

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE MONTANA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (MPDES)

In compliance with Montana Water Quality Act, Title 75, Chapter 5, Montana Code Annotated (MCA) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (the “Clean Water Act”), 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.,

NAVAJO TRANSITIONAL ENERGY COMPANY, LLC (the Permittee)

is authorized to discharge from its **SPRING CREEK MINE**

located at **67 LAKESHORE DRIVE, DECKER, MT, 59025**

to receiving waters named: **Unnamed ephemeral tributaries to Spring Creek, South Fork Spring Creek, Pearson Creek, Monument Creek, and the Tongue River Reservoir**

in accordance with discharge point(s), effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth herein. Authorization for discharge is limited to those outfalls specifically listed in the permit.

This permit shall become effective: **February 1, 2019**

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, **January 31, 2024**

FOR THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

|S| JON KENNING

Jon Kenning, Chief
Water Protection Bureau

Modification Date: September 14, 2021

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I. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING & REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. Description of Discharge Points and Mixing Zone(s)

The authorization to discharge provided under this permit is limited to those outfalls specifically designated below as discharge locations. Discharges at any location not authorized under an MPDES permit is a violation of the Montana Water Quality Act and could subject the person(s) responsible for such discharge to penalties under the Act. Knowingly discharging from an unauthorized location or failing to report an unauthorized discharge within a reasonable time from first learning of an unauthorized discharge could subject such person to criminal penalties as provided under Montana Water Quality Act, 75-5-Part 6, Montana Code Annotated (MCA).

Table 1 below provides a description of the discharge points and mixing zones for each outfall. Treatment consists of the use of sediment ponds, with a 10-year, 24-hour (or larger) design capacity, to remove suspended solids from commingled storm water and pit water or coal plant wash down water.

Table 1. Description of Discharge Points, Monitoring Locations and Mixing Zones

Outfall	Latitude	Longitude	Outfall / Effluent Description	Receiving Water	Mixing Zone
001 ⁽¹⁾	45°06'02"N	106°51'47"W	Discharge from Pond 1 primary spillway; treated storm water and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral tributary to Spring Creek	(2)
002 ⁽¹⁾	45°06'32"N	106°52'21"W	Discharge from Pond 2 outlet structure; treated commingled coal plant wash down water and storm water runoff	Unnamed ephemeral tributary to Spring Creek	(2)
014 ⁽¹⁾	45°06'51"N	106°53'40"W	Discharge from Pond 22 spillway; treated storm water and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral tributary to Spring Creek	(2)
015 ⁽¹⁾	45°05'38"N	106°52'18"W	Discharge from Pond 48 spillway; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	South Fork Spring Creek	(2)
016 ⁽¹⁾	45°04'52"N	106°52'08"W	Discharge from Pond 50 spillway; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral tributary to Pearson Creek	(2)
018 ⁽¹⁾	45°05'24"N	106°54'33"W	Discharge from Pond 90; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral tributary to Pearson Creek	(2)
019 ⁽¹⁾	45°05'23"N	106°54'26"W	Discharge from Pond 91; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral tributary to Pearson Creek	(2)

Outfall	Latitude	Longitude	Outfall / Effluent Description	Receiving Water	Mixing Zone
020 ⁽¹⁾	45°05'22"N	106°54'16"W	Discharge from Pond 92; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral tributary to Pearson Creek	(2)
021 ⁽¹⁾	45°05'21"N	106°54'09"W	Discharge from Pond 93; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral tributary to Pearson Creek	(2)
022 ⁽¹⁾	45°05'20"N	106°54'02"W	Discharge from Pond 94; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral tributary to Pearson Creek	(2)
023 ⁽¹⁾	45°05'18"N	106°53'50"W	Discharge from Pond 95; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral tributary to Pearson Creek	(2)
024 ⁽¹⁾	45°05'16"N	106°53'43"W	Discharge from Pond 96; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral tributary to Pearson Creek	(2)
025 ⁽¹⁾	45°05'13"N	106°53'39"W	Discharge from Pond 97; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral tributary to Pearson Creek	(2)
026 ⁽¹⁾	45°05'11"N	106°53'36"W	Discharge from Pond 98; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral tributary to Pearson Creek	(2)
027 ⁽¹⁾	45°05'08"N	106°53'15"W	Discharge from Pond 99; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral tributary to Pearson Creek	(2)
028 ⁽¹⁾	45°08'21"N	106°53'32"W	Discharge from Pond 100; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	South Fork Monument Creek	(2)
029 ⁽¹⁾	45°08'02"N	106°53'24"W	Discharge from Pond 101; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral tributary of Tongue River Reservoir	(2)
030 ⁽¹⁾	45°08'22"N	106°54'18"W	Discharge from Pond 102; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	South Fork Monument Creek	(2)
031 ⁽¹⁾	45°05'06"N	106°53'05"W	Discharge from Pond 103; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral drainage to Pearson Creek to	(2)

Outfall	Latitude	Longitude	Outfall / Effluent Description	Receiving Water	Mixing Zone
				Tongue River	
032	45°05'05"N	106°53'00"W	Discharge from Pond 104; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral drainage to Pearson Creek to Tongue River	(2)
033	45°05'04"N	106°52'56"W	Discharge from Pond 105; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral drainage to Pearson Creek to Tongue River	(2)
034	45°05'01"N	106°52'43"W	Discharge from Pond 106; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral drainage to Pearson Creek to Tongue River	(2)
035	45°04'58"N	106°52'40"W	Discharge from Pond 107; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral drainage to Pearson Creek to Tongue River	(2)
036	45°04'57"N	106°52'29"W	Discharge from Pond 108; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral drainage to Pearson Creek to Tongue River	(2)
037	45°04'55"N	106°52'16"W	Discharge from Pond 109; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral drainage to Pearson Creek to Tongue River	(2)
038	45°04'53"N	106°52'10"W	Discharge from Pond 110; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	Unnamed ephemeral drainage to	(2)

Outfall	Latitude	Longitude	Outfall / Effluent Description	Receiving Water	Mixing Zone
				Pearson Creek to Tongue River	
039	45°05'19"N	106°18'52"W	Discharge from Pond 111; treated storm water runoff and/or pit dewatering water	South Fork Spring Creek to Tongue River	(2)

Footnotes:
 (1) Outfall locations define monitoring locations.
 (2) No acute, chronic or human health mixing zone allowed for this discharge.

