Please Enter Effluent Limits for your facility

Effluent Limits:      Average = \_\_\_\_\_ ng/L      Maximum = \_\_\_\_\_ ng/L

Please attach any remarks or comments from the laboratory that may have a bearing on the results or their interpretation. If duplicate samples were taken at the same time please report the average.

**CERTIFICATION**

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the foregoing information is correct and representative of conditions at the time of sample collection. The sample for mercury was collected and analyzed using EPA Methods 1669 (clean sampling) and 1631 (trace level analysis) in accordance with instructions from the DEP.

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM TO YOUR ASSIGNED INSPECTOR

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

**FACT SHEET**

**Date October 24, 2012**

**PERMIT NUMBER: ME0101311  
LICENSE NUMBER: W002672-6B-D-R**

**NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:**

**PENOBSCOT INDIAN NATION  
12 Wabanaki Way, Indian Island  
Old Town, Maine 04468**

**COUNTY: Penobscot County**

**NAME AND ADDRESS OF FACILITY WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:**

**Penobscot Nation Water Pollution Control Facility  
12 Wabanaki Way, Indian Island  
Old Town, Maine**

**RECEIVING WATER/CLASSIFICATION: Penobscot River/Class B**

**COGNIZANT OFFICIAL AND TELEPHONE NUMBER: Mr. Ralph Nicola, Superintendent  
Tel: (207) 817-7385  
e-mail: [ralph.nicola@penobscotnation.org](mailto:ralph.nicola@penobscotnation.org)**

**1. APPLICATION SUMMARY**

- a. **Application:** The Penobscot Indian Nation (PIN) has submitted an application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to renew National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit #ME0101311 issued by the EPA on January 26, 2006, for a five-year term. The NPDES permit approved the discharge of up to a monthly average flow of 0.10 MGD of secondary treated sanitary wastewater from a municipal treatment facility to the Penobscot River, Class B, in Old Town, Maine.

On October 16, 2012, the PIN submitted another application to the Department to renew Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) #W002672-5L-C-R, which was issued by the Department on March 29, 2000, for a five-year term. The WDL approved the discharge of up to a monthly average flow of 0.07 MGD of secondary treated sanitary wastewater from a municipal treatment facility to the Penobscot River, Class B, in Old Town, Maine. See **Attachment A** of this Fact Sheet for a location map.

## 1. APPLICATION SUMMARY

- b. Source Description: The facility receives commercial and residential sanitary wastewater serving a population of 550 residents on Indian Island in Old Town, Maine. There are no significant industrial users within the collection system and there are no combined sewer overflows. The facility is not authorized to treat transported wastes at the waste water treatment facility.
- c. Waste Water Treatment: Sanitary wastewater received at the PIN waste water treatment facility receives a secondary level of treatment. Waste waters generated on Indian Island are conveyed to the treatment facility via a sewer collection system that is primarily a gravity system that is approximately five (5) miles in length with seven (7) pump stations. Five of the seven pump stations have on-site back-up power and the other two pump stations are served by a mobile generator in the event of a power failure. Wastewaters from the collection system are conveyed to the facility headworks where influent screening is performed either through a comminutor or a manual bar rack, followed by an anoxic selector basin for filaments control. Waste water then flows to a 68,800-gallon oxidation ditch with diffused air, followed by two 27,000 gal circular final clarifiers, the chlorine contact tank where it is seasonally disinfected and then is discharged to Penobscot River via a 10" diameter pipe. The outfall pipe extends out into the receiving water approximately 75 feet with approximately 10 feet of water over the crown of the pipe at normal low water levels. The end of the outfall pipe is not fitted with a diffuser to enhance mixing with the receiving waters. Between May 1 and October 31 of each year, the effluent is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite. Flow is measured by a continuous recording flow meter.

Sludge is wasted from the clarifiers to two 8,000 gal. aerobic digesters and can be then pumped to a belt filter press for dewatering. Sludge can be also stored in the digesters which are former package processing units. Sludge is then disposed of at the Old Town Compost Facility, a Department approved site.

## 2. PERMIT SUMMARY

- a. Terms and conditions: This permitting action is carrying forward all the terms and conditions of the previous permitting action with the following exceptions:
- 1) Eliminating the seasonal monitoring requirements for total phosphorus and ortho-phosphorus as the Department has made a best professional judgment it has enough information of the quantity of total phosphorus and ortho-phosphorus discharged and determined the impact on the receiving water is *de minimis*.
  - 2) Increasing the technology based mass limitations for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) to correct an error in the previous permitting action.

**2. PERMIT SUMMARY (cont'd)**

- 3) Reducing the monitoring frequency for BOD, TSS, settleable solids and *E. coli* bacteria based on a statistical analysis of compliance data for the previous four-year period.
- 4) Incorporating mercury limitations into this permit that were originally established in a license modification issued by the Department on May 23, 2000.

b. History: The most relevant licensing/permitting actions include the following:

*November 21, 1988* - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit #ME0101311 to the PIN for a five-year term.

*June 22, 1988* - The Department issued WDL #W002672-59-B-R to the PIN for a five-year term.

*March 29, 2000* - The Department issued WDL #W002672-5L-C-R to the PIN for a five-year term.

