

# MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

## AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE MONTANA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

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.*,

### **Magris Talc America, Inc.**

is authorized to discharge from the **Yellowstone Mine**

located at **45.072, -111.725;**  
**T9S, R1W, Sec. 3, 4, 5, and 9 and T8S, R1W, Sec. 32, 33, and 34;**  
**Madison County, MT**

to receiving waters named, **Johnny Gulch and Ruby Creek Irrigation Ditch**

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: **June 1, 2026**

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, **May 31, 2031.**

FOR THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Tatiana Davila, Chief  
Water Protection Bureau  
Water Quality Division

Issuance Date: April 24, 2026

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## 1. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS, MONITORING REQUIREMENTS & OTHER CONDITIONS

### 1.1. 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.

<b><u>Outfall</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
001	<p><b>Location:</b> At the end of the spillway, discharging into Johnny Gulch, located at 45.068056, -111.737778.</p> <p><b>Mixing Zone:</b> None</p> <p><b>Treatment Works:</b> The discharge receives primary settling in Ponds 1 and 2.</p>
002	<p><b>Location:</b> At the outlet weir of Pond 8A, discharging into Ruby Creek Irrigation Ditch (RCID), located at 45.085833, -111.703056.</p> <p><b>Mixing Zone:</b> None</p> <p><b>Treatment Works:</b> Treatment consists of settling in a series of ponds (named 5A, 5B, 7A, and 8A) and a facility-wide storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) to control sediment run-off.</p>
003	<p><b>Location:</b> At the outlet weir of Pond 9A, discharging into RCID, located at 45.0875, -111.700278.</p> <p><b>Mixing Zone:</b> None</p> <p><b>Treatment Works:</b> Treatment consists of settling in a series of ponds (named 5A, 5B, 7A, and 9A) and a facility-wide SWPPP to control sediment run-off.</p>

## 1.2. Effluent Limitations

Beginning on the effective date of this permit and lasting through the term of the permit, the quality of effluent discharged by the facility shall, as a minimum, meet the limitations as set forth below:

### Outfall 001 Final Limits

<b>Table 1. Final Effluent Limits for Outfall 001</b>			
Parameter	Units	Effluent Limitations	
		Average Monthly	Maximum Daily
Oil and Grease (O&G)	mg/L	-	10
pH	s.u.	Within the range of 6.0 – 9.0	
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	mg/L	25	45

### Outfalls 002 and 003

There shall be no discharge from the outfalls except as a result of a precipitation event in excess of 1.9 inches in a 24-hour period or the equivalent snow melt;

In the event a discharge occurs, it shall be from either Outfall 002 or Outfall 003, but not both simultaneously;

The instantaneous maximum limitation for oil & grease in any grab sample shall not exceed 10 mg/L;

The permittee shall maintain its storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) in accordance with Part 1 of the permit.

### Prohibited Discharge

Discharge from the facility to the receiving water shall not:

- Settle to form objectionable sludge deposits or emulsions beneath the surface of the water or upon adjoining shorelines;
- Create floating debris, scum, a visible oil film, or globules of grease or other floating materials;
- Produce odors, colors, or other conditions as to which create a nuisance or render undesirable tastes to fish flesh or make fish inedible;
- Create concentrations or combinations of materials which are toxic or harmful to human, animal, plant, or aquatic life; and
- Create conditions which produce undesirable aquatic life.

## 1.3. Monitoring Requirements

At a minimum, upon the effective date of this permit, the following constituents shall 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. Samples shall be collected, preserved, and analyzed in accordance with approved procedures listed in 40 CFR Part 136, unless another test procedure has been

specified in this permit. All analytical procedures must meet any Required Reporting Values (RRVs) listed in Department Circular DEQ-7 (DEQ-7) as specified below. If no discharge occurs during the entire monitoring period, it shall be stated on the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) that no discharge occurred.

#### Outfall 001

Effluent monitoring requirements for Outfall 001 are summarized below. Because discharge to Outfall 001 is currently precipitation induced, effluent monitoring shall be required within one hour of discharge, and monthly thereafter, until discharge ceases.