B. Final Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements

1. Numeric Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements – All Outfalls

Beginning on the effective date and lasting through the term of the permit, the quality of effluent discharged at all outfalls shall, at a minimum, meet the limitations set forth in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Summary of Final Numeric Effluent Limitations – All Outfalls

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations	
		Average Monthly	Maximum Daily
Total suspended solids	mg/L	35	70
pH	s.u.	Between 6.0 and 9.0 at all times	
Oil and grease	mg/L	--	10
Iron, total ⁽¹⁾	mg/L	3.5	7.0
Iron, total ⁽²⁾	mg/L	3.0	6.0

Footnotes:
 (1) Applicable to Outfalls 001, 002, and 014
 (2) Applicable to Outfalls 015, 016, and 018 through 030

2. Narrative Effluent Limitations:

- There shall be no discharge from any outfall listed in **Table 1** that reacts or settles to form an objectionable sludge deposit or emulsion beneath the surface of the receiving water or upon adjoining shorelines.
- There shall be no discharge from any outfall listed in **Table 1** of floating debris, scum, a visible oil film or globules of grease or other floating materials.
- There shall be no discharge from any outfall listed in **Table 1** that produce odors, colors, or other conditions as to which create a nuisance or render undesirable tastes to fish flesh or make fish inedible.

- There shall be no discharge from any outfall listed in **Table 1** that create concentrations or combinations of material which are toxic or harmful to human, animal, plant or aquatic life.
- There shall be no discharge from any outfall listed in **Table 1** that create conditions which produce undesirable aquatic life.
- The permittee shall avoid discharge from any outfall listed in Table 1 unless necessary due to planned maintenance events that are required for compliance with Montana surface mining permit C1979012 or unless related to precipitation events (or snowmelt of equivalent volume) in excess of a 10-year, 24-hour event. The permittee has the burden of proof to demonstrate and document that any discharge was necessary due to planned maintenance events for compliance events that are required for compliance with Montana surface mining permit C1979012 or unless related to precipitation events (or snowmelt of equivalent volume) in excess of a 10-year, 24-hour event.
- Each outfall will be associated with a sediment pond designed and used to capture and contain the stormwater runoff from a 10-year, 24-hour storm event (2.19 inches). Outfalls 001 and 002 are designed to contain runoff from a 25-year, 24-hour storm event (2.65 inches). The permittee shall employ best management practices that meet, at a minimum, the water quality performance standards in ARM 17.24.633 and 17.24.638, requirements to mitigate and prevent discharges that may affect human health or the environment in ARM 17.30.1342(4), and requirements to properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems of treatment and control in accordance with ARM 17.30.1342(5).

3. Alternate Numeric Effluent Limitations – All Outfalls:

Beginning on the effective date and lasting through the term of this permit, the quality of precipitation-driven effluent discharged at all outfalls shall, at a minimum, meet the alternate limitations set forth in **Table 3**.

Table 3. Summary of Alternate Numeric Effluent Limitations for Precipitation Events – All Outfalls

Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations	
		Average Monthly	Maximum Daily
Settleable solids ⁽¹⁾	mL/L	--	0.5
pH ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	s.u.	Between 6.0 and 9.0 at all times	
Oil and grease ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	mg/L	--	10
Footnotes: (1) Applicable to discharges or increases in the volume of discharges caused by precipitation within any 24 hour period <u>less than or equal to</u> the 10-yr, 24-hr precipitation event (or snowmelt of equivalent volume) of 2.19 inches. (2) Applicable to discharges or increases in the volume of discharges caused by precipitation within any 24 hour period greater than the 10-yr, 24-hr precipitation event (or snowmelt of equivalent volume) of 2.19 inches.			

4. Western Alkaline Standards

Beginning on the effective date and lasting through the term of this permit, the permittee may discharge runoff from outfalls meeting definitions set forth in 40 CFR 434(H), and the entire contributing watershed has been released from Phase II bonding in the Spring Creek Mine strip mine permit (SMP) (C1979012). A Permitted outfall's effluent limitations shift from standard and alternate limitations as detailed in section I.B(1-3) of this permit to effluent limitations derived from 40 CFR 434(H) and summarized below.

- (a) The operator must submit a site-specific Sediment Control Plan to DEQ that is designed to prevent an increase in the annual average sediment yield from pre-mined conditions. The approved sediment control plan is incorporated into the MPDES permit as an effluent limitation. The Sediment Control Plan identifies best management practices (BMPs) or best technology currently available (BTCA), must describe design specifications, construction specifications, maintenance schedules, inspection criteria, as well as the expected performance and longevity of the BMPs/BTCA practices.
- (b) Using watershed models, the operator must demonstrate that the implementation of the Sediment Control Plan will result in average annual sediment yields that will not be greater than the sediment yield levels from pre-mined, undisturbed conditions. The operator must use the same watershed model that was, or will be, used to acquire the C1979012 permit under Montana Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act (ARM 17.24.313; 17.24.314; 17.24.634).
- (c) The operator must design, implement and maintain BMPs and BCTA in the manner specified in the Sediment Control Plan, consistent with the requirements of SMP C1979012.

C. General Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

Self-monitoring of effluent shall be conducted after final treatment and prior to combining with receiving waters. Samples or measurements shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge as specified. If no discharge occurs during the entire monitoring period, it shall be stated on the Discharge Monitoring Report that no discharge occurred.

Data collected on-site, copies of Discharge Monitoring Reports, and a copy of this MPDES permit must be maintained on-site during the duration of activity at the permitted location.

1. Monitoring Locations

The permittee shall establish monitoring locations at each outfall to demonstrate compliance with the effluent limitations and other requirements in Section I of this permit. Appropriate monitoring locations include: at the overflow structure where the effluent discharges as overflow from the sediment control structure, or at the end of the discharge pipe when pumped or drained, and prior to contact with the receiving

water. **Table 1** outlines all outfall locations and monitoring locations. Acute WET testing is only required at Outfall 002.