*May 23, 2000* - The Department issued a modification of the 3/29/00 WDL by establishing interim average and maximum concentration limits for total mercury along with a 2/Year monitoring requirement.

*January 26, 2006* - The EPA issued NPDES permit #ME0101311 to the PIN for a five-year term.

*October 21, 2010* - The PIN submitted an application to the EPA for the renewal of NPDES permit. EPA deemed the application incomplete and requested additional information.

*February 15, 2011* - The EPA deemed the PIN application complete for processing after the PIN submitted the additional information requested by the EPA.

*October 5, 2012* - The Department received the PIN's NPDES application from the EPA.

*October 16, 2012* - The PIN submitted a complete application to the Department to renew WDL #W002672-5L-C-R issued by the Department on March 29, 2000.



### 3. CONDITIONS OF PERMITS

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

### 4. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A., Section 467(7)(A)(6) indicates the Penobscot River main stem, from the Maine Central Railroad bridge in Bangor to a line extended in an east-west direction from the confluence of Reeds Brook in Hampden, is classified as a Class B waterway. The Legislature finds that the free-flowing habitat of this river segment provides irreplaceable social and economic benefits and that this use must be maintained. Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A., Section 465(3) describes standards for classification of Class B waters 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 1-day minimum dissolved oxygen concentration may not be less than 8.0 parts per million in identified fish spawning areas. Between May 15th and September 30th, the number of Escherichia coli bacteria of human and domestic animal origin in these waters may not exceed a geometric mean of 64 per 100 milliliters or an instantaneous level of 236 per 100 milliliters. In determining human and domestic animal origin, the department shall assess licensed and unlicensed sources using available diagnostic procedures.*

*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.*

## 5. RECEIVING WATER CONDITIONS

Table Category 5-D entitled, *Rivers and Streams Impaired By Legacy Pollutants*, in a document entitled, 2010 Maine Integrated Water Quality Report, [referred to as the “305(b) Report”] published by the Department states the designated use of fishing (consumption) is impaired in a 14-mile segment of the Penobscot River in the vicinity of the permittee’s outfall due to the presence of PCBs in fish tissue. The Department is not aware of any information that indicates the discharge from the permittee is causing or contributing to the impairment.

In addition, the 305b Report lists all freshwaters in Maine in *Category 4-A: Rivers and Streams With Impaired Use, TMDL Completed*. Impairment in this context refers to the designated use of recreational fishing due to elevated levels of mercury in some fish caused by atmospheric deposition. As a result, the State has established a fish consumption advisory for all freshwaters in Maine. The Report states that a regional scale TMDL has been approved. In addition, pursuant to Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A. §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.” The Department has established interim monthly average and daily maximum mercury concentration limits for this facility. See the discussion on compliance in section 6(i) of this Fact Sheet.

In the summers of 1997, 2001 and 2007, the Department conducted ambient water quality sampling on a 103-mile segment of the Penobscot River from Millinocket to Bucksport. Reports entitled, *Penobscot River Modeling Report, Final, June 2000*, *Penobscot River Data Report May 2002*, and *Penobscot River Modeling Report Draft, March 2003*, prepared by the Department, indicate there are sections of non-attainment of dissolved oxygen standards as a result of algal blooms in portions of the Class B sections of the rivers. These sections of river have experienced measured DO non-attainment at various locations during periods of low flow and high water temperature. Measured DO non-attainment is predominantly in the early morning hours in sections of river with significant diurnal dissolved oxygen (DO) swings. These significant diurnal DO swings are caused by nutrient enrichment and resulting plant growth. The Department has issued a report entitled, *Penobscot River Phosphorus Waste Load Allocation, May 2011* stating seasonal mass based total phosphorus limitations are necessary for the four industrial dischargers on the river as well as monitoring for total phosphorus for five municipal waste water treatment facilities. The PIN facility was not named as a facility required to monitor for phosphorus. The specific eutrophication related responses that are targeted by the waste load allocation are not expected to persist into the tidally influenced portion of the Penobscot River. However, water quality improvements associated with the waste load allocation are expected to extend into the tidally influenced section of the river. The effectiveness of the nutrient load reductions will be assessed through routine ambient monitoring for total phosphorous, dissolved oxygen and biochemical oxygen demand.

**5. RECEIVING WATER CONDITIONS (cont'd)**

If ambient water quality monitoring or future modeling determines that at full permitted discharge limits the permittee's discharge is causing or contributing to the non-attainment of standards, this permit will be re-opened per Special Condition K, *Reopening of Permit For Modifications*, to impose more stringent limitations to meet water quality standards.

**6. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS & MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

- a. Flow: The previous permit established a monthly average flow limitation of 0.100 MGD and a daily maximum reporting requirement that are being carried forward in this permitting action and is considered to be representative of the monthly average design flow for the facility.

