

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE MONTANA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

In compliance with the 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.*,

CH SP Acquisition LLC, d/b/a Spanish Peaks Mountain Club (“Spanish Peaks”)

is authorized to discharge from its **Spanish Peaks Mountain Club Snowmaking**

located at **Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, Madison and Gallatin Counties**

to receiving waters named **Unnamed Tributaries to Middle Fork West Fork Gallatin River**

in accordance with discharge point(s), effluent limits, 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: **November 1, 2025**.

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, **October 31, 2030**.

**FOR THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**



Tatiana Davila, Chief
Water Protection Bureau

Issuance Date: October 1, 2025

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I. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS, MONITORING REQUIREMENTS & OTHER CONDITIONS

A. Description of Discharge Points and Mixing Zone

The authorization to discharge provided under this permit is limited to those outfalls specially 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 Section 75-5-632 of the Montana Water Quality Act.

<u>Outfall</u>	<u>Description</u>
001	Location: Snowmaking guns on the North Unnamed Tributary to Middle Fork West Fork Gallatin River from approximately 45.260885° N, 111.388495° W, downstream to 45.265937° N, 111.364440° W Mixing Zone: None Treatment Works: Reclaimed water storage pond receiving treated wastewater from Big Sky County Water and Sewer District treatment works.
002	Location: Snowmaking guns on the South Unnamed Tributary to Middle Fork West Fork Gallatin River from approximately 45.256478° N, 111.381912° W, to 45.261874° N, 111.368835° W Mixing Zone: None Treatment Works: Reclaimed water storage pond receiving treated wastewater from Big Sky County Water and Sewer District treatment works.

B. Effluent Limitations for Outfall 001 and 002

Upon the effective date of the permit and lasting through the permit term, the quality of effluent discharged through Outfalls 001 and 002 shall, as a minimum, meet the limitations as set forth below:

Table 1. Final Effluent Limits - Outfalls 001 and 002				
Parameter	Units	Average Monthly Limit ⁽¹⁾	Average Weekly Limit ⁽¹⁾	Maximum Daily Limit ⁽¹⁾
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD ₅)	mg/L	30	45	--
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/L	30	45	--
pH	s.u.	Within the range of 6.0 and 9.0		
Total Nitrogen, as N	mg/L	--	--	5.0
<i>E.coli</i> Bacteria	Number of organisms/100mL	2.2 ⁽²⁾	--	12.6
Total Residual Chlorine ³	mg/l	0.002	-	0.019

(1) See Definitions section at the end of the MPDES permit for explanation of terms
(2) Geometric Mean
(3) Analytical Results less than 0.1 mg/L are considered in compliance with these effluent limits.

C. Monitoring Requirements

1. Monitoring Requirements: Outfalls 001 and 002, Monitoring Location SUM-A

As a minimum, upon the effective date of this permit, the following constituents must be monitored at the frequency and with the type of measurement indicated; samples or measurements shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge. Reporting frequency shall be monthly, and the facility must submit the results on their NetDMR for each month by the 28th of the following month. If no discharge occurs during the entire monitoring period, it shall be stated on the Discharge Monitoring Report that no discharge or overflow occurred.

Samples shall be collected, preserved, and analyzed in accordance with approved procedures listed in 40 CFR Part 136.

Laboratory analytical results reported as less than detection must achieve the required reporting values (RRVs) in the latest revision of Circular DEQ-7.

a) Effluent Monitoring

Effluent monitoring shall be conducted at a dedicated monitoring location after all treatment process and prior to routing to the snowmaking guns, or SUM-A, unless otherwise noted. Sampling and monitoring for compliance with the total residual chlorine limits shall consist of a composite of grab samples from freshly made artificial snow collected at three or more snowmaking guns on the same day. Samples must be collected so that artificial snow is not mixed with natural snow.