Parameter	Units	Monitoring Frequency	Sample Type	RRV
Flow Rate	mgd	Monthly <sup>(1)</sup>	Instantaneous <sup>(2)</sup>	-
Oil and Grease (O&G)	mg/L	Monthly <sup>(1)</sup>	Grab <sup>(3)</sup>	1
	Y/N	Monthly <sup>(1)</sup>	Visual	n/a
pH	s.u.	Monthly <sup>(1)</sup>	Instantaneous	0.1
Total suspended solids (TSS)	mg/L	Monthly <sup>(1)</sup>	Grab	10
Footnotes:				
(1) Monitoring within first hour and monthly thereafter for the duration of any discharge event only. For oil & grease, a grab sample must also be taken in the event of a visual oil observation.				
(2) Flow monitoring must be +/- 10% of the actual flow being measured.				
(3) Use EPA Method 1664, Revision A: N-Hexane Extractable Material (HEM), or equivalent.				

#### Outfalls 002 and 003

Effluent monitoring requirements for Outfalls 002 and 003 are summarized below. Because discharge from the outfalls is precipitation-induced, monitoring will be required within one hour of discharge, and weekly thereafter, until discharge ceases.

<b>Table 3. Summary of Effluent Monitoring Requirements for Outfalls 002, 003</b>				
Parameter	Units	Monitoring Frequency	Sample Type	RRV
Flow Rate	mgd	Weekly <sup>(1)</sup>	Instantaneous <sup>(2)</sup>	-
pH	s.u.	Weekly <sup>(1)</sup>	Instantaneous	0.1
Nitrite + Nitrate, as N	mg/L	Weekly <sup>(1)</sup>	Grab	0.02
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	mg/L	Weekly <sup>(1)</sup>	Grab	0.225
Total Nitrogen <sup>(3)</sup>	mg/L	Weekly <sup>(1)</sup>	Calculated	-
	lb/day	Weekly <sup>(1)</sup>	Calculated	-
Total Phosphorus	mg/L	Weekly <sup>(1)</sup>	Grab	0.003
Oil and Grease (O&G)	mg/L	Weekly <sup>(1)</sup>	Grab <sup>(4)</sup>	1
	Y/N	Weekly <sup>(1)</sup>	Visual	n/a
Total suspended solids (TSS)	mg/L	Weekly <sup>(1)</sup>	Grab	10

Footnotes:

(1) Monitoring within first hour and weekly thereafter for the duration of any discharge event only. For oil & grease, a grab sample must also be taken in the event of a visual oil observation.

(2) Flow monitoring must be +/- 10% of the actual flow being measured.

(3) Calculated as the sum of Nitrate + Nitrite as N and Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) concentrations.

(4) Use EPA Method 1664, Revision A: N-Hexane Extractable Material (HEM), or equivalent.

### Precipitation Monitoring

Precipitation monitoring shall be required to demonstrate compliance with permit conditions that describe when discharge is allowed to occur at either Outfall 002 or Outfall 003 (i.e. a 10-year, 24-hour rainfall event, 1.9 inches). The accumulated precipitation or equivalent snowmelt within any continuous 24-hour period that causes discharge to occur must be reported. Precipitation events must be measured using a rain gauge or equivalent device capable of measuring depth to an accuracy of 0.1 inches. Precipitation monitoring shall be conducted at either the lower shop and gatehouse facilities, or the offices and ore sorting facilities.

Monitoring data shall be reported in the annual *Comprehensive Site Inspection and Compliance Evaluation Report (CSI/CER)* submitted by January 28<sup>th</sup> for the preceding year as required under Special Conditions Part 1.4.

## **1.4. Special Conditions**

### Monitoring Locations:

The discharge points and monitoring locations shall be permanently marked and identified.

### Storm Water Management:

The permittee shall develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) which achieves the objectives and the specific requirements listed below. The permittee shall also amend this Plan as necessary to incorporate practices to achieve the objectives and specific requirements listed below, and a copy shall be

submitted to the Department in accordance with the requirements of Part 2 of this permit. The amended Plan shall be implemented as soon as possible but not later than six months from the effective date of this permit.