A review of the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data for the period January 2009 – July 2012 indicates the permittee has reported values as follows:

**Flow (DMRs=43)**

Value	Limit (MGD)	Range (MGD)	Mean (MGD)
Monthly average	0.100	0.041 – 0.094	0.057
Daily maximum	Report	0.065 – 0.172	0.093

- b. Dilution Factors: Dilution factors associated with the discharge from the PIN waste water treatment facility were derived in accordance with freshwater protocols established in Department Regulation Chapter 530, Surface Water Toxics Control Program, November 2005. With a monthly average treatment plant design flow of 0.100 MGD, dilution calculations are as follows:

$$\text{Acute: } 1\text{Q}10 = 2,660 \text{ cfs}^{(1)} \Rightarrow \frac{(2,660 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.100 \text{ MGD}}{0.100 \text{ MGD}} = 17,195:1$$

$$\text{Modified Acute: } \frac{1}{4} 1\text{Q}10 = 665 \text{ cfs} \Rightarrow \frac{(665 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.100 \text{ MGD}}{0.100 \text{ MGD}} = 4,300:1$$

$$\text{Chronic: } 7\text{Q}10 = 3,129 \text{ cfs}^{(1)} \Rightarrow \frac{(3,129 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.100 \text{ MGD}}{0.100 \text{ MGD}} = 20,227:1$$

$$\text{Harmonic Mean} = 8,313 \text{ cfs}^{(2)} \Rightarrow \frac{(8,313 \text{ cfs})(0.6464) + 0.100 \text{ MGD}}{0.100 \text{ MGD}} = 53,736:1$$

<sup>(1)</sup> 7Q10 and 1Q10 critical low flow values were recalculated (lowered) in calendar year 2003 during the Department's update of the water quality model for the Penobscot River.

<sup>(2)</sup> Harmonic mean flow from 1991 study and drainage area ratio.

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

- c. BOD<sub>5</sub> & TSS - The previous permitting established technology based monthly and weekly average BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS best practicable treatment (BPT) concentration limits of 30 mg/L and 45 mg/L respectively, that were based on secondary treatment requirements of the Clean Water Act of 1977 §301(b)(1)(B) as defined in 40 CFR 133.102 and Department rule Chapter 525(3)(III). The maximum daily BOD<sub>5</sub> and TSS concentration limits of 50 mg/L were based on a Department best professional judgment of BPT. All three concentration limits are being carried forward in this permitting action.

As for mass limitations, the previous permitting action established technology based monthly average and daily maximum limitations based on a monthly average limit of 0.007 MGD that was in error. The permittee submitted an application to the EPA that indicated the dry weather design capacity of the treatment facility was in fact 0.10 MGD and not 0.07 MGD. Therefore, to correct the error in the mass limits for BOD and TSS, the Department has calculated technology based mass limits as follows;

Monthly average:  $(0.100\text{MGD})(8.34)(30\text{ mg/L}) = 25\text{ lbs/day}$   
 Weekly average:  $(0.100\text{ MGD})(8.34)(45\text{ mg/L}) = 38\text{ lbs/day}$   
 Daily maximum:  $(0.100\text{ MGD})(8.34)(50\text{ mg/L}) = 42\text{ lbs/day}$

A review of the monthly DMR data for the period January 2009 – July 2012 indicates values have been reported as follows;

**BOD Mass (DMRs=43)**

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Average (lbs/day)
Monthly Average	25	1.4 – 6.5	3.7
Weekly Average	38	Not reported	n/a
Daily Maximum	42	2.1 – 9.3	4.7

**BOD Concentration (DMRs=43)**

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Average (mg/L)
Monthly Average	30	4.6 – 12.8	7.3
Weekly Average	45	4.8 – 14	9.1
Daily Maximum	50	4.8 – 14	9.1

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

**TSS mass (DMRs=43)**

Value	Limit (lbs/day)	Range (lbs/day)	Average (lbs/day)
Monthly Average	25	0.3 – 3.8	1.7
Weekly Average	38	Not reported	n/a
Daily Maximum	42	0.4 – 6.4	2.3

**TSS concentration (DMRs=43)**

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Average (mg/L)
Monthly Average	30	0.6 – 11.1	3.2
Weekly Average	45	0.6 – 13.2	4.2
Daily Maximum	50	0.6 – 13.2	4.2

On April 19, 1996, the USEPA issued a guidance document entitled, “*Interim Guidance for Performance Based Reductions of NPDES Permit Monitoring Frequencies*” (USEPA 1996) as the basis for determining reduced monitoring frequencies. The guidance document was issued to reduce unnecessary reporting while at the same time maintaining a high level of environmental protection for facilities that have a good compliance record and pollutant discharges at levels below permit requirements. Monitoring requirements are not considered effluent limitations under section 402(o) of the Clean Water Act and therefore, anti-backsliding prohibitions would not be triggered by reductions in monitoring frequencies

The EPA Guidance indicates “...*the basic premise underlying a performance-based reduction approach is that maintaining a low average discharge relative to the permit limits results in a low probability of the occurrence of a violation for a wide range of sampling frequencies.*” The monitoring frequency reductions in EPA’s guidance were designed to maintain approximately the same level of reported violations as that experienced with the existing baseline sampling frequency in the permit. To establish baseline performance the long term average (LTA) discharge rate for each parameter is calculated using the most recent two-year data set of monthly average effluent data representative of current operating conditions. The LTA/permit limit ratio is calculated and then compared to the matrix in Table I of EPA’s guidance to determine the potential monitoring frequency reduction. It is noted Table I of EPA’s guidance was derived from a probability table that used an 80% effluent variability or coefficient of variation (cv). The permitting authority can take into consideration further reductions in the monitoring frequencies if the actual cv for the facility is significantly lower than the default 80% utilized by the EPA in Table I.