The permittee shall monitor effluent at the specific monitoring location during discharge. The location of each outfall regulated by this permit shall be permanently identified in the field.

2. Sample Methods

Required analysis must be conducted by methods approved under 40 CFR 136 sufficiently sensitive to detect the pollutant, reach the Required Reporting Value (RRV), or achieve the lowest water quality standard in Circular DEQ-7 or Circular DEQ-12A, unless the Department approves an alternate reporting level for a specific parameter, in writing. For pollutants without an RRV, the detection limit of the analysis lab is used. The permittee shall use the procedure described in 40 CFR 434.64 for measurement of settleable solids, with a method detection limit of 0.4 mL/L.

3. Effluent Monitoring Requirements – All Outfalls

The permittee shall collect a grab sample within the first 30 minutes of any discharge from any permitted outfall. **Table 4** contains required monitoring frequencies for each parameter following the initial sample.

As an alternative to a single grab sample, the permittee may take a flow-weighted composite of either the entire discharge or for the first three hours of the discharge. For a flow-weighted composite, only one analysis of the composited aliquots is required. Flow weighted composite samples are not allowed for pH or oil and grease.

Table 4. Summary of Monitoring Requirements – All Outfalls

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency	Reporting Requirement	RRV
Flow	mgd	(2)	Continuous	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	NA
Aluminum, dissolved	µg/L	Grab	Daily	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	9
Iron, total	µg/L	Grab	Daily	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	20
pH	s.u.	Instantaneous or Grab	Daily	Daily Max./Min.	NA
Total suspended solids	mg/L	Grab	Daily	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	NA
Cadmium, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	0.03
Copper, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	2
Oil and grease	mg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	NA
Electrical conductivity	µS/cm	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	NA
Chromium, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	10
Nickel, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	2
Silver, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	0.2
Zinc, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	8
Total dissolved solids	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	NA
Fluoride, total	µg/L	Grab	Monthly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	200
Arsenic, total	µg/L	Grab	Monthly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	1
Mercury, total	µg/L	Grab	Monthly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	0.005
Nitrate + nitrite (as N)	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	0.020
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	0.225
Nitrogen, total (4)	mg/L	Calculated	Monthly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	NA
Phosphorus, total	mg/L	Grab	Monthly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	0.003
Selenium, total	µg/L	Grab	Monthly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	1
Sodium adsorption ratio	---	Calculated(3)	Monthly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	NA

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency	Reporting Requirement	RRV
WET – Acute Two Species ⁽¹⁾	% Effluent	Grab	Quarterly	Pass/Fail	NA
Footnotes:					
(1) Whole effluent toxicity testing is required for outfall 002 only.					
(2) Requires recording device or totalizer.					
(3) Monitoring for SAR shall consist of monitoring for dissolved sodium, calcium, and magnesium with a Method Limit (ML) of 1.0 mg/L; calculated as $SAR = [Na +] / \sqrt{0.5 * ([Ca^{2+}] + [Mg^{2+}])}$					
(4) Total nitrogen is the sum of total Kjeldahl nitrogen and nitrate+nitrite.					

Alternate monitoring requirements for discharges caused by precipitation events are summarized in **Tables 5 and 6**. The permittee is required to monitor precipitation in the Spring Creek, South Fork Spring Creek, Pearson Creek, and Monument Creek drainage basins, as described in Section I.C.7 below, and shall have the burden of proof that any discharge was a result of a precipitation events, and that these alternate monitoring requirements are applicable.

Table 5. Summary of Monitoring Requirements for Small Precipitation-Driven Events⁽¹⁾ – All Outfalls

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency	Reporting Requirement	RRV
Flow	mgd	⁽³⁾	Continuous	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	NA
Aluminum, dissolved	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	9
Cadmium, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	0.03
Copper, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	2
Iron, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	20
pH	s.u.	Instantaneous or Grab	Weekly	Monthly Max. Monthly Min.	NA
Total settleable solids	mL/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	0.4
Oil and grease	mg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	NA
Arsenic, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	1
Chromium, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	10
Total dissolved solids	mg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	NA
Electrical conductivity	µS/cm	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	NA
Fluoride, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	200
Mercury, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	0.005

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency	Reporting Requirement	RRV
Nickel, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	2
Nitrate + nitrite (as N)	mg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	0.020
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	mg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	0.225
Nitrogen, total ⁽⁵⁾	mg/L	Calculated	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	NA
Phosphorus, total	mg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	0.003
Selenium, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	1
Silver, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	0.2
Sodium adsorption ratio	---	Calculated ⁽⁴⁾	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	NA
Zinc, total	µg/L	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. & Mo. Avg.	8
WET – Acute Two Species ⁽²⁾	% Effluent	Grab	Annually	Pass/Fail	NA

Footnotes:

- (1) These monitoring requirements apply to any discharges or increases in volume of discharges caused by precipitation within any 24-hour period less than or equal to the 10-year, 24-hour precipitation event (or snowmelt of equal volume) of 2.19 inches.
- (2) Whole effluent toxicity testing is required for outfall 002 only.
- (3) Requires recording device or totalizer.
- (4) Monitoring for SAR shall consist of monitoring for dissolved sodium, calcium and magnesium with a ML of 1.0 mg/L; $SAR = [Na^+]/\sqrt{0.5 * ([Ca^{2+}] + [Mg^{2+}])}$
- (5) Total nitrogen is the sum of total Kjeldahl nitrogen and nitrate+nitrite

Table 6. Summary of Monitoring Requirements for Large Precipitation-Driven Events⁽¹⁾

