



Maine Department of Environmental Protection

Bureau of Land & Water Quality

O&M Newsletter

June 2009

A monthly newsletter for wastewater discharge licensees, treatment facility operators, and associated persons

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Approved Training

June 16, 2009 in Gray, ME -VSWS & Class I Water Certification Exam Review – Sponsored by MRWA – Approved for 3 hours

June 17, 2009 in Scarborough, ME - Class II Water Treatment & Distribution Certification Exam Review – Sponsored by MRWA – Approved for 4.5 hours

Note: JETCC stands for Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee – PO Box 487 – Scarborough, ME 04070-0487 – Tel (207) 253-8020

MRWA stands for Maine Rural Water Association - 14 Maine Street, Box 36 - Brunswick, ME 04011 – Tel (207) 729-6569

eDMR Update

Here's what's going on with eDMR.

Over 180 facilities are now using eDMR. Quite a few have gone entirely paperless and we expect most of you who are using the system will be able to stop your paper DMRs in the near future.

In March and April, the eDMR system was very slow on the 15th of the month. We monitored things closely of the 15th of May and saw no unusual delays in the system. It's still not a bad idea to "file" a day or two early and avoid any slow response problem.

If you have any other comments or concerns, please let me know. I plan to do this type of update every month to keep everyone on the same page.

Dick Darling

DMR-QA STUDY 29 UPDATE

The current Discharge Monitoring Report-Quality Assurance (DMR-QA) Study 29 officially began on May 15, 2009. Facilities should have received their DMR-QA booklets before then. Unfortunately, many facilities either received their 2009 booklets late or not at all this year. This is due to EPA generating a new DMR-QA list from a different database. This has created some errors and delays. Please contact me if you routinely have participated in DMR-QA over the years and have not yet received a booklet from EPA this year. I can send you an electronic version via email. You could also find it on either the EPA or PT Provider Lab websites for download.

Please remember to email your verification to me (not EPA) in 2009. Please include any needed address corrections. You should order your Proficiency Testing (PT) samples from your PT Provider lab as usual. You will have until August 31st to do the DMR-QA test analyses and submit your ungraded “Data Reports” to each PT Provider lab involved. Please include your NPDES permit number with your data. Your PT Provider lab must receive the test results by the August 31, 2009 deadline or they will be considered invalid by the lab.

You should send your single “Permittee Data Package” to me by October 16, 2009 to complete Study 29. If all results were “Acceptable”, you are done for 2009.

Ken Jones

State DMR-QA Coordinator

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For Practice

1. The Mean Cell Residence Time (MCRT) is
 - a. The length of time an average microbe spends in the aeration basin.
 - b. The length of time an average microbe spends in the secondary clarifier and return sludge line.
 - c. The length of time an average microbe spends in the treatment system before being wasted or lost in the effluent.
 - d. The ratio of the solids in the aeration basin to the solids in the primary effluent.
2. The term most commonly used for untreated wastewater is
 - a. Aerobic
 - b. Septic
 - c. Ground
 - d. Raw
3. The letters MSDS stand for:
 - a. Maine Safety Determination Specifications
 - b. Material Safety Data Sheet
 - c. Materials Source and Delivery Sheet
 - d. Management Specifications for Determining Safety
4. If a chemical feed pump will supply a maximum of 5,000 pounds per day, what is the maximum feed rate in gallons per minute?
 - a. 0.22 gpm
 - b. 0.34 gpm
 - c. 0.42 gpm
 - d. 0.54 gpm

Noncompliance Review Process

As operators of wastewater treatment facilities, you may have received letters, warnings, orders and/or fines from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for noncompliance with the terms and conditions of your discharge license, DEP rules and/or State laws. You may have wondered (amongst other things), “Why me?” Most of these compliance or enforcement actions are the result of the Noncompliance Review Process. Although much of this process was in already in place, it was formalized as part of Maine’s delegation of authority to administer EPA’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program in 2001. The MEPDES program is administered by DEP’s Division of Water Quality Management, which includes the Licensing, Compliance and Technical Assistance, Enforcement and Engineering Sections.

Compliance inspection staff in the water program have the initial and primary responsibility to ensure ongoing compliance with applicable water rules/statutes and waste discharge license limits, schedules and other narrative requirements. Compliance is ensured through routine reviews of discharge monitoring reports, site investigations, facility inspections, education, technical assistance or outreach and by using the compliance and enforcement tools and procedures outlined in this policy. The inspectors’ reviews and actions to prevent or correct problems are important elements of an effective compliance strategy. If the individual staff person is unable to obtain a satisfactory resolution, or if the violation warrants formal enforcement action, the case is forwarded to the Noncompliance Review Committee (NCR) or to enforcement section.

The NCR committee meets monthly and is comprised of the division director, compliance section leaders from each of the regional offices, enforcement and licensing staff. The NCR process serves as the primary vehicle for reviewing/discussing compliance status of all licensed municipal and industrial wastewater treatment facilities. Violations, or potential violations, are placed on each month’s agenda by facility inspectors based upon reviews of inspection reports, discharge monitoring reports, or at the request of a staff person or a committee member. In addition to considering violations, the NCR committee may focus on technical assistance and pollution prevention strategies in an effort to prevent violations and improve treatment plant performance.

