



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



GERALD D. REID
COMMISSIONER

June 13, 2019

TO: Interested Parties of Record

*Sent via electronic mail
Delivery confirmation requested*

**RE: Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit #MEG220000
Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) Application #W009107-5Y-B-R
Finalized General Permit Renewal**

Dear Interested Party:

Attached, please find a reissued Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit #MEG220000 – Discharge of Waste Snow to Ground Waters.

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.*”

Thank you for your efforts to protect and improve the waters of the great state of Maine!

Sincerely,

Cindy L. Dionne
Division of Water Quality Management
Bureau of Water Quality

Enclosure

cc: Barry Mower, DEP
Pamela Parker, DEP
Sterling Pierce, DEP
Lori Mitchell, DEP
Deborah Nadeau, BIW

AUGUSTA
17 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017
(207) 287-7688 FAX: (207) 287-7826

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

Final General Permit for
Snow Discharge WDL
June 13, 2019
Page 2 of 2

Town of Dixfield
Ellen Weitzler, USEPA
Alex Rosenberg, USEPA
Sandy Mojica, USEPA
Solanch Pastrana-Del Valle, USEPA
Marelyn Vega, USEPA
Richard Carvalho, USEPA
Shelley Puleo, USEPA



DEP INFORMATION SHEET

Appealing a Department Licensing Decision

Dated: November 2018

Contact: (207) 287-2452

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

DEADLINE 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 more than 30 calendar days after the date on which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board will be dismissed unless notice of the Commissioner's license decision was required to be given to the person filing an appeal (appellant) and the notice was not given as required.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD

Signed original appeal documents must be sent to: Chair, Board of Environmental Protection, 17 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0017. An appeal may be submitted by fax or e-mail if it contains a scanned original signature. It is recommended that a faxed or e-mailed appeal be followed by the submittal of mailed original paper documents. The complete appeal, including any attachments, must be received at DEP's offices in Augusta on or before 5:00 PM on the due date; materials received after 5:00 pm are not considered received until the following day. The risk of material not being received in a timely manner is on the sender, regardless of the method used. The appellant must also send a copy of the appeal documents to the Commissioner of the DEP; the applicant (if the appellant is not the applicant in the license proceeding at issue); and if a hearing was held on the application, any intervenor in that hearing process. All of the information listed in the next section of this information sheet must be submitted at the time the appeal is filed.

INFORMATION APPEAL PAPERWORK MUST CONTAIN

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

1. *Aggrieved Status.* The appeal must explain how the appellant has standing to maintain an appeal. This requires an explanation of how the appellant 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.* The appeal must identify the specific findings of fact, conclusions regarding compliance with the law, license conditions, or other aspects of the written license decision or of the license review process that the appellant objects to or believes to be in error.
3. *The basis of the objections or challenge.* For the objections identified in Item #2, the appeal must state why the appellant believes that the license decision is incorrect and should be modified or reversed. If possible, the appeal should cite specific evidence in the record or specific licensing requirements that the appellant believes were not properly considered or fully addressed.
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 matters specifically raised in the written notice of appeal.
6. *Request for hearing.* If the appellant wishes the Board to hold a public hearing on the appeal, a request for public hearing must be filed as part of the notice of appeal, and must include an offer of proof in accordance with Chapter 2. The Board will hear the arguments in favor of and in opposition to a hearing on the appeal and the presentations on the merits of an appeal at a regularly scheduled meeting. If the Board decides to hold a public hearing on an appeal, that hearing will then be scheduled for a later date.
7. *New or additional evidence to be offered.* If an appellant wants to provide evidence not previously provided to DEP staff during the DEP's review of the application, the request and the proposed evidence must be submitted with the appeal. The Board may allow new or additional evidence, referred to as supplemental evidence, to be considered in an appeal only under very limited circumstances. The proposed evidence must be relevant and material, and (a) the person seeking to add information to the record must show due diligence in bringing the evidence to the DEP's attention at the earliest possible time in the licensing process; or (b) the evidence itself must be newly discovered and therefore unable to have been presented earlier in the process. Specific requirements for supplemental evidence are found in Chapter 2 § 24.

