

Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES)

Statutory Authority

- Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated
- Federal Clean Water Act
- Administrative Rules of Montana 17.30.1301 et seq.

MPDES Information

- PERMIT NUMBER: MT0031909
- RECEIVING WATER: Alluvial Ground Water, Sheep Creek, Coon Creek, Brush Creek, Little Sheep Creek, and an unnamed ephemeral tributary to Little Sheep Creek
- In the draft MPDES permit, DEQ proposes effluent limits, monitoring requirements, and special conditions developed specifically for the proposed copper mine to protect the beneficial uses of the receiving water bodies. Outfall 001 proposes to discharge mine drainage and process wastewater. Outfalls 002 through 014 propose to discharge storm water.

Permit and Application Information

DEQ received the initial application on December 11, 2017, and issued a notice of deficiency (NOD) on January 10, 2018. The Permittee responded to the NOD on February 15, 2018. DEQ issued a second NOD on March 16, 2018. The Permittee responded to the second NOD on April 25, 2018. DEQ determined the application was complete on May 25, 2018.

Public Comment on draft MPDES permit and fact sheet

- Copies of the draft MPDES permit and fact sheet are on the DEQ website: <http://deq.mt.gov/Public/notices/wqnotices>
- Public comment on Draft MPDES Permit:
 - Public comments are invited ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS

May 28, 2019.

Comments may be directed to:
 DEQ's Water Quality Division
 Water Protection Bureau
 PO Box 200901
 Helena MT 59620

If you wish to comment electronically, you may email
 DEQ at DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov

Table 1 - Sources of Wastewater Contributing of Outfall 001

Outfall	Description	Average flow	Max flow	Intermittent
001	Continuous Discharge	397 (gpm)	575 (gpm)	N
001	Seasonal Discharge	530 (gpm)	708 (gpm)	Y

Table 2 - Surface Area Contributing to Each Storm Water Outfall

Outfall	Description	Drainage Area/Flow Rate/ Volume (acres/cfs/acre-ft)	Intermittent
002	Service roads, topsoil stockpile	13.2 / 11.38 / 0.8	Y
003	Access roads, reclamation stockpile	15.2 / 19.2 / 1.0	Y
004	Cemented tailing facility (CTF) diversion ditch, service roads, subsoil and reclamation stockpile	65.7 / 35.5 / 2.8	Y
005	CTF embankment	13.0 / 11.99 / 0.8	Y
006	Access road, undisturbed ground	25.9 / 0.87 / 0.3	Y
007	Non-Contact water pond (NCWP) access road, undisturbed ground	27.6 / 15.4 / 1.2	Y
008	Undisturbed ground between topsoil stockpile service road and CTF diversion ditch	13.5 / 6.1 / 0.5	Y
009	Access road, undisturbed ground	9.0 / 10.7 / 0.5	Y
010	Undisturbed ground near access road	32.3 / 12.4 / 1.1	Y
011	Main access road	1.7 / 2.94 / 0.142	Y
012	Undisturbed ground and Treated Water Storage Pond (TWSP) embankment	8.75 / 9.72 / 0.5	Y
013	TWSP embankment	2.6 / 1.76 / 0.1	Y
014	NCWR access road	5.2 / 2.0 / 0.22	Y