Table 2. Monitoring Requirements for Outfall SUM-A

Parameter ⁽¹⁾	Units	Sample Type ⁽²⁾	Minimum Frequency	Reporting Requirement	RRV ⁽³⁾
Effluent Flow Rate	mgd	Recording Device	Continuous	Monthly Average and Daily Maximum	-
pH ⁽⁴⁾	s.u.	Instantaneous	1/Week	Daily Minimum and Daily Maximum	0.1
Total Suspended Solids ⁽⁴⁾	mg/L	Composite	1/Week	Monthly Average and Maximum Weekly Average	1
5-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand ⁽⁴⁾	mg/L	Composite	1/Week	Monthly Average and Maximum Weekly Average	10
<i>E. coli</i>	Number of Organisms/100mL	Grab	1/Week	Monthly Geometric Mean and Daily Maximum	1
Total Residual Chlorine ⁽⁵⁾	mg/L	Composited Grab	1/Week	Monthly Average and Daily Maximum	0.1
Temperature	° F	Instantaneous	1/Month	Monthly Average	--
Total Ammonia, as N	mg/L	Composite	1/ Month	Monthly Average	0.07
Nitrate plus Nitrite, as N	mg/L	Composite	1/Month	Monthly Average	0.02
Total Nitrogen, as N ⁽⁶⁾	mg/L	Composite	1/Week	Monthly Average and Daily Maximum	0.225
Total Phosphorus, as P	mg/L	Composite	1/Week	Monthly Average and Daily Maximum	0.003

(1) All parameters are effluent unless otherwise noted.

(2) See Definition section at end of permit for explanation of terms.

(3) Required Reporting Value.

(4) TBEL samples collected from South Pond as water is transferred to Hole 10 Pond.

(5) TRC samples collected from artificial snow. Composited and analyzed immediately.

(6) Calculated as the sum of nitrate + nitrite and total Kjeldahl nitrogen concentrations.

Average Monthly Limit (AML)

The AML or monthly average is the arithmetic average or mean (except *E. coli*) of all the daily discharge samples collected during a calendar month, as defined in Part V of the permit. If only one sample is collected, then it is considered the monthly average and reported on the Discharge Monitoring Report.

Average Weekly Limit (AWL)

The AWL or weekly average is the arithmetic average or mean (except *E. coli*) of all the daily discharge samples collected during a calendar week, as defined in Part V of the permit. If only one sample is collected during the calendar week, it is considered the weekly average. The highest weekly average of the monitoring period shall be reported on the weekly average blank on the Discharge Monitoring Report. In cases where only one sample is collected during the entire monitoring period, that sample shall be reported as both the monthly and weekly average.

Composite Samples

Composite samples shall, as a minimum, be composed of four or more discrete aliquots (samples). The aggregate sample will reflect the average quality of the water or wastewater in the compositing or sample period. Composite samples may be composed of constant volume aliquots collected at regular intervals (simple composite) or flow proportioned.

D. Special Conditions

1. The permittee must develop and implement an instream and surface water/snowmelt runoff monitoring plan. The plan must be designed to ensure that runoff from artificial snowmaking does not create a significant impact, as defined by ARM 17.30.715, to the unnamed tributaries to the Middle Fork West Fork Gallatin River, and by extension any downstream receiving waters.

The plan must be submitted to DEQ for approval at least thirty days prior to any discharge from the facility for snowmaking. The plan must at a minimum include:

- a. Monitoring for total nitrogen, total phosphorus, pH, temperature, and total ammonia at all monitoring locations. Ambient monitoring for TN may be conducted using the persulfate digestion method.
- b. At least one monitoring location on both the North Unnamed Tributary (NUN) and South Unnamed Tributary (SUN) that is upstream of all potential snowmaking runoff. Where site conditions prevent safe access to upstream locations, the monitoring locations may be located as far upstream as is reasonably achievable. Site locations will be subject to review as part of DEQ's approval of the surface water/snowmelt runoff monitoring plan. At least one sampling event must occur at each upstream location prior to the first discharge of artificial snow to the ski runs." The results of the pre-discharge samples must be incorporated into each annual monitoring report submitted to DEQ.
- c. At least one monitoring location in NUN and SUN corresponding to the middle of each stream reach potentially affected by snowmaking runoff,