In review of violations and deciding what action(s) should be taken, thoughtful consideration is given to the circumstances of a particular situation within a general framework for appropriate responses. In general, the objective is to address violations at the lowest and least formal level which is appropriate. The range of responses which can be considered include:

- Monitor for recurrence or effectiveness of corrective actions
- Facility inspection, phone call or letter
- General educational assistance / referral to technical assistance unit
- Letter of Warning
- Notice of Violation with corrective actions
- Administrative Consent Agreement with penalties
- Referral to the Office of the Attorney General (Superior or Administrative court)
- Referral to EPA for action in federal court

Consistent with the Department Compliance Policy, more significant compliance problems call for more structured responses which increase progressively with the magnitude, frequency or duration of compliance problems. There are certain violations which must be considered serious events for which formal enforcement actions will be considered as appropriate first responses. Such events include, but are not limited to, one time spills causing environmental impacts; repeated or continuing violations; instances where violations result in competitive or economic windfalls; intentional violations; the need for binding compliance schedules; or situations where program policies or precedents must be reinforced. Informal, cooperative efforts to address minor problems in support of voluntary compliance are the preferred route when appropriate. Even beyond any incidents of noncompliance, all staff are encouraged to proactively seek out opportunities improve to performance using educational and pollution prevention opportunities.

For most issues, progress will be reviewed at least every 30 days; for the majority of the cases, the NCR meeting will be the vehicle to complete such periodic reviews. The time expectations for completion of a compliance response will vary greatly with the individual problem(s) being addressed. Simple matters may be fully addressed with the exchange of letters. Complicated facility or collection system improvements may require several years of construction. A technical assistance project may be completed in a relatively short time, but lead to a lengthier implementation schedule for recommended improvements. In order to accommodate such variability, periodic reviews are needed to assure reasonable progress and the flexibility to adapt or escalate responses.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and compliance. Please call your DEP Compliance Inspector or the author, if you have further questions or comments.

Chuck Rossoll
Enforcement Section

Certification News

Results from the May 13, 2009 exam will be sent to those who took the test as soon as we have them. Applications for the November 18, 2009 exam must be postmarked by September 26, 2009 or hand-delivered to the DEP Augusta office on September 28, 2009

Spring Exam

More than 60 individuals applied to take an operator certification exam in May. That's the largest number of applicants we've had in a long time. Good luck to all who will be taking and exam.



Answers to For Practice:

1. c. The Mean Cell Residence Time is the amount of time a typical biomass cell spends in the treatment system, including the aeration basins, clarifiers and return lines, before it is removed by wasting or loss in the effluent.
2. d. Untreated wastewater is called Raw Wastewater.
3. b. MSDS stands for Material Safety Data Sheet
4. c. The pump delivers 5,000 pounds/day which is 208.33 pounds/hour or 3.47 pounds/minute. 1 gallon weighs 8.34 pounds so the feed rate is $3.47/8.34 = 0.42$ gallons/minute

New DMR Format

Part of the implementation of the Electronic Discharge Monitoring Report (eDMR) system will include a minor change to the paper DMR form. You will probably remember back a few years when we changed from the multi-part DMRs to the single, laser printed DMRs we use now. The new DMRs will also be laser printed, but will have a slightly different format.

The current DMRs have two columns for Quantity Limits and three columns for Concentration Limits. The new format will have three columns for Quantity Limits and three columns for Concentration Limits. If you are required to report monthly average, weekly average and daily maximum quantities for BOD and TSS, you can report them on one line of the new DMR rather than on two lines as you have to do with the current DMR format. The pictures on the following page show the old and new DMR formats.

Your limits will not change and the parameters you are required to report will not change. The only thing different is where you put the numbers. You should expect to see the new DMR format when you receive the June, 2009 DMRs.

PERMITTEE NAME/ADDRESS (Include Facility Name, Location & Difference) NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) DISCHARGE MONITORING REPORT (DMR)

Name BREWER, CITY OF MAJOR (SUBR. BA)
 Address 80 N. MAIN STREET F - FINAL
 CITY HALL
 BREWER ME 04412
 BREWER WWTFF
 BREWER ME 04412
 ATTN: KENNETH LOCKE