Parameter	Units	Sample Type	Monitoring Frequency	Reporting Requirement	RRV
Flow	mgd	(3)	Continuous	Daily Max.	NA
pH	s.u.	Grab	Weekly	Daily Max. Daily Min.	NA
Oil and grease	mg/L	Grab	1/Discharge	Daily Max.	NA
Iron, total	µg/L	Grab	1/Discharge	Daily Max.	20
Sodium adsorption ratio	---	Calculated ⁽⁴⁾	1/Discharge	Daily Max.	NA
Electrical conductivity	µS/cm	Grab	1/Discharge	Daily Max.	NA
WET – Acute Two Species ⁽²⁾	% Effluent	Grab	Annually	Pass/Fail	NA
<p>(1) These monitoring requirements apply to any discharges or increases in volume of discharges caused by precipitation within any 24-hour period greater than or equal to the 10-year, 24-hr precipitation event (or snowmelt of equal volume) of 2.19 inches.</p> <p>(2) Whole effluent toxicity testing is required for outfall 002 only.</p> <p>(3) Requires recording device or totalizer.</p> <p>(4) Monitoring for SAR shall consist of monitoring for dissolved sodium, calcium and magnesium with a ML of 1.0 mg/L; calculated as $SAR = [Na^+]/\sqrt{(0.5 * ([Ca^{2+}] + [Mg^{2+}])}$</p>					

4. Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing

a. Acute Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing

- i. **Sampling and Dilution Series Requirements.** Beginning in the calendar year in which this Permit becomes effective, and each calendar year thereafter, the Permittee shall conduct annually acute static toxicity tests on grab samples of the effluent discharged from Outfall 002. Testing will employ two species per test and will consist of 5 effluent concentrations (100, 50, 25, 12.5, 6.25 percent effluent) and a control. Dilution water and the control shall consist of grab samples of moderately hard water, in accordance with WET Methods. If a discharge does not occur from Outfall 002 during the calendar year, this shall be reported in the annual report.
- ii. **Methods.** Acute WET tests shall be conducted in general accordance with the procedures set out in *Methods for Measuring the Acute Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater and Marine Organisms*, Fifth Edition, EPA-821-R-02-012 (or a subsequent edition) and the “Region VIII USEPA NPDES Acute Test Conditions—Static Renewal Whole Effluent Toxicity Test” contained in the *Region VIII NPDES Whole Effluent Toxics Control Program, August 1997*. The Permittee must conduct a 48-hour static renewal acute toxicity test using *Ceriodaphnia dubia* (USEPA Method 2002.0) and a 96-hour static renewal acute toxicity test using *Pimephales promelas* (fathead minnow) (USEPA Method 2000.0). Acute toxicity is measured by determining the LC₅₀ (i.e., the percent of effluent that is lethal to 50 percent of the exposed test organisms) for each type of test.

- iii. **Test Validity.** If more than 10 percent control mortality occurs, the test is considered invalid and shall be repeated until satisfactory control survival is achieved, unless a specific individual exception is granted by the Department. This exception may be granted if less than 10 percent mortality was observed at the dilutions containing high effluent concentrations.
- iv. **Accelerated Testing.** If acute toxicity occurs in a routine test, an additional test shall be conducted within 14 days of the date of the initial sample. Should acute toxicity occur in the second test or if a second sample cannot be collected, testing shall occur at each discharge event for the duration of the permit term. In all cases, the results of all toxicity tests must be submitted to the Department in accordance with Section III.A of this Permit.

5. Monitoring Periods and Reporting Schedule

Monitoring periods and reporting for all required monitoring shall be completed according to the schedule in **Tables 4 through 6**.

The permittee must comply with reporting requirements as specified in ARM 17.30.1342. Due to the expected low frequency of discharge activity at the facility, the reporting period for discharges is semiannual or January 1 through June 30 and July 1 through December 31 of each calendar year. If multiple monitoring periods occur during the reporting period the permittee must report the highest calculated or measured value that conforms to the numeric effluent limit in the permit, except for parameters reported as minimum values. For parameters specified as minimum on the discharge monitoring report, the permittee must report the lowest calculated or measured value.

6. Discharge Monitoring Reports

Monitoring results must be reported within a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR). Monitoring results must be submitted electronically (NetDMR web-based application) no later than the 28th day of the month following the end of the monitoring period. If no discharge occurs during the entire reporting period, "No Discharge" must be reported within the respective DMR. All other reports must be signed and certified in accordance with Section III.C.6 'Signatory Requirements' of this permit and submitted to DEQ at the following address:

Montana Department of Environmental Quality
Water Protection Bureau
PO Box 200901
Helena, Montana 59620-0901

Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) results from the laboratory shall be reported along with the DMR form. The format for the laboratory report shall be consistent with the latest revision of *Region VIII Guidance for Acute Whole Effluent Reporting and Chronic Whole Effluent Reporting*, and shall include all chemical and physical data as specified.

7. Other Monitoring Requirements

a. Precipitation Monitoring:

Precipitation shall be monitored and recorded using a precipitation gauge which meets the standards provided in the National Weather Service Instructional Bulletin 10-1302 (November 14, 2014), *Instrument Requirements and Standards for the NWS Surface Observing Programs (Land)*, and provided in **Table 7**.

Precipitation gauges will be maintained in the Pearson Creek, Spring Creek, and Monument Creek drainages.

Table 7. Precipitation Gauge Performance Standards

Manual Daily Precipitation – Gauge Standard					
Parameter	Requires	Seasonal	Range	Resolution	Measurement Accuracy
Precipitation, Rain	Eight-Inch Diameter Collection Vessel with Tube and Measuring Stick	Funnel (All year except for snow or frozen precip events)	0 to 20 inches	0.01 inches	±0.02 inches
	Four-Inch Diameter Collection Vessel with Tube	Funnel (All year except for snow or frozen precip events.)	0 to 10 inches	0.01 inches	±0.02 inches
Precipitation, Frozen (Liquid Equivalent)	Eight-Inch Diameter Collection Vessel	Open Aperture (snow or frozen precip events)	0 to 24 inches of snow	0.01 inches melted	±0.04 inches melted
	Four-Inch Diameter Collection Vessel	Open Aperture (snow or frozen precip events)	0 to 12 inches of snow	0.01 inches melted	±0.04 inches melted
Snowfall / Snow Depth - Equipment Standard					
Snowfall / Snow Depth: 0.1 to 20 in.	Snow stick (marked) and Snow board	Not applicable	0 to 20 inches	0.1 inch	±0.1 inch
Snowfall / Snow Depth: 20 to 40 in.	Snow stick (marked) and Snow board		0 to 40 inches	0.1 inch	±0.1 inch
Snow Depth: 40 to 60 in.	Snow stake (marked)		0 to 60 inches	1 inch	± 1 inch