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, and is made easily accessible by the DEP. Upon request, the DEP will make application materials available during normal working hours, provide space to review the file, and provide an 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 general questions regarding the appeal process.
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. Unless a stay of the decision is requested and granted, 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, and will provide 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, any materials submitted in response to the appeal, and relevant excerpts from the DEP's application review file will be sent to Board members with a recommended decision from DEP staff. The appellant, the license holder if different from the appellant, and any interested persons are notified in advance of the date set for Board consideration of an appeal or request for public hearing. The appellant and the license holder will have an opportunity to address the Board at the Board meeting. 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, the 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. § 346(1); 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 2; 5 M.R.S. § 11001; and 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. 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. § 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.

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.

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

General Permit
Discharge of Waste Snow To Ground Waters

Maine Waste Discharge License



Bureau of Water Quality
General Permit
Waste Discharge License (WDL)

June 13, 2019
#MEG220000
#W009107-5Y-B-R



DEPARTMENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF

GENERAL PERMIT)	
DISCHARGE OF WASTE SNOW TO GROUND WATER))	WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE
STATE OF MAINE)	
#MEG220000)	
#W009107-5Y-B-R)	
)	
APPROVAL)	RENEWAL

In compliance with the applicable provisions of *Waste discharge licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 413, *Conditions of licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 414-A, *General Permits for Certain Wastewater Discharges*, 06-096 CMR 529 (last amended June 27, 2007), *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters*, 06-096 CMR 2 (last amended June 9, 2018), and other applicable regulations, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (Department) has considered the renewal of Maine General Permit (GP) #MEG220000/#W-009107-5Y-A-N issued on February 28, 2014 for the discharge of wastewater from waste snow disposal activities to the surface of the earth and the underlying ground waters of the State.

APPLICATION SUMMARY

Pursuant to applicable laws and rules of the State’s Waste Discharge program, the Department’s Bureau of Water Quality, Division of Water Quality Management has developed a GP for discharges of wastewater from waste snow disposal activities to the ground and the underlying ground water. This GP authorizes a person¹ to discharge wastewater from waste snow disposal activities to the surface of the earth and the underlying ground water of the State classified as GW-A pursuant to *Classifications of ground waters*, 38 M.R.S. § 470, and that meet the standards of their ascribed classification, or where not, only if the discharge does not cause or contribute to the failure of the water body to meet the standards of classification. This GP does not authorize the discharge of wastewater from waste snow disposal activities to any fresh surface water of the State.

REGULATORY SUMMARY

On January 12, 2001, the Department received authorization from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program in Maine. From that point forward, the program has been referred to as the MEPDES permit program. The terms and conditions of this GP are consistent with the requirements established in the MEPDES permit program.

¹ Person as defined under 06-096 C.M.R. 2(1)(P).

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the findings in the attached Fact Sheet, dated June 13, 2019, and subject to the conditions listed in this GP, the Department finds the following facts and makes the following CONCLUSIONS:

1. A discharge(s) covered under this GP, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any classified body of water below such classification.
2. A discharge covered under this GP, 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, *Water Classification Program*, 38 M.R.S. § 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 national resource, that water quality will be maintained and protected;
 - (c) 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 water 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.
4. A discharge covered under this GP is subject to effluent limitations that require application of best practicable treatment (BPT) as defined in *Conditions of licenses* 38 M.R.S. § 414-A(1)(D).