*1.4.1 General SWPPP Requirements*

- a. The SWPPP and associated documentation, as well as BMPs developed and implemented, must be accomplished using good standard engineering practices.
- b. The SWPPP must be retained onsite at the facility that generates the storm water discharge. Provided no permanent offices/buildings are located at the facility site, a copy of these documents shall be retained at the office of the contact person identified in the permit application and at the office of the primary individual responsible for the implementation of the SWPPP, and shall be brought to the site at all times with these identified personnel. Should the identity of these responsible contacts/individuals change during the permit period, the permittee shall ensure measures are in place to transfer, and familiarize replacement personnel with the requirements pertaining to the SWPPP.
- c. The SWPPP must be signed in accordance with the signatory requirements of this permit.
- d. The SWPPP must be made available upon request of Department staff, such as during inspections.
- e. The Department may notify the permittee that the SWPPP does not meet one or more of the minimum requirements of this permit. After such notification from the Department, the permittee shall make changes to the SWPPP and shall submit to the Department a written certification that the requested changes have been made. Unless otherwise stated by the Department, the permittee shall have 30 days after such notification to make the required changes. When the Department makes such notification, the permittee shall provide the Department with a copy of revisions to the SWPPP.
- f. The permittee shall amend the SWPPP whenever there is a change in design, construction, operation, or maintenance that has significant effect on the potential for the discharge of pollutants to surface waters, or if the SWPPP proves to be ineffective in achieving the general objective of controlling pollutants in a storm water discharge covered under this permit. When such revisions are made to the SWPPP based upon this permit condition, the permittee shall provide the Department with a copy of revisions to the SWPPP.
- g. The SWPPP must identify the name of receiving surface waters. If there is a distinguishable point source discharge or outfall, the SWPPP must include a description of the size, type, and location of each point source discharge or outfall. A description of storm water runoff flow and drainage patterns into the receiving surface waters must be provided. If the discharge is to a

- municipal separate storm sewer, the location of any storm sewer discharge into the receiving surface waters must be provided.
- h. The SWPPP must identify a specific person or persons at the facility who are responsible for SWPPP development, implementation, maintenance, and revision. The SWPPP must clearly identify the responsibilities of each person. The activities and responsibilities of the person(s) must address all aspects of the SWPPP.
  - i. The SWPPP must identify facility personnel training programs used to inform personnel responsible for implementing activities identified in the SWPPP or otherwise responsible for storm water management of the components and goals of the SWPPP. Training should address topics such as spill response, good housekeeping, and material management practices. A schedule must identify the frequency for such training.
  - j. The SWPPP must address preventative maintenance measures which include the inspection and maintenance of storm water management BMPs. Qualified personnel shall be identified in the SWPPP to inspect the facility site and storm water management BMPs following each significant storm water rainfall event resulting in 0.5 inches of precipitation or more, or after significant snowmelt events. Inspections must be documented and maintained with the SWPPP. Inspections and their respective records must include tracking or follow-up procedures to ensure adequate response and corrective actions have been taken based on any problems or deficiencies observed during the inspection.
  - k. The SWPPP must address good housekeeping measures to help maintain a clean, orderly, facility. Measures could include a routine schedule for the managing/removal of waste materials, as well as routine inspections of potential problem areas.
  - l. The SWPPP must include a General Location Map (such as a USGS topographic quadrangle map), extending one mile beyond the property boundaries of the facility, with enough detail to identify the location of the facility, any storm water discharges, and the receiving surface waters. The facility site must be clearly delineated on this map. The permittee may use the topographic map submitted with the application provided it indicates this information with respect to storm water discharges.
  - m. The SWPPP must identify procedures and protocols to be implemented and used to meet the monitoring requirements of this permit.

#### *1.4.2 Identification of Potential Pollutant Sources*

The SWPPP must provide a description of potential pollutant sources which may reasonably be expected to affect the quality of storm water discharges. The SWPPP must identify all significant activities and materials that could potentially be significant pollutant sources. To accomplish this, the SWPPP must include, at a minimum:

- a. For each area of the facility with storm water discharges from regulated activities that have a reasonable potential to contain significant amounts of pollutants, a prediction of the direction of flow, and an identification of the types of pollutants and parameters of concern that are likely to affect the storm water discharge. Factors to consider include the toxicity of chemicals; quantity of chemical used, produced or discharged; the likelihood of contact with storm water; the history of any MPDES permit violations; and the characteristics and uses of the receiving surface waters. In the identification of potential pollutants, and depending on the type of facility, items to identify and assess may include:
  - Areas and management practices used for the storage, treatment, or disposal of wastes;
  - Areas where significant spills and leaks of hazardous substances may have occurred;
  - Areas and management practices used for the loading or unloading of dry bulk materials and liquids;
  - Areas and management practices used for the outdoor storage of materials and/or products;
  - Areas and management practices used for outdoor manufacturing or processing activities;
  - Areas and management practices used for vehicle fueling, washing, and maintenance;
  - Dust or particulate-generating processes;
  - Illicit connections and/or management practices;
  - Areas more susceptible to erosion; and,
  - Areas with unstabilized sediment due to ground disturbance activities.The permittee must evaluate these potential pollutant sources back at least three years prior to the date permit coverage is applied for the respective storm water discharge.
- b. A summary of existing storm water quality sampling test results which characterize historical pollutants in storm water discharges.
- c. Estimate and define area(s) of relatively impervious surfaces (including paved areas and facility structural roofs) with respect to the total area drained by each point source discharge of storm water.
- d. An evaluation of how the quality of any potential storm water running onto the facility site would impact the facility's storm water discharge.

#### *1.4.3 Storm Water Management Best Management Practices*

- a. SWPPPs must include a description of storm water management Best Management Practices (BMPs) appropriate for the facility, including those used to divert, infiltrate, reuse, or otherwise manage storm water runoff, that reduces pollutants in storm water discharges from the site. The

- appropriateness and priorities of BMPs in a SWPPP shall reflect the identified potential sources of pollutants to storm water at the facility.
- b. Reasonable and appropriate BMPs may include: reuse of collected storm water (such as for process water or as an irrigation source); inlet controls (such as oil/water separators); snow management activities; infiltration devices, detention/retention devices (including constructed wetlands); run-on/runoff controls; diversion structures; flow attenuation by use of open vegetated swales, natural depressions, and other practices; and, ponds. Where practicable, industrial materials and activities could be protected by a storm resistant shelter to prevent exposure to rain or snow.
  - c. The location and description of any treatment to remove pollutants that storm water receives.
  - d. The SWPPP must provide a description of measures to ensure the ongoing implementation and maintenance of BMPs. Inspections and maintenance activities, such as cleaning oil and grit separators or catch basins, must be documented and recorded. Incidents such as spills, leaks, other releases of potential pollutants, and/or other material/waste management problems, must also be documented and recorded.
  - e. The SWPPP must address Spill Prevention and Response Measures as follows:
    - Areas where potential spills may occur that could contribute pollutants to storm water discharges, and their accompanying drainage points, must be identified clearly in the SWPPP.
    - Where appropriate, specific material-handling procedures, storage requirements, and use of equipment, such as diversion valves, should be considered in the SWPPP.
    - Procedures and necessary equipment for cleaning up spills must be identified in the SWPPP and made available to the appropriate personnel.
    - Emergency spill/response contact and/or notification numbers must be listed in the SWPPP.
    - SWPPP records of spills must be updated when a significant spill or leak of hazardous substances occurs and must include a description of the specific origin and location of the release, a description of the materials released, an estimate of the quantity of the release, and a description of any remediation or cleanup measures which were taken.
  - f. The SWPPP must address Sediment and Erosion Control BMPs as follows:
    - The SWPPP must describe sediment and erosion control BMPs including various structural, vegetative, and/or stabilization measures.
    - The SWPPP must allow for BMPs to be implemented as necessary.

- The SWPPP must address areas which have a higher potential for erosion due to topography, slope characteristics, facility activities, and/or other factors.
- An assessment of the nature of any fill material to be used, the existing soils located at the site, and the erodibility (high, moderate, or slight) of such soils must be provided in the SWPPP.
- Storm water discharges associated with construction activity at the facility site may be included under this permit provided the SWPPP is developed or revised to address these discharges as follows:
  - The SWPPP must identify and locate the BMPs to be used during and after the construction project to control sediment discharges to surface waters;
  - Final stabilization of disturbed areas must be ensured;
  - This Sediment and Erosion Control section of the SWPPP must be updated with a SWPPP modification to reflect new construction activity as necessary; and,
  - The SWPPP modification must be submitted to the Department prior to the start of construction.