I.A.1.a.1

b. *Flow Monitoring and Sampling Units*

The permit requires the permittee to install and use flow monitoring and sampling equipment at each outfall. This requirement is necessary because precipitation events are often localized, high intensity, short duration thunderstorms, and watersheds often cover vast and isolated areas. Ponds may retain water from previous events. Likewise, weather conditions may prevent access to outfalls for monitoring an overflow discharge or for discharge sampling. A crest gauge or equivalent equipment can measure flow at the crest, with the establishment of a ratings curve that shows the relationship between peak flow and gauge height. A remote sampling unit can sample a representative sample of the discharged effluent when discharge occurs. The discharge point and monitoring location shall be permanently marked and identified at the overflow structure.

II. SPECIAL CONDITIONS

A. Additional Monitoring and Special Studies

1. **Ambient Monitoring** - The permittee shall monitor ambient conditions of the following receiving waters: Spring Creek, South Fork Spring Creek, Pearson Creek, and South Fork Pearson Creek. The permittee shall monitor during low flow and high flow conditions for EC and SAR pursuant to its existing sampling and monitoring network. These results will be reported annually to the Water Quality Division of DEQ. This report is due annually on January 28th.
2. **Supplemental Monitoring and Studies** - The permittee shall maintain a log of each discharge event. The log must describe the conditions causing the event, whether the discharge is observed to reach receiving waters, and condition of the receiving water at the time of discharge (for example: dry, frozen, flowing, or standing water). This log must be submitted to the Water Quality Division within 90 days of each discharge event.
3. **Toxicity Identification Evaluation (TIE)/Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE)**
The permittee shall submit to the Department and initiate implementation of a TIE/TRE plan within 45 days of detecting acute toxicity during any accelerated testing required under section I.C.4. The TIE/TRE shall describe steps to be undertaken by the permittee to establish the cause of the toxicity, locate the source(s) of the toxicity, and develop control or treatment for the toxicity.

If implementation of the TIE/TRE establishes that the toxicity cannot be eliminated, the permittee shall submit a proposed compliance plan to the Department. The compliance plan shall include the proposed approach to control toxicity and a proposed compliance schedule for achieving control. If the approach and schedule are acceptable to the Department, this permit may be reopened and modified.

If the TIE/TRE shows that the toxicity is caused by a toxicant(s) that may be controlled with parameter-specific numeric limitations, the permittee may:

- a. Submit an alternative control program for compliance with the parameter-specific numeric effluent limitations,
- b. If necessary, provide a modified whole effluent testing protocol, which compensates for the pollutant(s) being controlled with parameter-specific numeric effluent limitations.

Based on the results of WET testing and a TIE/TRE conducted by the permittee, the Department may reopen and modify this permit in accordance with the provisions in section II.D to incorporate any additional WET or parameter-specific numeric limitations, a modified compliance schedule if judged necessary by the Department, and/or a modified whole effluent toxicity protocol.

4. **Montana Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program**

Comply with all Program recommendations outlined in the consultation letter dated March 3, 2016 and any subsequent applicable modifications or additional consultation letters.

B. Western Alkaline Standards

The permittee shall submit a Sediment Control Plan, watershed model, and a schedule of BMP/BTCA implementation and maintenance meeting the requirements of 40 CFR 434 (H) to the department for approval prior to conversion to Western Alkaline Standards status. Outfalls are only eligible for conversion to Western Alkaline Standards effluent limitations described in Section I.B.4 of this permit when the entire contributing drainage of the outfall has been released from Phase II bond release in the Montana SMP C1972012. Notification of intent to convert an outfall to Western Alkaline Standards status shall be provided by the applicant at the time of bond release application for C1979012. Notification from the Department shall be provided to the MPDES file and the applicant within 30 days of successful Phase II bond release for an entire contributing watershed of an outfall. Following a minor modification to MT0024619, effluent limitations for an applicable outfall convert to Western Alkaline Standards as described in Section I.B.4 of this permit.

C. Reopener Provisions

This permit shall be reopened and modified (following proper administrative procedures) to include the appropriate effluent limitations (and compliance schedule, if necessary), or other appropriate requirements if one or more of the following events occurs:

1. Water Quality Standards

The water quality standards of the receiving water(s) to which the permittee discharges are modified in such a manner as to require different effluent limitations than contained in this permit.

2. Water Quality Standards are Exceeded

If it is found that water quality standards or Trigger Values in the receiving stream are exceeded either for parameters included in the permit or others, the Department may modify the effluent limitations or the water quality management plan. Trigger Values are used to determine if a given increase in the concentration of toxic parameters is significant or non-significant as per the non-degradation rules ARM 17.30.701 et seq. and are listed in Circular DEQ-7.

3. TMDL or Wasteload Allocation

TMDL requirements or a wasteload allocation is developed and approved by the Department and/or USEPA for incorporation in this permit.

4. Water Quality Management Plan

A revision to the current water quality management plan is approved and adopted which calls for different effluent limitations than contained in this permit.

5. Toxic Pollutants

A toxic standard or prohibition is established under Clean Water Act Section 307(a) for a toxic pollutant which is present in the discharge and such standard or prohibition is more stringent than any limitation for such pollutant in this permit.