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ACTION

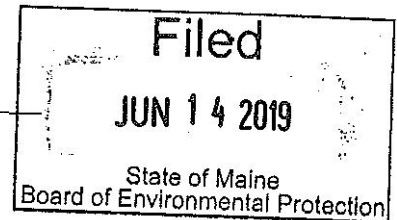
Based on the findings and conclusions as stated above, the Department APPROVES the issuance of General Permit #MEG220000 / W009107-5Y-B-R, for the DISCHARGE OF WASTEWATER FROM WASTE SNOW disposal activities to the surface of the earth and the underlying ground waters of the State, Class GW-A, waters of the State of Maine, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS, including:

1. The following Special Conditions, including any effluent limitations and monitoring requirements.
2. “*Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Standard Conditions Applicable To All Permits*,” revised July 1, 2002, copy attached.
3. This General Permit and the authorization to discharge becomes effective 60 days following the date of signature below and expires at midnight five (5) years from the effective date. If the GP is to be renewed, it will remain in force until the Department takes final action on the renewal. Upon reissuance of a renewal of the GP, persons wishing to continue coverage must apply for coverage under the renewal GP not later than 30 days following the issuance date of the renewal GP. *Maine Administrative Procedure Act*, 5 M.R.S. § 10002 and *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters*, 06-096 C.M.R. 2(21)(A) (amended June 9, 2018).

DONE AND DATED AT AUGUSTA, MAINE THIS 13 DAY OF June, 2019.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BY: [Signature]
for GERALD D. REID, Commissioner



Date filed with Board of Environmental Protection _____

Date of Public Notice: On or about May 8, 2019

This Order prepared by Cindy L. Dionne, BUREAU OF WATER QUALITY

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

A. AUTHORITY

A license is required for the direct or indirect discharge of pollutants to waters of the State pursuant to *Waste discharge licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 413(1). *Snow Dumps: Best Management Practices for Pollution Prevention*, 06-096 CMR 573(3) (effective July 29, 2012) states that a waste discharge license is required for “[d]ischarges of meltwater to ground water from snow dumps that are located wholly or partially within a significant sand and gravel aquifer.” Pursuant to *General Permits for Certain Wastewater Discharges*, 06-096 CMR 529 (last amended June 27, 2007), the Department may issue a general permit authorizing the discharge of certain pollutants from multiple individual discharge sources and locations which all have the same type of discharges and which involve situations where the Department determines there is a relatively low risk for significant environmental impact. The Department has determined that discharges of pollutants contained within snow to ground waters of the State and that conform to the applicability and coverage standards established in the General Permit may be authorized by a general permit.

B. APPLICABILITY AND COVERAGE

This General Permit applies only to discharge of wastewater from waste snow disposal activities to the surface of the earth and the underlying ground waters of the State classified as GW-A pursuant to *Classifications of ground waters*, 38 M.R.S. § 470, and that meet the standards of their ascribed classification, or where not, only if the discharge does not cause or contribute to the failure of the water body to meet the standards of classification. This General Permit does not authorize the discharge of wastewater from waste snow disposal activities to any fresh surface water of the State.

C. NOTIFICATION, DECISIONS AND EFFECTIVE TERM OF COVERAGE

- 1. Notice of Intent (NOI).** The Department will provide a Notice of Intent form to be used with this General Permit. A person² seeking coverage under this General Permit must submit a completed NOI to the Department for review and approval. Forms must be mailed or hand-delivered to:

Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Quality
Division of Water Quality Management
Permitting Section
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017

² Person as defined at 06-096 CMR 2(1)(P).

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

C. NOTIFICATION, DECISIONS AND EFFECTIVE TERM OF COVERAGE

The Department reserves the right to request additional information from the applicant based on review of the NOI. Permitting information, forms, and Augusta office directions may be obtained by contacting the Department's Waste Discharge Permitting Unit at 1-207-287-7688 or toll-free at 1-800-452-1942. Additionally, the General Permit, associated fact sheet and other forms are available for review and download at: <http://www.maine.gov/dep/water/wd/gp.html>.

2. **Public notice.** Within 15 calendar days prior to filing a Notice of Intent with the Department, the person seeking coverage under this General Permit must notify all abutters³ of each proposed discharge point. The notice must be mailed by certified mail or Certificate of Mailing to abutters, as determined by local tax records or other reliable means, to the municipal office of the municipality(ies) where the project is located and, if the project is located in the unorganized or deorganized areas of the State, to the appropriate county commissioners. The notice must contain the following information.
 - a. The legal name, address and telephone number of the person responsible for the discharge.
 - b. A map showing the location of the discharge location(s).
 - c. A description of the area(s) from which snow will be collected for discharge, including an estimate of square feet and/or linear miles of surfaces within the collection area(s).
 - d. The anticipated date for filing the application with the Department.

