



STATE OF MAINE
Department of Environmental Protection

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

Patricia W. Aho
COMMISSIONER

May 14, 2015

Mr. Roland M. Arsenault
Environmental Engineer
Catalyst Paper Operations Inc.
35 Hartford Street
Rumford, ME. 04276
e-mail: Roalnd.Arsenault@catylstpaper.com

RE: Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) Permit ME0002054
Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) Application W000955-5N-N-M
Final Permit Modification

Dear Mr. Arsenault:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

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

Enc.

cc: Beth DeHaas, DEP/CMRO
Sandy Mojica, USEPA

Marely Vega, USEPA
Olga Vergara, USEPA

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

BANGOR
106 HOGAN ROAD
BANGOR, MAINE 04401
(207) 941-4570 FAX: (207) 941-4584

PORTLAND
312 CANCO ROAD
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103
(207) 822-6300 FAX: (207) 822-6303

PRESQUE ISLE
1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769-2094
(207) 764-6477 FAX: (207) 764-1507



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

DEPARTMENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF

CATALYST PAPER OPERATIONS INC.)	MAINE POLLUTANT DISCHARGE
RUMFORD, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE)	ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMIT
PULP & PAPER MANUFACTURING FACILITY)	AND
ME0002054)	WASTE DISCHARGE LICENSE
W000955-5N-N-M)	MODIFICATION
APPROVAL)	

Pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Title 33 USC, Section 1251, et. seq., and Maine Law 38 M.R.S.A., Section 414-A et. seq., the Department of Environmental Protection (Department hereinafter) has considered the application of CATALYST PAPER OPERATIONS INC. (Catalyst/permittee hereinafter) to modify Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit ME0002054/Maine Waste Discharge License (WDL) #W000955-5N-G-R issued by the Department on December 20, 2012, and any subsequent modifications thereto, and makes the following findings of fact, conclusions, and decision.

MODIFICATIONS REQUESTED

Catalyst has requested a modification of the schedule of compliance for total cadmium established in Special Condition A, *Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements* and Special Condition P, *Schedule of Compliance – Aluminum, Cadmium and Copper* of the December 20, 2012, permit. Catalyst is in the process of submitting a request to the Department for adoption of site specific ambient water quality criteria (AWQC) for total cadmium. Both Catalyst and the Department do not anticipate the completion of the adoption of the site specific AWQC prior to the deadline in which to come into compliance with the water quality based limit for total cadmium in the December 20, 2012, permit. Catalyst is requesting an extension of the deadline from December 19, 2015, to June 19, 2016.

MODIFICATIONS APPROVED/DENIED

The Department concurs with Catalyst that the adoption of the site specific AWQC for total cadmium will not be completed prior to the deadline in which to come into compliance with the water quality based limit for total cadmium in the December 20, 2012, permit. Therefore, the Department is extending the deadline from December 19, 2015, to June 19, 2016.

CONCLUSIONS

BASED on the findings in the attached Fact Sheet dated April 7, 2015, and subject to the terms and conditions contained herein, the Department makes the following CONCLUSIONS:

1. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any classified body of water below such classification.
2. The discharge, either by itself or in combination with other discharges, will not lower the quality of any unclassified body of water below the classification which the Department expects to adopt in accordance with state law.
3. The provisions of the State's antidegradation policy, 38 M.R.S.A., Section 464(4)(F), will be met, in that:
 - (a) Existing in-stream water uses and the level of water quality necessary to protect and maintain those existing uses will be maintained and protected;
 - (b) Where high quality waters of the State constitute an outstanding 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 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. The discharge will be subject to effluent limitations that require application of best practicable treatment.

ACTION

THEREFORE, the Department hereby approves the application of CATALYST PAPER OPERATION INC., to modify the schedule of compliance for total cadmium established in Special Condition A, *Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements* and Special Condition P, *Schedule of Compliance – Aluminum, Cadmium and Copper* of the December 20, 2012, MEPDES permit, SUBJECT TO THE ATTACHED CONDITIONS, and all applicable standards and regulations including;

1. "Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Standard Conditions Applicable To All Permits," revised July 1, 2002, copy attached to the December 20, 2012 MEPDES permit.
2. The attached Special Conditions, including effluent limitations and monitoring requirements.
3. All other terms and conditions of the December 20, 2012, MEPDES permit, and any subsequent modifications thereto not modified by this order remain in effect and enforceable.
4. This modification becomes effective upon the date of signature below and expires at midnight on December 20, 2017. If a renewal application is timely submitted and accepted as complete for processing prior to the expiration of this permit, the terms and conditions of this permit and all subsequent modifications and minor revisions thereto remain in effect until a final Department decision on the renewal application becomes effective. [*Maine Administrative Procedure Act, 5 M.R.S.A. § 10002 and Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters, 06-096 CMR 2(21)(A) (effective April 1, 2003)*]

