July 22, 2009

Mr. Tom Danielson

Maine DEP

17State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

Dear Mr. Danielson,

Please accept this as a comment on Chapter 583, Nutrient Criteria for Fresh Surface Waters.

The draft rule combining phosphorus limits with other nutrient indicators to determine impairment of a water body is a realistic and flexible approach. Water quality is influenced by chemical constituents, geographic features, and land use patterns both past and present.

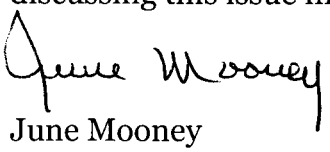
The community of wastewater treatment professionals generally agrees with the intent of Chapter 583, but questions have been raised that show a need for a stakeholder process. Some of the questions are:

- What is the cost of this rule? Treatment for nutrient removal may require construction of, or remodeling of, treatment facilities. Chemical precipitation and flocculation generate residuals in need of disposal, and require operator expertise.
- Additional treatment processes will require energy for operation. Will the environmental effects of this additional energy production be considered before any new requirements are placed on POTW's?
- Has the wastewater treatment community had time to test and evaluate the current status of operation with regards to phosphate discharges? Reliable data can only come from routine testing over time. Cycles of wet weather and drought impact treatment processes, and dilution of plant effluent into receiving waters.
- What are the requirements for the 'set of samples' that would be used to establish receiving body compliance or non-compliance with the proposed rule? How many years of data and what analyses or models will be needed to establish this basis? For the receiving bodies not yet studied, is there a plan in place to evaluate them and what is the timeline and associated costs?
- What kind of analytical procedures will be used to test for phosphate? Digestion methods require hazardous chemicals and generate hazardous waste.

- Will NPDES permits have phosphorus limits? And if so, what kind of monitoring will be required?
- 32 public water suppliers in Maine are required to add phosphate to drinking water for lead and copper corrosion control, in compliance with the EPA Lead and Copper rule. What impact does this have on wastewater utilities that receive this treated water? This is a component of the waste stream that is not going to go away.

Maine Waste Water Control Association members are concerned that the applicability of the rule and the associated ramifications are not well described, which makes it impossible for them to plan for the future and know how the proposed rule will impact them.

The Maine Waste Water Control Association Fall Convention is looking forward to discussing this issue in depth.



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Co Chair, MWWCA Laboratory Committee

| PWSID | NAME | UNIT NAME | OBJECTIVE NAME | PROCESS NAME |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ME0090280 | AQUA MAIN INC BUCKSPORT DIV | GENERIC UNIT | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, ORTHOPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090300 | AQUA MAINE INC CAMDEN & ROCKLAND DIV | ORTHO PHOS | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, ORTHOPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090580 | AQUA MAINE INC FREEPORT DIVISION | INHIBITOR | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, BIMETALLIC PHOSPHAT |
| ME0090580 | AQUA MAINE INC FREEPORT DIVISION | SEQUESTRATION | CORROSION CONTROL | SEQUESTRATION |
| ME0091537 | AQUA MAINE INC UNION DIVISION | PHOSPHATES | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, ORTHOPHOSPHATE |
| ME0091565 | AQUA MAINE INC WARREN DIVISION | ZINC OTHOPHOSPH | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, ORTHOPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090070 | AUBURN WATER DISTRICT | ORTHO-POLY-PHOS | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, ORTHOPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090130 | BATH WATER DISTRICT | POLYPHOSPHATE | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, POLYPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090150 | BERWICK WATER DEPARTMENT | ORTHOPHOSPHATE | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, ORTHOPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090170 | BIDDEFORD AND SACO WATER CO | POLYPHOSPHATE | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, POLYPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090260 | BRUNSWICK / TOPSHAM WATER DIST | GENERIC UNIT | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, POLYPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090260 | BRUNSWICK / TOPSHAM WATER DIST | POLY CC | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, POLYPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090270 | BUCKFIELD VILLAGE CORPORATION | ORTHO-POLY-PHOS | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, ORTHOPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090320 | CARIBOU UTILITIES DISTRICT | CORROSION CNTRL | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, ORTHOPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090350 | CLINTON WATER DISTRICT | POLY PHOSPHATE | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, POLYPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090460 | DIXFIELD WATER & SEWER DEPT | POLY-ORTHO PHOS | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, ORTHOPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090470 | DOVER-FOXCROFT WATER DISTRICT | GENERIC UNIT | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, ORTHOPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090570 | FRANKLIN WATER DEPT | GENERIC UNIT | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, POLYPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090610 | GARDINER WATER DISTRICT | PHOSPHATES | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, POLYPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090080 | GREATER AUGUSTA UTILITY DISTRICT | GENERIC UNIT | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, POLYPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090080 | GREATER AUGUSTA UTILITY DISTRICT | ORTHO-POLY-PHOS | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, ORTHOPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090650 | HALLOWELL WATER DISTRICT | POLYPHOSPHATE | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, POLYPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090690 | HEBRON WATER COMPANY | SEAQUEST | CORROSION CONTROL | SEQUESTRATION |
| ME0090750 | KENNEBEC WATER DISTRICT | POLYPHOSPHATE | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, POLYPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090790 | KITTERY WATER DISTRICT | CALCIQUEST | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, POLYPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090830 | LEWISTON WATER & SEWER DIVISION | ORTHO POLY PHOS | CORROSION CONTROL | PH ADJUSTMENT |
| ME0090840 | LIMESTONE WATER & SEWER DISTRICT | OTHOR | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, ORTHOPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090920 | MADAWASKA WATER DISTRICT | GENERIC UNIT | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, POLYPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090920 | MADAWASKA WATER DISTRICT | ORTHO PHOSPHATE | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, ORTHOPHOSPHATE |
| ME0091140 | MOUNT DESERT WATER DIST NORTH | GENERIC UNIT | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, POLYPHOSPHATE |
| ME0091420 | MOUNT DESERT WATER DIST -SEAL | GENERIC UNIT | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, ORTHOPHOSPHATE |
| ME0091300 | PORTLAND WATER DIST / GREATER | CORROSION CTRL. | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, ORTHOPHOSPHATE |
| ME0091310 | PRESQUE ISLE WATER DISTRICT | CORROSION CNTRL | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, POLYPHOSPHATE |
| ME0090120 | TOWN OF BAR HARBOR- WATER DIVISION | HEXAMETAPHOSPHA | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, HEXAMETAPHOSPHATE |
| ME0091640 | WINTERPORT WATER DISTRICT | POLYPHOSPHATE | CORROSION CONTROL | SEQUESTRATION |
| ME0091650 | WINTHROP UTILITIES DISTRICT | ZINC ORTHO PHOS | CORROSION CONTROL | INHIBITOR, ORTHOPHOSPHATE |