³ Abutter means a person who owns property that is both (1) adjoining and (2) within 1 mile of the delineated project boundary, including owners of property directly across a public or private right of way. 06-096 CMR (2)(1)(A).

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

C. NOTIFICATION, DECISIONS AND EFFECTIVE TERM OF COVERAGE (cont'd)

3. **NOI information.** A complete NOI must contain the following information.
 - a. Facility, applicant, owner and operator information.
 - b. A statement addressing alternatives to the direct discharge of waste snow, including efforts to avoid the discharge through upland disposal and storage at a site that is not located wholly or partially within a significant sand and gravel aquifer.
 - c. A map showing the location of the discharge location(s) and Global Positioning System (GPS) reference data, if available.
 - d. A description of the area(s) from which snow will be collected for discharge, including an estimate of square feet and/or linear miles of surfaces within the collection area(s).
 - e. Color photographs of the proposed discharge locations(s) that are representative of conditions at the disposal site(s).
 - f. A description of snow and ice treatments used within the collection area(s).
 - g. A description of the litter removal program or screening methods used to satisfy the best management practices established in the General Permit.
 - h. Evidence of title, right or interest (TRI) pursuant to 06-096 CMR 2(11)(D) in all property from which the discharge(s) will occur.
 - i. A list of abutters to whom public notice was provided.
 - j. For corporations, a *Certificate of Good Standing* or a statement signed by a corporate officer affirming that the corporation is in good standing.
 - k. The signature of an authorized person in accordance with *Applications for Waste Discharge Licenses*, 06-096 CMR 521(5) (effective January 12, 2001).

Failure to submit all required NOI information may result in finding the NOI incomplete for processing and may delay processing.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

C. NOTIFICATION, DECISIONS AND EFFECTIVE TERM OF COVERAGE (cont'd)

4. Decisions.

- a. **Effective date of coverage.** Within fifteen (15) working days following receipt of a complete NOI, the Department must issue a decision either approving or denying authorization to discharge under this General Permit. If the Department does not notify the applicant of its decision within fifteen (15) working days following receipt of a complete NOI, the NOI is accepted and authorization to discharge under this General Permit is approved. In the event authorization to discharge under this General Permit is not approved, the Department must notify the applicant of the reason(s) for denying authorization to discharge under this General Permit. Denial of authorization to discharge under this General Permit is not appealable to the Board of Environmental Protection and is not final agency action. The approval of authorization to discharge under this General Permit is appealable in accordance with 38 M.R.S. § 341-D(4).
- b. **Individual license coverage.** The Department may require, or an interested party may request for consideration, that a person authorized to discharge under this General Permit obtain an individual waste discharge license for any of the reasons specified at 06-096 CMR 529(2)(b)(3)(i)(A-G), or, in the opinion of the Department, the discharge is more appropriately controlled under an individual license. A person eligible for coverage under this General Permit may request to be excluded from this General Permit and instead apply for an individual waste discharge license as provided at 06-096 CMR 529(2)(b)(3)(iii).

5. **Effective term of coverage.** The term of this General Permit is five years. Authorization to discharge under this General Permit continues from year to year provided payment of an applicable annual fee pursuant to *Maine Environmental Protection Fund*, 38 M.R.S. § 353-B, that there are no significant changes in the discharge as described in the NOI, and that there are no adverse receiving water quality impacts resulting from the discharge.