PLEASE NOTE ATTACHED SHEET FOR GUIDANCE ON APPEAL PROCEDURES

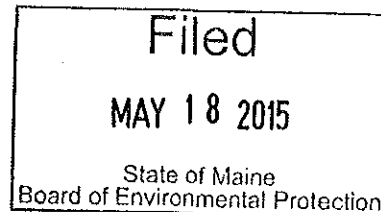
DONE AND DATED AT AUGUSTA, MAINE THIS 18th DAY OF May, 2015

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BY: Michael Kuhn
For Patricia W. Aho, Commissioner

Date of initial receipt of application: March 27, 2015

Date of application acceptance: April 2, 2015



Date filed with Board of Environmental Protection _____

This Order prepared by Gregg Wood, BUREAU OF LAND & WATER QUALITY

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

A. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

OUTFALL #001 – Secondary treated waste waters

Effluent Characteristic	Discharge Limitations						Minimum Monitoring Requirements	
	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Daily Maximum	Monthly Average	Weekly Average	Daily Maximum	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Aluminum (Total) [01105]	Report lbs/day[26]	---	---	Report ug/L [28]	---	---	2/Year [02/YR]	Composite [24]
Aluminum (Total) [01105] (Beginning December 19, 2017)	96 lbs./day [26]	---	---	Report ug/L [28]	---	---	2/Year [02/YR]	Composite [24]
Cadmium (Total) [01027]	Report lbs/day[26]	---	Report lbs/day[26]	Report ug/L [28]	---	Report ug/L [28]	2/Year [02/YR]	Composite [24]
Cadmium (Total) [01027] (Beginning June 19, 2016)	0.28 lbs./day [26]	---	0.72 lbs./day [26]	Report ug/L [28]	---	Report ug/L [28]	2/Year [02/YR]	Composite [24]
Copper (Total) [01042]	Report lbs/day[26]	---	Report lbs/day[26]	Report ug/L [28]	---	Report ug/L [28]	2/Year [02/YR]	Composite [24]
Copper (Total) [01042] (Beginning December 19, 2017)	5.7 lbs./day [26]	---	3.7 lbs./day [26]	Report ug/L [28]	---	Report ug/L [28]	2/Year [02/YR]	Composite [24]
Mercury (Total) ⁽⁹⁾ [50286]	---	---	---	35.8 ng/L [3M]	---	53.7 ng/L [3M]	1/Year [01/YR]	Grab [R]
Zinc (Total) [01092]	---	---	18 lbs./day [26]	---	---	Report ug/L [28]	2/Year [02/YR]	Composite [24]

Footnotes:

See pages 10 -14 of this permit of MEPDES permit #ME0002054/Maine WDL #W000955-5N-G-R dated December 20, 2012.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

P. SCHEDULE OF COMPLIANCE

Beginning upon issuance of this permit, the permittee shall identify sources of and begin investigating source reduction opportunities to mitigate the discharge of total aluminum, total cadmium, total copper and total zinc such that compliance with the water quality based mass limits for said metals established in this permit or alternate limitations established in any subsequent modification thereof are achieved on or before June 19, 2016 (total cadmium) or December 19, 2017 (total aluminum and total copper).

On or before December 31, 2015, (PCS 95999) the permittee shall submit a progress report containing a scope of work, schedule and progress on the implementation of source reduction and or treatment options selected to mitigate the discharge of total aluminum, total cadmium, total copper and total zinc and a progress report on the development of alternate ambient water quality criteria for parameters cited in the November 30, 2013 Site Specific Criteria Development Plan submission.

On or before June 19, 2016, (PCS 05699) the permittee shall be in compliance with the water quality based mass limitations for total cadmium established in this permit or alternate limitations established in any subsequent modification thereof.

On or before December 31, 2016, (PCS 95999) the permittee shall submit a progress report on the implementation of source reduction and or treatment options selected to mitigate the discharge of total aluminum and total copper and a progress report on the development of alternate ambient water quality criteria for parameters cited in the November 30, 2013 Site Specific Criteria Development Plan submission.

On or before December 19, 2017, (PCS 05699) the permittee shall be in compliance with the water quality based mass limitations for total aluminum and total copper established in this permit or alternate limitations established in any subsequent modification thereof.

