



STATE OF MAINE
Department of Environmental Protection

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

Patricia W. Aho
COMMISSIONER

September 5, 2012

Mr. Scott Firmin
Plant/Systems Manager-Wastewater
Portland Water District
225 Douglas Street, P.O. Box 3553
Portland, ME 04104

RE: Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit #ME0102121
Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) Application #W006751
Minor Revision

Dear Mr. Firmin:

Pursuant to Maine law, 38 M.R.S.A., §420, sub-§1-B[F], this letter constitutes a minor revision of the above referenced MEPDES permit to reduce the monitoring frequency for total mercury from four times per year (4/Year) to once per year (1/Year).

This determination constitutes a final agency action effective Thursday, September 6, 2012.

Please note the attached appeal procedures.

If you have any questions regarding the matter, please feel free to contact Gregg Wood or Sterling Pierce of my staff at 287-3901.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Michael Kuhns'.

Michael Kuhns
Director, Bureau of Land and Water Quality

Enc.

cc: Stuart Rose, DEP/SMRO
Sandy Mojica, USEPA

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Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Notice of Re-calculation of Interim Limits for the Discharge of Mercury Cape Elizabeth Wastewater Treatment Facility MEPDES License # ME0102121 State License # 6751

Chapter 519 of the Department's rules entitled "Interim Effluent Limitations and Controls for the Discharge of Mercury" establishes methods by which the Department sets interim mercury limits for licensees discharging treated wastewater to the waters of the State. Section 6 of Chapter 519 allows a licensee, with proper documentation, to request adjustment of those limits for one or more of the following reasons: water conservation; production changes; or, seasonal changes.

On February 16, 2012, the Department received a letter from the Portland Water District (PWD) requesting to adjust the limits set for PWD Cape Elizabeth Wastewater Treatment Facility (Cape Elizabeth Facility) in 2001 based on the results for further testing conducted by PWD to comply with the provisions of the rule. The interim limits set for the Cape Elizabeth Facility are 15.2 nanograms/liter as an average concentration and 22.8 nanograms/liter as a maximum concentration. These limits were set based on the analysis of four samples taken in November and December of 1998 and May and December of 1999. Three of the four samples used to set the interim mercury limits for the Cape Elizabeth Facility were taken in the autumn with the fourth sample taken in the spring. The Cape Elizabeth Facility is a large facility and is required to sample for mercury quarterly. As samples were taken in other seasons, it became clear that there is a seasonal variability in the concentration of mercury discharged from the Cape Elizabeth Facility.

The Department recalculated the interim mercury limit for the Cape Elizabeth Facility based on data collected before the interim limits were established and data collected in the forty-eight month period after the interim limits were established. There were twenty additional mercury analyses conducted for the facility during the forty-eight month period, giving a total of thirty sample results. This number of results yields more statistically significant average upon which to base the interim sample calculation. The sampling results and the recalculated limits are as follows:

Sampling Date	Sample Results		Sampling Date	Sample Results	
11/9/1998	4.39	p.p.t.	8/20/2001	10.7	p.p.t.
12/10/1998	2.02	p.p.t.	12/5/2001	26.8	p.p.t.
5/17/1999	6.76	p.p.t.	3/13/2002	28.4	p.p.t.
12/28/1999	3.58	p.p.t.	6/16/2002	23.7	p.p.t.
6/14/2000	83	p.p.t.	9/18/2002	4.58	p.p.t.
8/9/2000	7.68	p.p.t.	12/11/2002	6.31	p.p.t.
8/23/2000	7.7	p.p.t.	3/17/2003	5.65	p.p.t.
8/23/2000	23.1	p.p.t.	6/15/2003	36.9	p.p.t.
9/18/2000	24.8	p.p.t.	9/22/2003	4.12	p.p.t.
12/6/2000	7.04	p.p.t.	12/16/2003	2.06	p.p.t.
3/19/2001	6.14	p.p.t.	2/18/2004	6.96	p.p.t.
6/20/2001	21.9	p.p.t.	4/26/2004	6.42	p.p.t.

Average Concentration Limit: 18.63 p.p.t.
Maximum Concentration Limit 27.95 p.p.t.

These limits are effective as of: **March 1, 2012**