- d. Monitoring of snowmelt runoff at the locations RO-2, RO-3, and RO-4
- e. In addition to RO-2, RO-3, and RO-4, monitoring locations must be established to measure runoff quality for at least three locations corresponding to discharges from Outfall 002 on the SUN
- f. Continued monitoring at the existing downstream locations submitted in the permit application (UN-1/UN-3).
- g. Effluent sampling must be conducted as required by Table 2 of this permit and those monitoring results incorporated into the report for this monitoring plan.
- h. Instream and snowmelt sampling must occur monthly at each location during the April through June runoff period and at least once in August, unless the receiving water has zero flow.
- i. Monitoring of chlorophyll-a shall be conducted at each monitoring location at least once in June and at least once during August. If runoff conditions do not allow chlorophyll-a sampling during June, then the permittee must contact the DEQ Water Protection Bureau to report such conditions. Dated photo documentation of the unsafe runoff conditions must be included in the annual monitoring report.
- j. A proposed format for a written report summarizing all monitoring activities conducted during the annual period starting November 1 each year and ending October 31 of the following year. The report must include latitude and longitude of each monitoring location, photographs of the monitoring locations, dates and times of sampling, sampling methods including collection of QA/QC samples, and all bench sheets and field notes. The report must include a comparison of all sampling results compared to the sampling results submitted with the permit application. Once the format is approved, the written report must be submitted to DEQ no later than December 31st of each year.

E. Additional Notification Requirements

In addition to the standard conditions in Parts II, III, and IV below, the permittee must notify DEQ as soon as they know or have reason to believe:

- 1. 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:
 - a. 100 micrograms per liter;
 - b. 200 micrograms per liter for acrolein and acrylonitrile; 500 micrograms per liter for 2,4-dinitrophenol and for 2-methyl-4,6-dinitrophenol; and one milligram per liter for antimony;
 - c. Five times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application in accordance with ARM 17.30.1322(7)(g); or
 - d. The level established by the department in accordance with ARM 17.30.1344(6).
- 2. 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:
 - a. 500 micrograms per liter;

- b. One milligram per liter for antimony;
- c. 10 times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application in accordance with ARM 17.30.1322(7)(g); or
- d. The level established by the department in ARM 17.30.1344, in accordance with 40 CFR 122.44(f).

II. MONITORING, RECORDING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

A. Representative Sampling

Samples taken in compliance with the monitoring requirements established under Part I of the permit shall be collected from the effluent stream prior to discharge into the receiving waters. Samples and measurements shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge.

B. Monitoring Procedures

Monitoring must be conducted according to test procedures approved under Part 136, Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, unless other test procedures have been specified in this permit. See Part I.C of this permit for any applicable sludge monitoring procedures. All flow-measuring and flow-recording devices used in obtaining data submitted in self-monitoring reports must indicate values within 10 percent of the actual flow being measured.

C. 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.

D. Reporting of Monitoring Results

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 Part IV.G '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

E. Compliance Schedule

Reports of compliance or noncompliance with, or any progress reports on interim and final requirements contained in any Compliance Schedule or Special Conditions of this permit must be submitted no later than 14 days following each schedule date unless otherwise specified in the permit.

F. Additional Monitoring by the Permittee

If the permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by this permit, using approved analytical methods as specified in this permit, the results of this monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the Discharge Monitoring Report. Such increased frequency shall also be indicated.