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

FACT SHEET

Date: April 7, 2015

PERMIT NUMBER: ME0002054

LICENSE NUMBER: W000955-5N-N-M

NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT:

**CATALYST PAPER OPERATIONS INC.
35 Hartford Street
Rumford, Maine 04276**

COUNTY: Oxford County

NAME AND ADDRESS WHERE DISCHARGE OCCURS:

**Rumford Mill
35 Hartford Street
Rumford, Maine 04276**

RECEIVING WATER AND CLASSIFICATION: Androscoggin River/ Class C

COGNIZANT OFFICIAL AND TELEPHONE NUMBER: Mr. Roland M. Arsenault

(207) 369-2260

e-mail: Roalnd.Arsenault@catylstpaper.com

1. MODIFICATIONS REQUESTED

Catalyst Paper Operations Inc. (Catalyst/permittee hereinafter) has submitted an application to the Department of Environmental Protection (Department hereinafter) requesting a modification of the schedule of compliance for total cadmium established in Special Condition A, *Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements* and Special Condition P, *Schedule of Compliance – Aluminum, Cadmium and Copper* of the December 20, 2012 permit. Catalyst is in the process of submitting a request to the Department for adoption of site specific ambient water quality criteria (AWQC) for total cadmium. Both Catalyst and the Department do not anticipate the completion of the adoption of the site specific AWQC prior to the deadline in which to come into compliance with the water quality based limit for total cadmium in the December 20, 2012, permit. Catalyst is requesting an extension of the deadline from December 19, 2015, to June 19, 2016.

2. MODIFICATIONS APPROVED/DENIED

Integral Consulting Inc., on behalf of Catalyst and Verso, requested and received approval from the Department for the development of site-specific ambient water quality criteria (SSC) for three metals utilizing a Water Effects Ratio (WER) study. The work plan, *Draft Revision- Androscoggin River Water Effects Ratio Work Plan – Determinations for Copper, Aluminum, and Cadmium*, was submitted to DEP on May 20, 2013 (in advance of the compliance schedule date of November 2013). The work plan was conditionally approved by DEP, in consultation with EPA Region I, on June 13, 2013.

The goal of the WER study is to quantify the differences in chemical bioavailability and toxicity between the receiving water (i.e., the Androscoggin River) and laboratory water used in developing the current state-wide criteria. The results of the water effects ratio study are used to derive SSC that are both specific for the river being evaluated and protective of human health and aquatic life.

To accomplish the objectives of the approved WER study plan, three seasonal sampling rounds were conducted in the Fall of 2013, Winter of 2014, and Summer of 2014. The results of this extensive study were compiled in a technical report and submitted as a draft to the Maine DEP in February 2015. A technical review meeting was conducted with the Maine DEP on March 4, 2015 to review and discuss the report. As a result of the meeting, the draft technical report will be revised and resubmitted to Maine DEP in the near future.

At the March 4th meeting, the group reviewed the schedule for the administrative process required to modify the permit and adopt the proposed SSC. The group agreed that the anticipated final adoption of SSC would likely not be completed until January 2016 and that there are many uncertainties regarding the administrative process that could introduce additional time to this schedule. The adoption of SSC is not anticipated to occur until after the compliance schedule for Cadmium ends on December 19, 2015. For this reason, Catalyst submitted the application to modify the applicable sections of Special Conditions A and P of the MEPDES permit/WDL to extend the applicable compliance schedule for cadmium by six months to June 19, 2016.

The Department concurs with Catalyst that the adoption of the site specific AWQC for total cadmium will not be completed prior to the deadline in which to come into compliance with the water quality based limit for total cadmium in the December 20, 2012, permit. Therefore, the Department is extending the deadline from December 19, 2015, to June 19, 2016.

3. DISCHARGE IMPACT ON RECEIVING WATER QUALITY

As permitted, the Department has determined the existing water uses will be maintained and protected and the discharge will not cause or contribute to the failure of the waterbody to meet standards for Class C classification.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public notice of this application was made in the Lewiston Sun Journal newspaper on or about March 25, 2015. The Department receives public comments on an application until the date a final agency action is taken on the application. Those persons receiving copies of draft permits shall have at least 30 days in which to submit comments on the draft or to request a public hearing, pursuant to *Application Processing Procedures for Waste Discharge Licenses*, 06-096 CMR 522 (effective January 12, 2001).

5. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

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

Gregg Wood
Division of Water Quality Management
Bureau of Land and Water Quality
Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0017

Telephone (207) 287-7693
Fax (207) 287-3435
email: gregg.wood@maine.gov

6. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

During the period of April 7, 2015, through the issuance date of the permit/license, the Department solicited comments on the proposed draft permit/license modification to be issued for the discharge(s) from the permittee's facility. The Department did not receive comments from the permittee, state or federal agencies or interested parties that resulted in any substantive change(s) in the terms and conditions of the permit. Therefore, the Department has not prepared a Response to Comments.



DEP INFORMATION SHEET

Appealing a Department Licensing Decision

Dated: March 2012

Contact: (207) 287-2811

SUMMARY

There are two methods available to an aggrieved person seeking to appeal a licensing decision made by the Department of Environmental Protection's ("DEP") Commissioner: (1) in an administrative process before the Board of Environmental Protection ("Board"); or (2) in a judicial process before Maine's Superior Court. An aggrieved person seeking review of a licensing decision over which the Board had original jurisdiction may seek judicial review in Maine's Superior Court.

A judicial appeal of final action by the Commissioner or the Board regarding an application for an expedited wind energy development (35-A M.R.S.A. § 3451(4)) or a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project (38 M.R.S.A. § 480-HH(1)) or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project (38 M.R.S.A. § 636-A) must be taken to the Supreme Judicial Court sitting as the Law Court.

This INFORMATION SHEET, in conjunction with a review of the statutory and regulatory provisions referred to herein, can help a person to understand his or her rights and obligations in filing an administrative or judicial appeal.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TO THE BOARD

LEGAL REFERENCES

The laws concerning the DEP's *Organization and Powers*, 38 M.R.S.A. §§ 341-D(4) & 346, the *Maine Administrative Procedure Act*, 5 M.R.S.A. § 11001, and the DEP's *Rules Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters* ("Chapter 2"), 06-096 CMR 2 (April 1, 2003).

HOW LONG YOU HAVE TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD

The Board must receive a written appeal within 30 days of the date on which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board. Appeals filed after 30 calendar days of the date on which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board will be rejected.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD

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

WHAT YOUR APPEAL PAPERWORK MUST CONTAIN

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

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

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS IN APPEALING A DECISION TO THE BOARD

1. *Be familiar with all relevant material in the DEP record.* A license application file is public information, subject to any applicable statutory exceptions, made easily accessible by DEP. Upon request, the DEP will make the material available during normal working hours, provide space to review the file, and provide opportunity for photocopying materials. There is a charge for copies or copying services.
2. *Be familiar with the regulations and laws under which the application was processed, and the procedural rules governing your appeal.* DEP staff will provide this information on request and answer questions regarding applicable requirements.
3. *The filing of an appeal does not operate as a stay to any decision.* If a license has been granted and it has been appealed the license normally remains in effect pending the processing of the appeal. A license holder may proceed with a project pending the outcome of an appeal but the license holder runs the risk of the decision being reversed or modified as a result of the appeal.

WHAT TO EXPECT ONCE YOU FILE A TIMELY APPEAL WITH THE BOARD

The Board will formally acknowledge receipt of an appeal, including the name of the DEP project manager assigned to the specific appeal. The notice of appeal, any materials accepted by the Board Chair as supplementary evidence, and any materials submitted in response to the appeal will be sent to Board members with a recommendation from DEP staff. Persons filing appeals and interested persons are notified in advance of the date set for Board consideration of an appeal or request for public hearing. With or without holding a public hearing, the Board may affirm, amend, or reverse a Commissioner decision or remand the matter to the Commissioner for further proceedings. The Board will notify the appellant, a license holder, and interested persons of its decision.

II. JUDICIAL APPEALS

Maine law generally allows aggrieved persons to appeal final Commissioner or Board licensing decisions to Maine's Superior Court, see 38 M.R.S.A. § 346(1); 06-096 CMR 2; 5 M.R.S.A. § 11001; & M.R. Civ. P 80C. A party's appeal must be filed with the Superior Court within 30 days of receipt of notice of the Board's or the Commissioner's decision. For any other person, an appeal must be filed within 40 days of the date the decision was rendered. Failure to file a timely appeal will result in the Board's or the Commissioner's decision becoming final.

An appeal to court of a license decision regarding an expedited wind energy development, a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project, or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project may only be taken directly to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. See 38 M.R.S.A. § 346(4).

Maine's Administrative Procedure Act, DEP statutes governing a particular matter, and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure must be consulted for the substantive and procedural details applicable to judicial appeals.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions or need additional information on the appeal process, for administrative appeals contact the Board's Executive Analyst at (207) 287-2452 or for judicial appeals contact the court clerk's office in which your appeal will be filed.

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.