Prior to expiration of this General Permit, the Department must make a determination if it is to be renewed, and, if so, will commence renewal proceedings. If the General Permit is to be renewed, it must remain in force until the Department takes final action on the renewal. Upon reissuance of a renewal General Permit, persons wishing to continue coverage must apply for coverage under the renewal General Permit not later than 30 days following the issuance date of the new General Permit.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

C. NOTIFICATION, DECISIONS AND EFFECTIVE TERM OF COVERAGE (cont'd)

6. **Transfers of ownership.** In the event that the person authorized to discharge under this General Permit transfers the responsibility to a new person, coverage under this General Permit may be transferred by the new person proposing to continue a discharge notifying the Department in writing, provided the new person proposing to continue a discharge proposes no significant changes in the facility or its operation. The notice must include documentation that the new person has: 1) the technical and financial capacity to comply with this General Permit; 2) title, right or interest in the facility; and 3) a *Certificate of Good Standing* or a statement signed by a corporate officer affirming that the corporation is in good standing, if applicable. Such notification must be made within two weeks of the transfer. If increases or significant changes in the discharge are proposed, a new NOI must be filed.
7. **Changed conditions.** In the event a person authorized to discharge under this General Permit proposes to make significant changes in the nature or scope of the operations of facilities described in a NOI previously approved, the authorized person must notify the Department as soon as becoming aware of and before implementing such changes. Based on its evaluation of the proposed changes, the Department may require the submittal of a new NOI or that an individual permit is obtained.

D. AUTHORIZED DISCHARGES

A person authorized to discharge under this General Permit is authorized to discharge: 1) only in accordance with the permittee's Notice of Intent; 2) only in accordance with the terms and conditions of this General Permit; and 3) only from the discrete discharge points identified in the approved NOI. Discharges of pollutants from any other point source are not authorized under this General Permit, and must be reported in accordance with Standard Condition D(1)(f), *Twenty-four hour reporting*, of this General Permit.

E. NARRATIVE EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS

1. The discharge must not contain materials in concentrations or combinations which would impair the uses designated by the classification of the ground water.
2. The discharge 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.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

F. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR THE DISCHARGE OF WASTE SNOW

1. Only snow which is removed from the collection area within three (3) days following the end of a snow event may be discharged under this General Permit.
2. The use of salt or sand/salt mixtures in areas from which snow is removed for discharge must be restricted, where appropriate, or consistent with application rates provided by the Maine Department of Transportation. See <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/csd/sandsalt/>

G. RECORD OF ACTIVITIES FOR WASTE SNOW DUMPS

The licensee must maintain a record for snow removal and discharge activities including, but not limited to, the following for each discharge location.

1. Changes in development or snow removal practices that may affect the quality or quantity of waste snow discharged.
2. The approximate quantity (gallons, cubic yards or other measure) of waste snow discharged (e.g., disposed at a site) per day.

A copy of the record of activities must be made available to Department staff upon request.

H. SEVERABILITY

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

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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).

MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT

STANDARD CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL PERMITS

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

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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.

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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.

STATE OF MAINE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**Fact Sheet – General Permit
Discharge of Waste Snow To Ground Waters**

Maine Waste Discharge License



Bureau of Water Quality
General Permit
Waste Discharge License (WDL)

June 13, 2019
#MEG220000
#W009107-5Y-B-R

1. PROCEDURAL AND REGULATORY SUMMARY

On May 23, 2011, the Honorable Paul LePage, Governor of the State of Maine, signed Legislative Resolve Chapter 44, “*Resolve, Directing the Department of Environmental Protection To Amend Its Rules Regarding Snow Dumps*” (Resolves 2011 ch. 44) which directs the Department to review its rules regarding snow dumps to determine “[h]ow the rules may be amended to expedite the licensing process for municipalities that cannot be exempted from the waste discharge licensing requirement” and to ensure “the rules do not conflict with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.”

On October 31, 2013, the Department provided public notice of its intent to issue a new General Permit in accordance with *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters*, 06-096 CMR 2 (last amended May 29, 2013).

On October 31, 2013, the Department issued a draft General Permit for public comment.