G. Records Contents

Records of monitoring information shall include:

1. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;
2. The initials or name(s) of the individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;
3. The date(s) analyses were performed;
4. The time analyses were initiated;
5. The initials or name(s) of individual(s) who performed the analyses;
6. References and written procedures, when available, for the analytical techniques or methods used; and
7. The results of such analyses, including the bench sheets, instrument readouts, computer disks or tapes, etc., used to determine these results.

H. 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. This period may be extended by request of the Department at any time. 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.

I. Twenty-Four Hour Notice of Noncompliance Reporting

1. The permittee shall report any serious incident of noncompliance affecting the environment as soon as possible, but no later than twenty-four (24) hours from the time the permittee first became aware of the circumstances. The report shall be made to the Water Protection Bureau at (406) 444-5546 or the Office of Disaster and Emergency Services at (406) 841-3911. The following examples are considered serious incidents:
 - a. Any noncompliance which may seriously endanger health or the environment;
 - b. Any unanticipated bypass which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit (See Part III.G of this permit, "Bypass of Treatment Facilities"); or
 - c. Any upset which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit (See Part III.H of this permit, "Upset Conditions").
2. 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:
 - a. A description of the noncompliance and its cause;
 - b. The period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times;

- c. The estimated time noncompliance is expected to continue if it has not been corrected; and
 - d. Steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.
3. 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.
 4. Reports shall be submitted to the addresses in Part II.D of this permit, "Reporting of Monitoring Results."

J. Other Noncompliance Reporting

Instances of noncompliance not required to be reported within 24 hours shall be reported at the time that monitoring reports for Part II.D of this permit are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed in Part II.I.2 of this permit.

K. Inspection and Entry

The permittee shall allow the head of the Department or the Regional Administrator, or an authorized representative upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, to:

1. 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;
2. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this permit;
3. Inspect at reasonable times any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this permit; and
4. Sample or monitor at reasonable times, for the purpose of assuring permit compliance, any substances or parameters at any location.

III. COMPLIANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

A. 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. The permittee shall give the Department advance notice of any planned changes at the permitted facility or of an activity which may result in permit noncompliance.

B. Penalties for Violations of Permit Conditions

The Montana Water Quality Act provides that any person who violates a permit condition of the Act is subject to civil or 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 75-5-611(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. Except as provided in permit conditions on Part III.G of this permit, "Bypass of Treatment Facilities" and Part III.H of this permit, "Upset Conditions", nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee of the civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance.

C. Need to Halt or Reduce Activity not a Defense

It shall not be a defense for a permittee in an enforcement action that it would have been necessary to halt or reduce the permitted activity in order to maintain compliance with the conditions of this permit.

D. 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.

E. 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. However, the permittee shall operate, as a minimum, one complete set of each main line unit treatment process whether or not this process is needed to achieve permit effluent compliance.

F. Removed Substances

1. Collected screenings, grit, solids, sludges, or other pollutants removed in the course of treatment shall be disposed of in such a manner so as to prevent any pollutant from entering any waters of the state or creating a health hazard. Sludge shall not be directly blended with either the final plant discharge and/or waters of the United States.

G. Bypass of Treatment Facilities

1. Bypass not exceeding limitations. The permittee may allow any bypass to occur which does not cause effluent limitations to be exceeded, but only if it also is for essential maintenance to assure efficient operation. These bypasses are not subject to the provisions of Parts III.G.2 and III.G.3 of this permit.
2. Notice:
 - a. 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.
 - b. Unanticipated bypass. The permittee shall submit notice of an unanticipated bypass as required under Part II.I of this permit, "Twenty-Four Hour Reporting."
3. Prohibition of bypass:
 - a. 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 Part III.G.2 of this permit.
 - b. The Department may approve an anticipated bypass, after considering its adverse effects, if the Department determines that it will meet the three conditions listed above in Part III.G.3.a of this permit.

H. Upset Conditions

1. 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 Part III.H.2 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 (i.e. Permittees will have the opportunity for a judicial determination on any claim of upset only in an

enforcement action brought for noncompliance with technology-based permit effluent limitations).