In addition to the parameter-by-parameter performance history via the statistical evaluation cited above, the EPA recommends the permitting authority take into consideration the facility enforcement history and the parameter-by-parameter compliance history and factors specific to the State or facility. If the facility has already been given monitoring reductions due to superior performance, the baseline may be a previous permit.

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

Though EPA's 1996 Guidance recommends evaluation of the most current two-years of effluent data for a parameter, however, the Department is considering 43 months of data (January 2009 – July 2012).

A review of the monitoring data for BOD and TSS indicates the ratios (expressed in percent) of the long term effluent average to the monthly average limits can be calculated as follows:

### BOD

Long term average = 3.7 lbs/day  
Monthly average limit = 25 lbs/day  
Current monitoring frequency = 2/Month

$$\text{Ratio} = \frac{3.7 \text{ lbs/day}}{25 \text{ lbs/day}} = 15\%$$

According to Table I of the EPA Guidance, a 2/Month monitoring requirement can be reduced to 1/Quarter. The Department is making a best professional judgment that a monitoring frequency of 1/Quarter is not sufficient to determine on-going compliance at the facility. However, the Department is willing to reduce the monitoring frequency for BOD to 1/Month in this permitting action.

### TSS

Long term average = 1.7 lbs/day  
Monthly average limit = 25 lbs/day  
Current monitoring frequency = 2/Month

$$\text{Ratio} = \frac{1.7 \text{ lbs/day}}{25 \text{ lbs/day}} = 7\%$$

According to Table I of the EPA Guidance, a 2/Month monitoring requirement can be reduced to 1/Quarter. As with BOD, the Department is making a best professional judgment that a monitoring frequency of 1/Quarter is not sufficient to determine on-going compliance at the facility. However, the Department is willing to reduce the monitoring frequency for TSS to 1/Month in this permitting action.

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

This permitting action is carrying forward a requirement of 85% removal for BOD and TSS pursuant to Department rule Chapter 525(3)(III)(a&b)(3) except in the circumstances where the influent concentration is less than 200 mg/L.

A review of the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data for the period December 2010 through July 2012 indicates values have been reported as follows;

**BOD % Removal (DMRs=19)**

Value	Limit (%)	Range (%)	Average (%)
Monthly Average	85	90 - 97	94

**TSS % Removal (DMRs=19)**

Value	Limit (%)	Range (%)	Average (%)
Monthly Average	85	89 - 99	95

- d. Settleable Solids - The previous permitting action established a technology based daily maximum limit of 0.3 ml/L and a monitoring frequency of 5/Week. The limit which is being carried forward in his permitting action was based on a Department best professional judgment of BPT and the monitoring frequency was based on Department policy for facilities with a monthly average flow limitation greater than 0.1 MGD but less than 0.5 MGD.

A review of the monthly DMR data for the period January 2009 – July 2012 indicates values have been reported as follows;

**Settleable solids (DMRs=43)**

Value	Limit (ml/L)	Range (ml/L)	Average (ml/L)
Daily Maximum	0.3	<0.1 - <0.1	0.05

SS

Long term average = 0.05 ml/L  
 Monthly average limit = 0.3 ml/L  
 Current monitoring frequency = 5/Week

$$\text{Ratio} = \frac{0.05 \text{ ml/L}}{0.3 \text{ ml/L}} = 17\%$$

According to Table I of the EPA Guidance, a 5/Week monitoring requirement can be reduced to 1/Week. Therefore, this permitting action is reducing the monitoring frequency from 5/Week to 1/Week.

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

- e. *E. coli* bacteria: Maine's Water Classification Program found at 38 M.R.S.A. Article 4-A states that Escherichia coli bacteria (*E. Coli*) standards apply to freshwaters. Based on Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A., §465(3)(B) which relates to Class B waterways, the previous permitting action established a seasonal water quality based monthly average *E. coli* bacteria limits of 64 colonies per 100 milliliters (ml)(geometric mean) and a daily maximum (instantaneous) level of 427 colonies per 100 ml from May 15 – September 30. These limits are being carried forward from the previous permitting action.

During calendar year 2005, Maine's Legislature approved a new daily maximum water quality standards of 236 colonies/100 ml for water bodies designated as Class B and Class C. The Department has determined that end-of-pipe limitations for the instantaneous concentration standard of 427 colonies/100 mL will be achieved through available dilution of the effluent with the receiving waters and need not be revised in MEPDES permits for facilities with adequate dilution such as is the case with the permittee's facility. The bacteria limits established in this permitting action are seasonal and apply between May 15 and September 30 of each year. The Department reserves the right to impose year-round bacteria limits, if necessary, to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public.

A review of the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data for the period May 2009 through July 2012 indicates values have been reported as follows;

***E. coli* bacteria (DMRs=18)**

Value	Limit (col/100 ml)	Range (col/100 ml)	Mean (col/100 ml)
Monthly Average	64	0 – 16	3.6
Daily Maximum	427	0-366	33

*E. coli* bacteria

Long term average = 3.6 col/100 ml  
 Monthly average limit = 64 col/100 ml  
 Current monitoring frequency = 2/Month

$$\text{Ratio} = \frac{3.6 \text{ col/100 ml}}{64 \text{ col/100 ml}} = 6\%$$

According to Table I of the EPA Guidance, a 2/Month monitoring requirement can be reduced to 1/Quarter. As with BOD and TSS, the Department is making a best professional judgment that a monitoring frequency of 1/Quarter is not sufficient to determine on-going compliance at the facility. However, the Department is willing to reduce the monitoring frequency for *E. coli* bacteria to 1/Month in this permitting action.