ME0100072 PERMIT NUMBER
 001 A DISCHARGE NUMBER

MONITORING PERIOD
 FROM 07 10 01 TO 07 10 31

TREATED WASTEWATERS
 SECONDARY EFFLUENT
 *** NO DISCHARGE CGT ***

PARAMETER	QUANTITY OR LOADING			UNITS	QUALITY OR CONCENTRATION			UNITS	NO. EX.	FREQUENCY OF ANALYSIS	SAMPLE TYPE
	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM	REPORT DAILY MX		MINIMUM	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM				
BOD, 5-DAY (20 DEG. C) 00310 W 0 0 SEE COMMENTS BELOW	1947 WKLY AVG	*****	*****	LBS/DY (26)	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	WEEK-DAYS	COMP24
BOD, 5-DAY (20 DEG. C) 00310 I 0 0 EFFLUENT GROSS VALUE	1298 MO AVG	*****	*****	LBS/DY (19)	30 MO AVG	45 WKLY AVG	50 DAILY MX	*****	*****	WEEK-DAYS	COMP24
PH 00400 I 0 0 EFFLUENT GROSS VALUE	*****	*****	*****	*****	6.0 MINIMUM	*****	9.0 MAXIMUM	*****	*****	DAILY	GRAB
SOLIDS, TOTAL SUSPENDED 00530 W 0 0 SEE COMMENTS BELOW	1947 WKLY AVG	*****	*****	LBS/DY (26)	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	WEEK-DAYS	COMP24
SOLIDS, TOTAL SUSPENDED 00530 I 0 0 EFFLUENT GROSS VALUE	1298 MO AVG	*****	*****	LBS/DY (19)	30 MO AVG	45 WKLY AVG	50 DAILY MX	*****	*****	WEEK-DAYS	COMP24
SOLIDS, SETTLEABLE 00545 I 0 0 EFFLUENT GROSS VALUE	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	0.3 DAILY MX	*****	*****	DAILY	GRAB
FLOW, IN CONDUIT OR THRU TREATMENT PLANT 50050 I 0 0 EFFLUENT GROSS VALUE	5.19 MO AVG	*****	*****	MGD (03)	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	CONTINUOUS	RECORD

NAME/TITLE PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER: _____ TELEPHONE: _____ DATE: _____

TYPED OR PRINTED: _____ SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER OR AUTHORIZED AGENT: _____ AREA CODE: _____ NUMBER: _____ YEAR: _____ MO: _____ DAY: _____

COMMENTS AND EXPLANATION OF ANY VIOLATION (Reference to Attachment A here)
 FOR PARAMETER 50008 ENTER 1 FOR TESTING WAS DONE AND 0 FOR TESTING NOT DONE

00817/071016-0722 1

This is an example of the Present DMR Format

PERMITTEE NAME/ADDRESS (Include Facility Name, Location & Difference) MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (MEPDES) DISCHARGE MONITORING REPORT (DMR)

Name BREWER WWTFF MAJOR (E/PO)
 Address 80 N. MAIN ST
 BREWER, ME 04412

ME0100072 PERMIT NUMBER
 001 A DISCHARGE NUMBER

MONITORING PERIOD
 FROM 2007 10 01 TO 2007 10 31

BREWER WWTFF
 BREWER, ME 04412
 ATTN: Kenneth Locke

CLARISSA TRUSIO
 *** NO DISCHARGE ***

PARAMETER	QUANTITY OR LOADING			UNITS	QUALITY OR CONCENTRATION			UNITS	NO. EX.	FREQUENCY OF ANALYSIS	SAMPLE TYPE
	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM		MINIMUM	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM				
BOD, 5-DAY (20 DEG. C) 00310 I 0 0 EFFLUENT GROSS VALUE	1298 MO AVG	1947 WKLY AVG	***** REPORT DAILY MX	LBS/DY	30 MO AVG	45 WKLY AVG	50 DAILY MX	MG/L	19	WEEK-DAYS	COMP24
PH 00400 I 0 0 EFFLUENT GROSS VALUE	*****	*****	*****	*****	6 MINIMUM	*****	9 MAXIMUM	SU	12	DAILY	GRAB
SOLIDS, TOTAL SUSPENDED 00530 I 0 0 EFFLUENT GROSS VALUE	1298 MO AVG	1947 WKLY AVG	***** REPORT DAILY MX	LBS/DY	30 MO AVG	45 WKLY AVG	50 DAILY MX	MG/L	19	WEEK-DAYS	COMP24
SOLIDS, SETTLEABLE 00545 I 0 0 EFFLUENT GROSS VALUE	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	0.3 DAILY MX	ML/L	25	DAILY	GRAB
FLOW, IN CONDUIT OR THRU TREATMENT PLANT 50050 I 0 0 EFFLUENT GROSS VALUE	*****	5.19 MO AVG	*****	MGAL/DAY	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	CONTINUOUS	RECORD
BOD, 5-DAY PERCENT REMOVAL 83030 I 0 0 PERCENT REMOVAL	*****	*****	*****	*****	85 DAILY MIN	*****	*****	PERCENT	23	ONCE/MONTH	CALCTD
SOLIDS, SUSPENDED PERCENT REMOVAL 83031 I 0 0 PERCENT REMOVAL	*****	*****	*****	*****	85 DAILY MIN	*****	*****	PERCENT	23	ONCE/MONTH	CALCTD

NAME/TITLE PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER: _____ TELEPHONE: _____ DATE: _____

TYPED OR PRINTED: _____ SIGNATURE OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICER OR AUTHORIZED AGENT: _____ AREA CODE: _____ NUMBER: _____ YEAR: _____ MO: _____ DAY: _____

COMMENTS AND EXPLANATION OF ANY VIOLATION (Reference to Attachment A here)
 FOR PARAMETER 50008 ENTER 1 FOR TESTING WAS DONE AND 0 FOR TESTING NOT DONE

This is an example of the New DMR Format