2. 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:
 - a. An upset occurred, and that the permittee can identify the cause(s) of the upset;
 - b. The permitted facility was at the time being properly operated;
 - c. The permittee submitted notice of the upset as required under Part II.I of this permit, "Twenty-Four Hour Notice of Noncompliance Reporting"; and
 - d. The permittee complied with any remedial measures required under Part III.D of this permit, "Duty to Mitigate".
3. Burden of proof. In any enforcement proceeding, the permittee seeking to establish the occurrence of an upset has the burden of proof.

IV. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

A. Planned Changes

The permittee shall give notice to the Department as soon as possible of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility. Notice is required only when:

1. The alteration or addition could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutant discharged. This notification applies to pollutants which are not subject to effluent limitations in the permit.
2. There are any planned substantial changes to the existing sewage sludge management practices of storage and disposal. The permittee shall give the Department notice of any planned changes at least 180 days prior to their implementation.

B. Anticipated Noncompliance

The permittee shall give advance notice to the Department of any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity which may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.

C. 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.

D. Duty to Reapply

If the permittee wishes to continue an activity regulated by this permit after the expiration date of this permit, the permittee must apply for and obtain a new permit. The application must be submitted at least 180 days before the expiration date of this permit.

E. 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.

F. Other Information

When 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 with a narrative explanation of the circumstances of the omission or incorrect submittal and why they weren't supplied earlier.

G. Signatory Requirements

All applications, reports or information submitted to the Department or the EPA shall be signed and certified.

1. All permit applications shall be signed by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.
2. All reports required by the permit and other information requested by the Department shall be signed by a person described above or by a duly authorized representative of that person. A person is considered a duly authorized representative only if:
 - a. The authorization is made in writing by a person described above and submitted to the Department; and
 - b. The authorization specified 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 a well field, superintendent, position of equivalent responsibility, or an individual or position having overall responsibility for environmental matters for the company. (A duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or an individual occupying a named position.)
3. Changes to authorization. If an authorization under Part IV.G.2 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 Part IV.G.2 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.
4. 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.”

H. 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 by both.

I. Availability of Reports

Except for data determined to be confidential under 40 CFR Part 2, all reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Department. As required by the Clean Water Act, permit applications, permits and effluent data shall not be considered confidential.

J. Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability

Nothing in this permit shall be construed to preclude the institution of any legal action or relieve the permittee from any responsibilities, liabilities, or penalties to which the permittee is or may be subject under Section 311 of the Clean Water Act.

K. Property Rights

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights of any sort, or any exclusive privilege.

L. 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.

M. Transfers

This permit may be automatically transferred to a new permittee if:

1. The current permittee notifies the Department at least 30 days in advance of the proposed transfer date;
2. 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;
3. 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 Part IV.M.2 of this permit; and
4. Required annual and application fees have been paid.

N. Fees

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:

1. Impose an additional assessment computed at the rates established under 17.30.201; and,
2. 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 sub-section. Suspensions are limited to one year, after which the permit will be terminated.

O. Reopener Provisions

This permit may 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 limits 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 limits or water management plan.
3. TMDL or Wasteload Allocation: TMDL requirements or a wasteload allocation is developed and approved by the Department and/or EPA 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. Sewage Sludge: There have been substantial changes (or such changes are planned) in sludge use or disposal practices; applicable management practices or numerical limitations for pollutants in sludge have been promulgated which are more stringent than the requirements in this permit, and/or it has been determined that the permittee's sludge use or disposal practices do not comply with existing applicable state or federal regulations.
6. Toxic Pollutants: A toxic standard or prohibition is established under Section 307(a) of the Clean Water Act 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.