2. AUTHORITY

A license is required for the direct or indirect discharge of pollutants to waters of the State. *Waste discharge licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 413(1). *Snow Dumps: Best Management Practices for Pollution Prevention*, 06-096 CMR 573(3) (effective July 29, 2011) states that a waste discharge license is required for “[d]ischarges of meltwater to ground water from snow dumps that are located wholly or partially within a significant sand and gravel aquifer.” Pursuant to *General Permits for Certain Wastewater Discharges*, 06-096 CMR 529 (last amended June 27, 2007), the Department may issue a general permit authorizing the discharge of certain pollutants from multiple individual discharge sources and locations which all have the same type of discharges and which involve situations where the Department determines there is a relatively low risk for significant environmental impact. The Department has determined that discharges of pollutants contained within snow to ground waters of the State and that conform to the applicability and coverage standards established in the General Permit may be authorized by a general permit.

3. GENERAL PERMIT SUMMARY

The Department acknowledges that avoiding upland disposal of waste snow on land that is located wholly or partially within a significant sand and gravel aquifer is not practicable in all communities at all times due to lack of available land owned or controlled by the person responsible for snow removal, economic feasibility of hauling snow long distances, air and other pollution associated with hauling snow, limited capacity of upland alternative disposal and storage sites, particularly during winter seasons with abundant snowfall, and inability to comply with resource setbacks established in 06-096 CMR 573. Pursuant to *Conditions of licenses*, 38 M.R.S. § 414-A(1)(D), this General Permit establishes best management practices as best practicable treatment for the discharge of waste snow to ground waters, Class GW-A, from snow storage areas that are on land that is located wholly or partially within a significant sand and gravel aquifer. Best management practices required by the General Permit include restrictions on the timing of discharges after snow fall events, litter control and minimization of salt and sand-salt mixtures in waste snow.

4. CONDITIONS OF PERMIT

Conditions of licenses, 38 M.R.S. § 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 requirements of the *Federal Water Pollution Control Act*, and ensure that the receiving waters attain the State water quality standards as described in Maine's Surface Water Classification System. In addition, *Certain deposits and discharges prohibited*, 38 M.R.S. § 420 requires the regulation of toxic substances not to exceed levels identified or regulated as toxic and that existing and designated uses of ground waters are maintained and protected.

5. RECEIVING WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

The applicability of this General Permit is restricted to discharges to ground waters of the State classified as GW-A pursuant to *Classification of ground water*, 38 M.R.S. § 470. *Standards for classification of ground waters*, 38 M.R.S. § 465-C describe the standards for Class GW-A waters. Class GW-A shall be the highest classification and shall be of such quality that it can be used for public water supplies. These waters shall be free of radioactive matter or any matter that imparts color, turbidity, taste or odor which would impair usage of these waters, other than that occurring from natural phenomena.

6. DISCHARGE IMPACT ON RECEIVING WATER QUALITY

As permitted, the Department has determined the existing water uses will be maintained and protected and that the discharge will not cause or contribute to the failure of the waters to meet the applicable standards for Class GW-A.

7. PUBLIC NOTICE

The Department provided public notice of its intent to issue a General Permit for the Discharge of Waste Snow in the *Bangor Daily, Morning Sentinel*, and *Portland Press Herald* newspapers on or about May 8, 2019. Public notice provided a 30-day opportunity to request a hearing on the proposed issuance of the General Permit in accordance with *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters*, 06-096 CMR 2(7)(A) (last amended June 9, 2018) and *Application Processing Procedures for Waste Discharge Licenses*, 06-096 CMR 522(8)(b)(1) (effective January 12, 2001) and for public comment on the intent to issue a General Permit through issuance of the final agency action, pursuant to 06-096 CMR 2(16).

8. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Additional information concerning this General Permit may be obtained from:

Cindy L. Dionne
Division of Water Quality Management
Bureau Water Quality
Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017 Telephone: (207) 287-7823
e-mail: cindy.l.dionne@maine.gov

9. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

During the period of May 8, 2019 through the issuance date of the final license, the Department solicited comment on the Proposed draft WDL to be issued for the proposed discharge. The Department did not receive comments that resulted in any substantive change(s) in the terms and conditions of the license. Therefore, the Department has not prepared a Response to Comments.