6. Toxicity Limitations – Not Applicable

III. STANDARD CONDITIONS

A. Monitoring, Recording, and Reporting

1. **Representative Sampling:** Samples and measurements taken for the purpose of monitoring must be representative of the monitored activity. [*ARM 17.30.1342(10)(a)*]
2. **Monitoring and Reporting Procedures:** Monitoring results must be reported on a Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) form at the intervals specified in Section I of this permit. Calculations for all limitations that require averaging of measurements must use an arithmetic mean unless otherwise specified by the Department in the permit [*ARM 17.30.1342(12)(d)(i),(iii)*]. Monitoring must be conducted according to test procedures approved under Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (40 CFR) Part 136, unless other test procedures have been specified in this permit. [*ARM 17.30.1342(10)(d)*]
3. **Penalties for Tampering:** The Montana Water Quality Act provides that any person who falsifies, tampers with, or knowingly renders inaccurate, any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under this permit shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$25,000, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or by both. [*MCA 75-5-633*]
4. **Compliance Schedule Reporting:** 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. [*ARM 17.30.1342(12)(e)*]
5. **Additional Monitoring by the Permittee:** If the permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by this permit, using test procedures approved under 40 CFR Part 136 or as specified in this permit, the results of this monitoring must be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the Discharge Monitoring Report. [*ARM 17.30.1342(12)(d)(ii)*]
6. **Records Contents** [*ARM 17.30.1342(10)(c)*]: Records of monitoring information must include:
 - a. the date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;
 - b. the initials or name(s) of the individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;
 - c. the date(s) analyses were performed;
 - d. the initials or name(s) of individual(s) who performed the analyses;
 - e. the analytical techniques or methods used; and
 - f. the results of such analyses.
7. **Retention of Records:** 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 three years from the date of the sample, measurement, report or application. [ARM 17.30.1342(10)(b)]
- 8. Twenty-four Hour Notification** [ARM 17.30.1342(12)(f)]: The permittee shall report any serious incident of noncompliance as soon as possible, but no later than twenty-four (24) hours from the time the permittee first became aware of the circumstances.
- a. Oral notification.** The report shall be made orally to the Water Protection Bureau at (406) 444-5546 or the Office of Disaster and Emergency Services at (406) 324-4777. The following examples are considered serious incidents of noncompliance:
- i. Any noncompliance which might endanger health or the environment;
 - ii. Any unanticipated bypass that exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit (See Subsection III.B.7 of this permit, "Bypass of Treatment Facilities");
 - iii. Any upset which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit (See Subsection III.B.8 of this permit, "Upset Conditions") or;
 - iv. Violation of a maximum daily discharge limitation for any of the pollutants listed by the Department in this permit to be reported within 24 hours.
- b. Written notification.** A written submission shall also be provided within five days of the time that the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain:
- i. A description of the noncompliance and its cause;
 - ii. The period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times;
 - iii. The estimated time noncompliance is expected to continue if it has not been corrected; and
 - iv. Steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.
- c. Waiver of written notification requirement:** The Department may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the oral report has been received within 24 hours by the Water Protection Bureau, by phone, (406) 444-5546. Reports shall be submitted to the address in Subsection I.C.6 of this permit ("Discharge Monitoring Reports").
- 9. Other Noncompliance Reporting:** Instances of noncompliance not required to be reported within 24 hours shall be reported at the time that monitoring reports for Subsection I.C.6 of this permit ("Discharge Monitoring Reports") are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed in Subsection III.A.8.b of this permit ("Twenty-four Hour Notification"). [ARM 17.30.1342(12)(g)]
- 10. Inspection and Entry** [ARM 17.30.1342(9)]: The permittee shall allow the head of the Department, or an authorized representative upon the 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 purpose of assuring permit compliance or as otherwise authorized by the Montana Water Quality Act, any substances or parameters at any location.

B. Compliance Responsibilities

1. **Duty to Comply:** The permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of the Montana Water Quality Act and is grounds for enforcement action; for permit termination, revocation and reissuance, or modification; or for denial of a permit renewal application. [*ARM 17.30.1342(1)*]
2. **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:
 - The alteration or addition to the permitted facility may meet one of the criteria for determining whether a facility is a new source under ARM 17.30.1340(2); or
 - The alteration or addition could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutant discharged. This notification applies to pollutants that are subject neither to effluent limitations in the permit, nor to notification requirements under ARM 17.30.1343(1)(a).

The permittee shall give advance notice to the Department of any planned changes at the permitted facility or of an activity that could result in noncompliance with permit requirements. [*ARM 17.30.1342(12)(b)*]

3. Penalties for Violations of Permit Conditions

- a. In an action initiated by the Department to collect civil penalties against a person who is found to have violated a permit condition, the person is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$25,000. Each day of violation constitutes a separate violation. [*MCA 75-5-631*], [*ARM 17.30.1342(1)(b)*].
 - b. The Montana Water Quality Act provides that any person who willfully or negligently violates a prohibition or permit condition is subject, upon conviction, to criminal penalties not to exceed \$25,000 per day or one year in prison, or both, for the first conviction, and \$50,000 per day of violation or by imprisonment for not more than two years, or both, for subsequent convictions. [*MCA 75-5-632*], [*ARM 17.30.1342(1)(b)*].
 - c. MCA 75-5-611(9)(a) also provides for administrative penalties not to exceed \$10,000 for each day of violation and up to a maximum not to exceed \$100,000 for any related series of violations.
 - d. Except as provided in permit conditions on Subsection III.B.7 of this permit (“Bypass of Treatment Facilities”) and Subsection III.B.8 of this permit (“Upset Conditions”), nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee of the civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance.
4. **Need to Halt or Reduce Activity Not a Defense:** It may 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. [ARM 17.30.1342(3)]
- 5. Duty to Mitigate:** The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize or prevent any discharge in violation of this permit which has a reasonable likelihood of adversely affecting human health or the environment. [ARM 17.30.1342(4)]
- 6. 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. [ARM 17.30.1342(5)]
- 7. Bypass of Treatment Facilities** [ARM 17.30.1342(13)]
- a. 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 under “Prohibition of bypass” and “Notice” (Subsections III.B.7.b and c of this permit) below.
- b. Prohibition of bypass.** Bypass is prohibited and the Department may take enforcement action against a permittee for a bypass, unless:
- i. The bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;
 - ii. 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
 - iii. The permittee submitted notices as required under “Notice” below (Subsection III.B.7.c of this permit).
- 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 (10) days before the date of the bypass.
 - ii. Unanticipated bypass. The permittee shall submit notice of an unanticipated bypass as required under Subsection III.A.8 of this permit (“Twenty-four Hour Reporting”).
- d. Approval of bypass under certain conditions.** 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 under “Prohibition of bypass” (Subsection III.B.7.b of this permit).