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

- f. Total Residual Chlorine: Limits on total residual chlorine (TRC) are specified to ensure attainment of the in-stream water quality criteria for levels of chlorine and that BPT technology is utilized to abate the discharge of chlorine. Permits issued by this Department impose the more stringent of the calculated water quality based or BPT based limits. The previous permitting action established a daily maximum limit of 1.0 mg/L. With dilution factors as determined above, water quality based thresholds for TRC may be calculated as follows:

Acute (A) Criterion	Chronic (C) Criterion	A & C Dilution Factors	Calculated	
			Acute Limit	Chronic Limit
0.019 mg/L	0.011 mg/L	4,300:1 (A) 20,227:1 (C)	82 mg/L	222 mg/L

The Department's BPT limitation of 1.0 mg/l is more stringent than the calculated water quality based limit. Therefore, the BPT limitation of 1.0 mg/l is being imposed from May 15 – September 30 to correspond to seasonal disinfection requirements.

A review of the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data for the period May 2009 through July 2012 indicates values have been reported as follows;

**Total residual chlorine (DMRs=18)**

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Daily Maximum	1.0	0.53 – 1.2	0.91

EPA's *Interim Guidance for Performance Based Reductions of NPDES Permit Monitoring Frequencies* (USEPA 1996) states that parameters that show any exceedance of a limit during the monitoring period would not be subject to monitoring reductions. The PIN facility has reported three exceedances of the TRC limit during the specified monitoring period. Therefore, the 1/Day monitoring frequency in the previous permit is being carried forward in this permitting action.

- g. pH – The previous permitting action established a technology based pH range limitation of 6.0 – 9.0 standard units based on Department rule Chapter 525(3)(III)(c). The limit range is considered BPT. The monitoring frequency requirement of 1/Day is being carried forward from the previous permitting action. A review of the DMR data for the period January 2009 through July 2012- indicates the pH range limitation has never been exceeded.

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

- h. Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) and priority pollutant testing - Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A., Sections 414-A and 420, prohibit the discharge of effluents containing substances in amounts that would cause the surface waters of the State to contain toxic substances above levels set forth in Federal Water Quality Criteria as established by the USEPA. Department Rules, 06-096 CMR Chapter 530, *Surface Water Toxics Control Program*, and Chapter 584, *Surface Water Quality Criteria for Toxic Pollutants* set forth ambient water quality criteria (AWQC) for toxic pollutants and procedures necessary to control levels of toxic pollutants in surface waters.

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

Chapter 530 establishes four categories of testing requirements based predominately on the chronic dilution factor. The categories are as follows:

Level I – chronic dilution factor of <20:1.

Level II – chronic dilution factor of  $\geq 20:1$  but <100:1.

Level III – chronic dilution factor  $\geq 100:1$  but <500:1 or >500:1 and  $Q \geq 1.0$  MGD

Level IV – chronic dilution >500:1 and  $Q \leq 1.0$  MGD

Department rule Chapter 530 (2)(D) specifies the criteria to be used in determining the minimum monitoring frequency requirements for WET, priority pollutant and analytical chemistry testing. Based on the Chapter 530 criteria, the permittee's facility falls into the Level IV frequency category as the facility has a chronic dilution factor  $\geq 500:1$  and discharges  $\leq 1.0$  MGD. Chapter 530(2)(D)(1) specifies that routine surveillance and screening level testing requirements are as follows:

Screening level testing

Level	WET Testing	Priority pollutant testing	Analytical chemistry
IV	1 per year*	1 per year*	4 per year*

Surveillance level testing

Level	WET Testing	Priority pollutant testing	Analytical chemistry
IV	1 per year*	None required*	1 per year*

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

Chapter 530(2)(D)(1) states:

\*These routine testing requirements for Level IV are waived, except that the Department shall require an individual discharger to conduct testing under the following conditions.

- (a) The discharger's permit application or information available to the Department indicate that toxic compounds may be present in toxic amounts; or
- (b) Previous testing conducted by the discharger or similar dischargers indicates that toxic compounds may be present in toxic amounts.

The previous permit waived all WET, analytical chemistry and priority pollutant testing pursuant to 06-096 CMR Chapter 530, *Surface Water Toxics Control Program*. Based on the information available to date, the Department has made a best professional judgment determination to once again waive all surveillance and screening level testing for the permittee. Special Condition I, *06-096 CMR 530(D)(2)(4) Statement For Reduced/Waived Toxics Testing*, of this permit requires the permittee to submit an annual certification indicating the discharge from the facility has not change changed substantially since the previous permitting action. However, should there be a substantial change in the characteristics of the discharge in the future, the Department may reopen this permit pursuant to Special Condition K, *Reopening Of Permit For Modifications*, to incorporate the applicable WET, priority pollutant and or analytical testing requirements cited above.