V. DEFINITIONS

1. **“Act”** means the Montana Water Quality Act, Title 75, chapter 5, MCA.
2. **“Administrator”** means the administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
3. **“Acute Toxicity”** occurs when 50 percent or more mortality is observed for either species (See Part I.C of this permit) at any effluent concentration. Mortality in the control must simultaneously be 10 percent or less for the effluent results to be considered valid.
4. **“Annual Average Load”** means the arithmetic mean of all 30-day or monthly average loads reported during the calendar year for a monitored parameter.
5. **“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.
6. **“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.
7. **“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.
8. **“BOD₅”** means the five-day measure of pollutant parameter biochemical oxygen demand.
9. **“Bypass”** means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.
10. **“CBOD₅”** means the five-day measure of pollutant parameter carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand.
11. **“Composite samples”** means a sample composed of four or more discrete aliquots (samples). The aggregate sample will reflect the average quality of the water or wastewater in the compositing or sample period. Composite sample may be composed of constant volume aliquots collected at regular intervals (simple composite) or flow proportioned.
12. **“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.
13. **“Daily Maximum Limit”** means the maximum 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.

14. "**Department**" means the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Established by 2-15-3501, MCA.
15. "**Director**" means the Director of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.
16. "**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.
17. "**EPA**" means the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
18. "**Federal Clean Water Act**" means the federal legislation at 33 USC 1251, *et seq.*
19. "**Geometric Mean**" means the value obtained by taking the Nth root of the product of the measured values.
20. "**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.
21. "**Indirect discharge**" means the introduction of pollutants into a POTW from any non-domestic source regulated under Section 307(b), (c) or (d) of the Federal Clean Water Act.
22. "**Industrial User**" means a source of Indirect Discharge.
23. "**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.
24. "**Instantaneous Measurement**" for monitoring requirements, means a single reading, observation, or measurement.
25. "**Interference**" means a discharge which, alone or in conjunction with other contributing discharges
 - a. Inhibits or disrupts the POTW, its treatment processes or operations, or its sludge processes, use or disposal; and
 - b. Therefore causes a violation of any requirement of the POTW's MPDES permit (including an increase in the magnitude or duration of a violation) or causes the prevention of sewage sludge use or disposal in compliance with the following statutes and regulations: Section 405 of the Clean Water Act; 40 CFR Part 503 - Standards for the Use and Disposal of Sewage Sludge; Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); 40 CFR Part 258 - Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills; and/or any State regulations regarding the disposal of sewage sludge.
26. "**Maximum daily discharge limitation**" means the highest allowable daily discharge.
27. "**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. (ARM 17.30.702(21))

28. "**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.
29. "**Nondegradation**" means the prevention of a significant change in water quality that lowers the quality of high-quality water for one or more parameters. Also, the prohibition of any increase in discharge that exceeds the limits established under or determined from a permit or approval issued by the Department prior to April 29, 1993.
30. "**Pass through**" means a discharge which exits the POTW into waters of the State of Montana in quantities or concentrations which, alone or in conjunction with other discharges, is a cause of a violation of any requirement of the POTW's MPDES permit (including an increase in the magnitude or duration of a violation).
31. "**POTW**" means a publicly owned treatment works.
32. "**Regional Administrator**" means the administrator of Region VIII of EPA, which has jurisdiction over federal water pollution control activities in the state of Montana.
33. "**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.
34. "**Sewage Sludge**" means any solid, semi-solid or liquid residue generated during the treatment of domestic sewage and/or a combination of domestic sewage and industrial waste of a liquid nature in a treatment works. Sewage sludge includes, but is not limited to, domestic septage; scum or solids removed in primary, secondary, or advanced wastewater treatment processes; and a material derived from sewage sludge. Sewage sludge does not include ash generated during the incineration of sewage sludge or grit and screenings generated during preliminary treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works.
35. "**TIE**" means a toxicity identification evaluation.
36. "**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.
37. "**TRE**" means a toxicity reduction evaluation.
38. "**TSS**" means the pollutant parameter total suspended solids.
39. "**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.