8. Upset Conditions [ARM 17.30.1342(14)]

- a. *Effect of an upset.* An upset constitutes an affirmative defense to an action brought for noncompliance with technology based permit effluent limitations if the requirements of Subsection III.B.8.b of this permit 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.
- b. *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;
 - iii. The permittee submitted notice of the upset as required under Subsection III.A.8 of this permit (“Twenty-four Hour Notification”); and
 - iv. The permittee complied with any remedial measures required under Subsection III.B.5 of this permit, (“Duty to Mitigate”).
- c. *Burden of proof.* In any enforcement proceeding, the permittee seeking to establish the occurrence of an upset has the burden of proof.

C. General Requirements

1. **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 [ARM 17.30.1342(12)(b)].
2. **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. [ARM 17.30.1342(6)]
3. **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 first apply for and obtain a new permit. [ARM 17.30.1342(2)] In accordance with ARM 17.30.1322(4), the application must be submitted at least 180 days before the expiration date of this permit.
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. [ARM 17.30.1342(8)]
5. **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 any report to the Department, it shall promptly submit such facts or information [ARM 17.30.1342(12)(h)].

6. Signatory Requirements

- a. All applications, reports or information submitted to the Department shall be signed and certified. [ARM 17.30.1342(11)]
- b. All permit applications must be signed as follows:
 - i. *For a corporation:* By a responsible corporate officer, which means
 - 1) A president, secretary, treasurer, or vice-president of the corporation in charge of a principal business function, or any other person who performs similar policy- or decision-making functions for the corporation; or
 - 2) The manager of one or more manufacturing, production, or operating facilities employing more than 250 persons or having gross annual sales or expenditures exceeding \$25 million (in second-quarter 1980 dollars), if authority to sign documents has been assigned or delegated to the manager in accordance with corporate procedures.
 - ii. *For a partnership or sole proprietorship:* By a general partner or the proprietor, respectively.
 - iii. *For a municipality, state, federal, or other public agency:* By either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official. A principal executive office of a federal agency includes:
 - 1) The chief executive officer of the agency; or
 - 2) A senior executive officer having responsibility for the overall operations of a principal geographic unit of the agency [ARM 17.30.1323(1)].
- c. *Authorized representatives.* All reports required by the permit and other information requested by the Department shall be signed by a person described above in Subsection III.C.6.b of this permit or by a duly authorized representative of that person. A person is considered a duly authorized representative only if:
 - i. The authorization is made in writing by a person described above in Subsection III.C. 6.b and submitted to the Department; and
 - ii. The authorization specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility or activity, such as the position of plant manager, operator of a well or well field, superintendent, position of equivalent responsibility, or an individual or position having overall responsibility for environmental matters. (a duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or an individual occupying a named position) [ARM 17.30.1323(2)].
- d. *Changes to authorization.* If an authorization under Subsection III.C.6.c of this permit is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the facility, a new authorization satisfying the requirements of Subsection III.C.6.c of this permit must be submitted to the Department prior to or together with any reports, information, or applications to be signed by an authorized representative [ARM 17.30.1323(3)].

- e. *Certification.* Any person signing a document under this section shall make the following certification:

“I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations” [ARM 17.30.1323(4)].

7. **Penalties for Falsification of Reports:** The Montana Water Quality Act provides that any person who knowingly makes any false statement, representation, or certification in any record or other document submitted or required to be maintained under this permit, including monitoring reports or reports of compliance or noncompliance shall, upon conviction be punished by a fine of not more than \$25,000 per violation, or by imprisonment for not more than six months per violation, or both. [MCA 75-5-633]
8. **Property or Water Rights:** The issuance of this permit does not convey any property or water rights of any sort, or any exclusive privilege. [ARM 17.30.1342(7)]
9. **Severability:** The provisions of this permit are severable, and if any provision of this permit, or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstance, is held invalid, the application of such provision to other circumstances, and the remainder of this permit, shall not be affected thereby. [ARM 17.30.1302]
10. **Transfers** [ARM 17.30.1360(2)]: This permit may be automatically transferred to a new permittee if:
- The current permittee notifies the Department at least 30 days in advance of the proposed transfer date;
 - The notice includes a written agreement between the existing and new permittees containing a specific date for transfer of permit responsibility, coverage, and liability between them;
 - The Department does not notify the existing permittee and the proposed new permittee of an intent to revoke or modify and reissue the permit. If this notice is not received, the transfer is effective on the date specified in the agreement mentioned in Subsection III.C.10.b of this permit; and
 - Required annual and application fees have been paid.
11. **Fees** [ARM 17.30.201(8)]: The permittee is required to submit payment of an annual fee as set forth in ARM 17.30.201. If the permittee fails to pay the annual fee within 90 days after the due date for the payment, the Department may:
- Impose an additional assessment consisting of 20% of the fee plus interest on the required fee computed at the rate established under 15-1-216, MCA, or

- b. Suspend the processing of the application for a permit or authorization or, if the nonpayment involves an annual permit fee, suspend the permit, certificate or authorization for which the fee is required. The Department may lift suspension at any time up to one year after the suspension occurs if the holder has paid all outstanding fees, including all penalties, assessments and interest imposed under this subsection. Suspensions are limited to one year, after which the permit will be terminated.

D. Notification Levels

1. The permittee shall comply with effluent standards or prohibitions established under Clean Water Act Section 307(a) for toxic pollutants within the time provided in the regulations that establish those standards or prohibitions, even if the permit has not yet been modified to incorporate the requirement. [*ARM 17.30.1342(1)(a)*]
2. Notification shall be provided to the Department as soon as the permittee knows of, or has reason to believe [*ARM 17.30.1343(1)(a)*]:
 - 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 µg/l);
 - ii. Two hundred micrograms per liter (200 µg/l) for acrolein and acrylonitrile; five hundred micrograms per liter (500 µg/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 ARM 17.30.1322(7)(g); or
 - iv. The level established by the Department in accordance with 40 CFR 122.44(f).
 - 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 µg/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 ARM 17.30.1322(7)(g); or
 - iv. The level established by the Department in accordance with 40 CFR 122.44(f).