- i. Mercury – Pursuant to *Certain deposits and discharges prohibited*, Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A. § 420 and *Waste discharge licenses*, 38 M.R.S.A. § 413 and *Interim Effluent Limitations and Controls for the Discharge of Mercury*, 06-096 CMR 519 (last amended October 6, 2001), the Department established a 2/Year monitoring frequency for total mercury.

The Department notified the permittee that interim average and maximum limits for mercury were established as 7.2 ng/L and 10.9 ng/L respectively, which are being carried forward in this permitting action. Maine law 38 M.R.S.A., §420 1-B,(B)(1) states that a facility is not in violation of the AWQC for mercury if the facility is in compliance with an interim discharge limit established by the Department pursuant to section 413, subsection 11. A review of the Department's data base for the period October 1999 through the present indicates the permittee has been in compliance with the interim limits for mercury as results have been reported as follows;

**Mercury (n = 3)**

Value	Limit (ng/L)	Range (ng/L)	Mean (ng/L)
Average	7.2	3.5 – 6.35	4.4
Maximum	10.9	3.5 – 6.3	4.4

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

The review of the monitoring data for total and mercury indicates the ratios (expressed in percent) of the long term effluent average to the average limit can be calculated as follows:

Mercury

Long term average = 4.4 ng/L  
 Average limit = 7.2 ng/L  
 Current monitoring frequency = 2/Year

$$\text{Ratio} = \frac{4.4 \text{ ng/L}}{7.2 \text{ ng/L}} = 61\%$$

Pursuant to Maine law 38, M.R.S.A. §420, sub-§1-B, ¶F, this permitting action is reducing the monitoring frequency from 2/Year to 1/Year.

- j. Total Phosphorus and Ortho-phosphorus – The previous permitting action established a seasonal (May – October) 1/Week monitoring and daily maximum concentration reporting requirement for total phosphorus and ortho-phosphorus.

A review of the monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) data for the period May 2011 through July 2012 indicates values have been reported as follows;

**Total phosphorus (DMRs=8)**

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Daily Maximum	Report	1.5 – 4.9	3.4

**Ortho-phosphorus (DMRs=8)**

Value	Limit (mg/L)	Range (mg/L)	Mean (mg/L)
Daily Maximum	Report	1.4 – 4.9	3.2

A Department report entitled, *Penobscot River Phosphorus Waste Load Allocation, May 2011* stating seasonal mass based total phosphorus limitations are necessary for four industrial dischargers on the river as well as monitoring for total phosphorus for five municipal waste water treatment facilities. The PIN facility was not named as a facility required to monitor for phosphorus. Therefore, this permitting action is eliminating the monitoring and reporting requirements for both total phosphorus and ortho-phosphorus.

## 7. ANTI-DEGRADATION - IMPACT ON RECEIVING WATER QUALITY

Maine's anti-degradation policy is included in 38 M.R.S.A., Section 464(4)(F) and addressed in the *Conclusions* section of this permit. Pursuant to the policy, where a new or increased discharge is proposed, the Department shall determine whether the discharge will result in a significant lowering of existing water quality. Increased discharge means a discharge that would add one or more new pollutants to an existing effluent, increase existing levels of pollutants in an effluent, or cause an effluent to exceed one or more of its current licensed discharge flow or effluent limits, after the application of applicable best practicable treatment technology.

This permitting action revises previously established mass limitations for BOD and TSS to correct an error in the calculation of the limits in the previous permit. The rationale for these actions is contained in Section 6(c) of this Fact Sheet. Based on the information provided in the referenced section, the Department has made the determination that the discharge approved by this permit will not result in a significant lowering of water quality. As permitted, the Department has determined the existing and designated water uses will be maintained and protected and the discharge will not cause or contribute to the failure of the Penobscot River to meet standards for Class B classification.

## 8. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public notice of this application was made in the Bangor Daily newspaper on October 19, 2012. The Department receives public comments on an application until the date a final agency action is taken on that application. Those persons receiving copies of draft permits shall have at least 30 days in which to submit comments on the draft or request a public hearing, pursuant to Chapter 522 of the Department's rules.

## 9. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

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

Gregg Wood  
Division of Water Quality Management  
Bureau of Land and Water Quality  
Department of Environmental Protection  
17 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017  
E-mail: [gregg.wood@maine.gov](mailto:gregg.wood@maine.gov)

Telephone (207) 287-7693



## **10. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS**

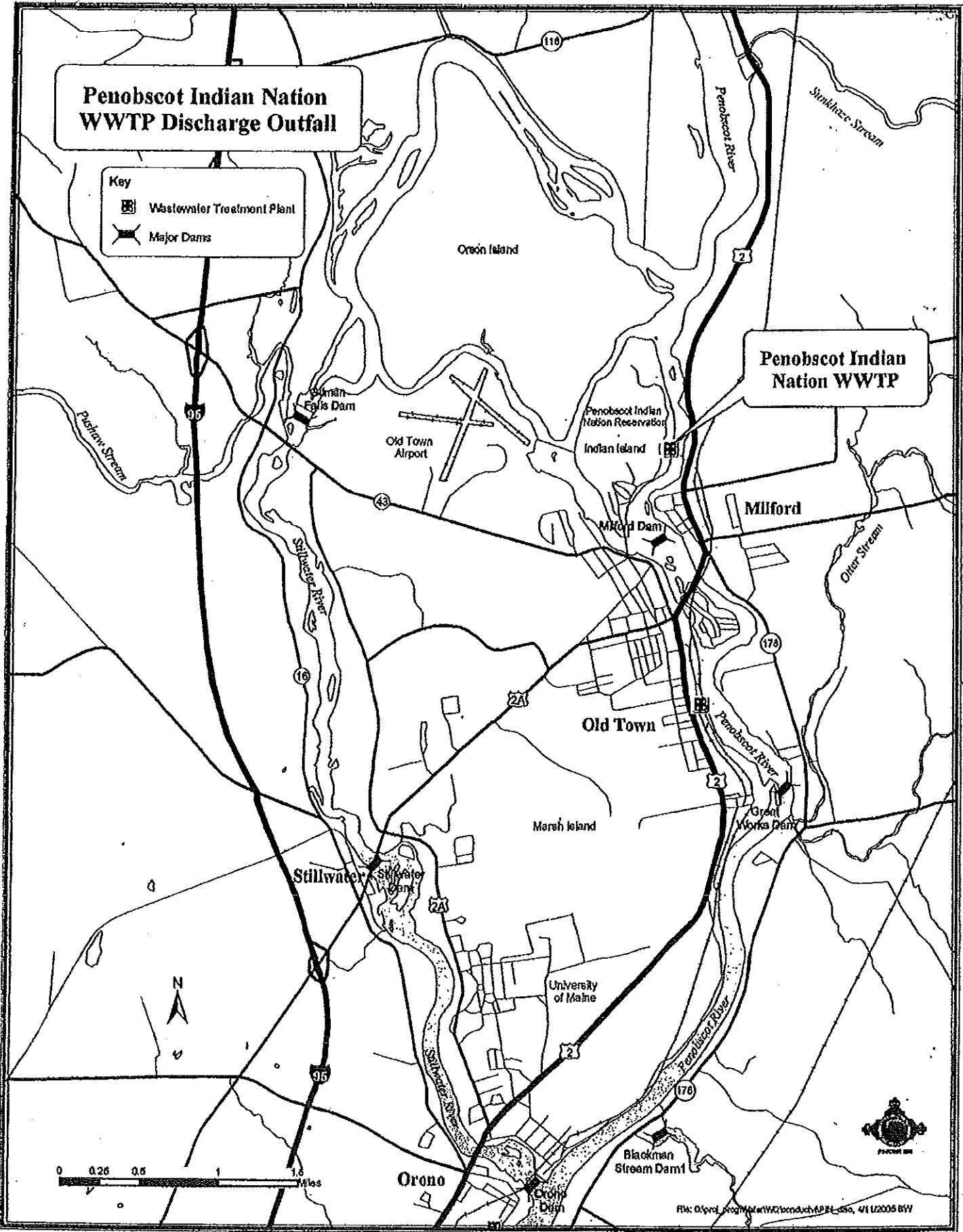
During the period October 24, 2012 through the issuance date of the permit, the Department solicited comments on the proposed draft permit for the permittee's facility. The Department did not receive comments from the permittee, state or federal agencies or interested parties that resulted in any substantive change(s) in the terms and conditions of the permit. Therefore, the Department has not prepared a Response to Comments.

# ATTACHMENT A

# Penobscot Indian Nation WWTP Discharge Outfall

### Key

-  Wastewater Treatment Plant
-  Major Dams



0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 Miles





# ATTACHMENT B



STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

CHAPTER 530.2(D)(4) CERTIFICATION

PAUL R. LEPAGE  
GOVERNOR

PATRICIA W. AHO  
Commissioner

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

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

COMMENTS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AUGUSTA  
17 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017  
(207) 287-7688 FAX: (207) 287-7826  
RAY BLDG., HOSPITAL ST.

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 04769-2094  
(207) 764-0477 FAX: (207) 760-3143

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**A. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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

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

(a) They are not

- (i) Designated as toxic or hazardous under the provisions of Sections 307 and 311, respectively, of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; Title 38, Section 420, Maine Revised Statutes; or other applicable State Law; or
- (ii) Known to be hazardous or toxic by the licensee.

(b) The discharge of such materials will not violate applicable water quality standards.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**B. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF FACILITIES**

**1. General facility requirements.**

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

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

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maximize removal of pollutants unless authorization to the contrary is obtained from the Department.

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

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

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

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

**5. Bypasses.**

(a) Definitions.

- (i) Bypass means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.
- (ii) Severe property damage means substantial physical damage to property, damage to the treatment facilities which causes them to become inoperable, or substantial and permanent loss of natural resources which can reasonably be expected to occur in the absence of a bypass. Severe property damage does not mean economic loss caused by delays in production.

(b) Bypass not exceeding limitations. The permittee may allow any bypass to occur which does not cause effluent limitations to be exceeded, but only if it also is for essential maintenance to assure efficient operation. These bypasses are not subject to the provisions of paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section.

(c) Notice.

- (i) Anticipated bypass. If the permittee knows in advance of the need for a bypass, it shall submit prior notice, if possible at least ten days before the date of the bypass.

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(ii) Unanticipated bypass. The permittee shall submit notice of an unanticipated bypass as required in paragraph D(1)(f), below. (24-hour notice).

(d) Prohibition of bypass.