IV. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

“1-year, 2-year, 10-year, and 25-year, 24-hour precipitation events” means the maximum 24-hour precipitation event with a probable recurrence interval of once in one, two, ten, and twenty-five years, respectively, as defined by the National Weather Service Technical Paper No. 40, *Rainfall Frequency Atlas of the U.S.*, May 1961, or equivalent regional or rainfall probability information developed therefrom.

“Act” means the Montana Water Quality Act, Title 75, chapter 5, MCA.

“Active mining area” means the area, on and beneath land, used or disturbed in activity related to the extraction, removal, or recovery of coal from its natural deposits. This term excludes coal preparation plants, coal preparation plant associated areas, and post-mining areas.

“Acute Toxicity” occurs when 50 percent or more mortality is observed for either species at any effluent concentration. Mortality in the control must simultaneously be 10 percent or less for the effluent results to be considered valid.

“Administrator” means the administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

“Alkaline mine drainage” means mine drainage which, before any treatment, has a pH equal or greater than 6.0, and total iron concentration of less than 10 mg/L.

“Arithmetic Mean” or “Arithmetic Average” for any set of related values means the summation of the individual values divided by the number of individual values.

“Average monthly 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.

“Average weekly 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) mean schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to waters of the United States.

“Bond release” means the time at which the appropriate regulatory authority returns a reclamation or performance bond based upon its determination that reclamation work has been satisfactorily completed.

“Brushing and grubbing area” means the area where woody plant materials that would interfere with soil salvage operations have been removed or incorporated into the soil being salvaged.

“Bypass” means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.

“CFR” means the Code of Federal Regulations.

“Chronic toxicity” occurs when, during a chronic toxicity test, the 25% inhibition concentration (IC₂₅) for any tested species is less than or equal to 100% effluent (i.e., IC₂₅ ≤ 100% effluent).

“Clean Water Act” means the federal legislation at 33 USC 1251, et seq.

“Coal preparation plant” means a facility where coal is subjected to cleaning, concentrating, or other processing preparation in order to separate coal from its impurities and then is loaded for transit to a consuming facility.

“Coal preparation plant associated areas” means the coal preparation plant yards, immediate access roads, coal refuse piles, and coal storage piles and facilities.

“Composite samples” shall be flow proportioned. The composite sample shall, as a minimum, contain at least four (4) samples collected over the compositing period. Unless otherwise specified, the time between the collection of the first sample and the last sample shall not be less than six (6) hours nor more than 24 hours. Acceptable methods for preparation of composite samples are as follows:

- a. Constant time interval between samples, sample volume proportional to flow rate at time of sampling;
- b. Constant time interval between samples, sample volume proportional to total flow (volume) since last sample. For the first sample, the flow rate at the time the sample was collected may be used;
- c. Constant sample volume, time interval between samples proportional to flow (i.e. sample taken every “X” gallons of flow); and,
- d. Continuous collection of sample, with sample collection rate proportional to flow rate.

“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.

"Department" means the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Established by 2-15-3501, MCA.

"Director" means the Director of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

“Discharge” means the injection, deposit, dumping, spilling, leaking, placing, or failing to remove any pollutant so that it or any constituent thereof may enter into state waters, including ground water.

“Effluent Limitations Guidelines” (ELGs) mean regulations published by the Administrator under Section 304(b) of the CWA that establishes national technology-based effluent requirements for a specific industrial category.

“EPA” or “USEPA” means the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

“GPM” means gallons per minute.

"Grab Sample" means a sample which is taken from a waste stream on a one-time basis without consideration of flow rate of the effluent or without consideration for time.

“Instantaneous Maximum Limit” means the maximum allowable concentration of a pollutant determined from the analysis of any discrete or composite sample collected, independent of the flow rate and the duration of the sampling event.

"Instantaneous Measurement", for monitoring requirements, means a single reading, observation, or measurement.

"Maximum Daily Limit" means the highest allowable discharge of a pollutant during a calendar day. Expressed as units of mass, the daily discharge is cumulative mass discharged over the course of the day. Expressed as a concentration, it is the arithmetic average of all measurements taken that day.

“mg/L” means milligrams per liter.

“Mine drainage” means any drainage, and any water pumped or siphoned, from an active mining area or a post-mining area.

“Minimum Level” (ML) of quantitation means the lowest level at which the entire analytical system gives a recognizable signal and acceptable calibration point for the analyte, as determined by the procedure set forth at 40 CFR 136. In most cases the ML is equivalent to the Required Reporting Value (RRV) unless otherwise specified in the permit.

"Mixing zone" means a limited area of a surface water body or aquifer where initial dilution of a discharge takes place and where certain water quality standards may be exceeded.

“mL/L” means milliliters per liter.

“MSUMRA” means the Montana Strip and Underground Mine Reclamation Act.

“Reclamation area” means the surface area of a coal mine which has been returned to required contour and on which re-vegetation (specifically, seeding or planting) work has commenced.

“Regraded area” means the surface area of a coal mine that has been returned to required contour.

“Regional Administrator” means the administrator of Region VIII of EPA, which has jurisdiction over federal water pollution control activities in the state of Montana.

“Settleable solids” means that matter measured by the volumetric method specified in 40 CFR 434.64.

"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.

"SMCRA" means the federal Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act.

"Storm water" means storm water runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface run-off and drainage in response to a precipitation event.

"TIE" means a toxicity identification evaluation.

"TMDL" means the total maximum daily load limitation of a parameter, representing the estimated assimilative capacity for a water body before other designated uses are adversely affected. Mathematically, it is the sum of wasteload allocations for point sources, load allocations for non-point and natural background sources, and a margin of safety.

"Topsoil stockpiling area" means the area outside the mined-out area where topsoil is temporarily stored for use in reclamation, including containment berms.

"TRE" means a toxicity reduction evaluation.

"TSS" means the pollutant parameter total suspended solids.

"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.