(i) Bypass is prohibited, and the Department may take enforcement action against a permittee for bypass, unless:

(A) Bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;

(B) There were no feasible alternatives to the bypass, such as the use of auxiliary treatment facilities, retention of untreated wastes, or maintenance during normal periods of equipment downtime. This condition is not satisfied if adequate back-up equipment should have been installed in the exercise of reasonable engineering judgment to prevent a bypass which occurred during normal periods of equipment downtime or preventive maintenance; and

(C) The permittee submitted notices as required under paragraph (c) of this section.

(ii) The Department may approve an anticipated bypass, after considering its adverse effects, if the Department determines that it will meet the three conditions listed above in paragraph (d)(i) of this section.

**6. Upsets.**

(a) Definition. Upset means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology based permit effluent limitations because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the permittee. An upset does not include noncompliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, inadequate treatment facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless or improper operation.

(b) Effect of an upset. An upset constitutes an affirmative defense to an action brought for noncompliance with such technology based permit effluent limitations if the requirements of paragraph (c) of this section are met. No determination made during administrative review of claims that noncompliance was caused by upset, and before an action for noncompliance, is final administrative action subject to judicial review.

(c) Conditions necessary for a demonstration of upset. A permittee who wishes to establish the affirmative defense of upset shall demonstrate, through properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs, or other relevant evidence that:

(i) An upset occurred and that the permittee can identify the cause(s) of the upset;

(ii) The permitted facility was at the time being properly operated; and

(iii) The permittee submitted notice of the upset as required in paragraph D(1)(f), below. (24 hour notice).

(iv) The permittee complied with any remedial measures required under paragraph B(4).

(d) Burden of proof. In any enforcement proceeding the permittee seeking to establish the occurrence of an upset has the burden of proof.

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**C. MONITORING AND RECORDS**

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

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

**3. Monitoring and records.**

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



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**D. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

**1. Reporting requirements.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**5. Publicly owned treatment works.**

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

**E. OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# DEP INFORMATION SHEET

## Appealing a Department Licensing Decision

Dated: March 2012

Contact: (207) 287-2811

### 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) in an administrative process before the Board of Environmental Protection ("Board"); or (2) in 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.A. § 3451(4)) or a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project (38 M.R.S.A. § 480-HH(1)) or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project (38 M.R.S.A. § 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.A. §§ 341-D(4) & 346, the *Maine Administrative Procedure Act*, 5 M.R.S.A. § 11001, and the DEP's *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters* ("Chapter 2"), 06-096 CMR 2 (April 1, 2003).

#### HOW LONG YOU HAVE 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 after 30 calendar days of the date on which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board will be rejected.

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

Signed original appeal documents must be sent to: Chair, Board of Environmental Protection, c/o Department of Environmental Protection, 17 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0017; faxes are acceptable for purposes of meeting the deadline when followed by the Board's receipt of mailed original documents within five (5) working days. Receipt on a particular day must be by 5:00 PM at DEP's offices in Augusta; materials received after 5:00 PM are not considered received until the following day. The person appealing a licensing decision must also send the DEP's Commissioner a copy of the appeal documents and if the person appealing is not the applicant in the license proceeding at issue the applicant must also be sent a copy of the appeal documents. All of the information listed in the next section must be submitted at the time the appeal is filed. Only the extraordinary circumstances described at the end of that section will justify evidence not in the DEP's record at the time of decision being added to the record for consideration by the Board as part of an appeal.

#### WHAT YOUR APPEAL PAPERWORK MUST CONTAIN

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

1. *Aggrieved Status.* The appeal must explain how the person filing the appeal has standing to maintain an appeal. This requires an explanation of how the person filing the appeal 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.* Specific references and facts regarding the appellant's issues with the decision must be provided in the notice of appeal.
3. *The basis of the objections or challenge.* If possible, specific regulations, statutes or other facts should be referenced. This may include citing omissions of relevant requirements, and errors believed to have been made in interpretations, conclusions, and relevant requirements.
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 arguments specifically raised in the written notice of appeal.
6. *Request for hearing.* The Board will hear presentations on appeals at its regularly scheduled meetings, unless a public hearing on the appeal is requested and granted. A request for public hearing on an appeal must be filed as part of the notice of appeal.
7. *New or additional evidence to be offered.* The Board may allow new or additional evidence, referred to as supplemental evidence, to be considered by the Board in an appeal only when the evidence is relevant and material and that the person seeking to add information to the record can show due diligence in bringing the evidence to the DEP's attention at the earliest possible time in the licensing process or that the evidence itself is newly discovered and could not have been presented earlier in the process. Specific requirements for additional evidence are found in Chapter 2.

#### **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, made easily accessible by DEP. Upon request, the DEP will make the material available during normal working hours, provide space to review the file, and provide 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 questions regarding applicable requirements.
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. 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, including 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, and any materials submitted in response to the appeal will be sent to Board members with a recommendation from DEP staff. Persons filing appeals and interested persons are notified in advance of the date set for Board consideration of an appeal or request for public hearing. 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, a 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.A. § 346(1); 06-096 CMR 2; 5 M.R.S.A. § 11001; & 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. Failure to file a timely appeal will result in the Board's or the Commissioner's decision becoming final.

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.A. § 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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