Provided these items are addressed, coverage for storm water discharges associated with construction activity under this permit would commence on the date stated in the SWPPP or when construction starts.

- The SWPPP may include the use of BMPs such as sediment basins, detention/retention structures, berms, barriers, filter strips, covers, diversion structures, sediment control fences, straw bale dikes, seeding, sodding, and/or other control structures. Any SWPPP elements that require engineered structures, such as detention ponds or diversion structures, must be prepared by a qualified individual using good standard engineering practices.

#### *1.4.4 SWPPP Site Map or Plan*

The SWPPP must include a site map or plan which indicates the following:

- a. An identification of each point source discharge of storm water with a delineated outline of the respective drainage area;
- b. The sampling location of Outfalls 002 and 003;
- c. Delineated drainage patterns which clearly indicate the storm water runoff flow patterns (such as using arrows or detailed topographic contours to show which direction storm water will flow);
- d. The "areas" identified in Part 1.4.2.a;
- e. The "BMPs" identified in Part 1.4.3;
- f. Major permanent facility structures;
- g. Each well where liquids associated with the facility are injected underground including any storm water conveyances;

- h. Location and source of runoff from adjacent property containing significant quantities of pollutants of concern to the facility;
- i. Location of all surface waters on or near to the construction activity site (including perennial and intermittent waterbodies, ephemeral streams, springs, wetlands with standing water, etc.);
- j. A map scale;
- k. A north arrow; and,
- l. For construction activities:
  - Areas of total development and, at a minimum, areas of "disturbance" related to construction activity (including support activities related to a construction site such as concrete or asphalt batch plants, equipment staging areas, material storage areas, soil stockpile areas, material borrow areas, etc.);
  - Location of all erosion and sediment control BMPs;
  - Location of impervious structures (including buildings, roads, parking lots, outdoor storage areas, etc.) after construction is completed;
  - Areas where vegetative BMPs are to be implemented;
  - Approximate slopes anticipated after major grading activities; and,
  - The boundary of the 100-year floodplain, if determined.

#### *1.4.5 Comprehensive Site Inspection and Compliance Evaluation Report*

- a. For storm water discharges that are associated with industrial, mining, oil and gas, and construction activity with construction-related disturbance of five acres or more of total land area, a Comprehensive Site Inspection (CSI) must be performed annually to identify areas contributing to the regulated storm water discharge and to evaluate whether BMPs to reduce pollutant loadings identified in the SWPPP are adequate and properly implemented in accordance with the terms of this permit. For inactive mining operations, if annual inspections are impracticable, then a certification once every three years by a registered professional engineer that the facility is in compliance with the permit, or alternative requirements, can be performed instead of an annual CSI.
- b. A Comprehensive Site Inspection must assess the following:
  - Whether the description of potential pollutant sources is accurate;
  - Whether the site map has been updated or otherwise modified to reflect current conditions;
  - Whether the BMPs to control potential pollutants in storm water discharges as identified in the SWPPP are being effectively implemented; and,
  - Whether any SWPPP revisions such as additional BMPs are necessary.
- c. Based on the results of the CSI, the description of potential pollutant sources and BMPs identified in the SWPPP must be revised as appropriate within 14

- days of such inspection and must provide for implementation of the changes to the SWPPP in a timely manner.
- d. A Compliance Evaluation Report (CER) must be submitted to the Department addressing the CSI performed during each calendar year.
- The report must identify personnel making the inspection and the date(s) of the inspection.
  - The report must summarize observations made based on the items stated in Part 1.4.5.
  - The report must summarize actions taken in accordance with Part 1.4.1. and 1.4.5.b.
  - The report must be retained with the SWPPP.
  - The permittee shall submit a copy of the report to the Department by January 28<sup>th</sup> of each year for the preceding calendar year's inspection.
  - The report must identify any incidents of noncompliance. Where a report does not identify any incidents of noncompliance, the report must contain a certification that the facility is in compliance with the SWPPP and this permit.
  - The report must be signed in accordance with the signatory requirements stated in the permit.
- e. A tracking or follow-up procedure, including a schedule for implementation, must be used and identified in the Report which ensures adequate response and corrective actions have been taken in response to the Comprehensive Site Inspection and/or noncompliances.
- f. Records of the CSI, CER, and any related follow-up actions must be maintained by the permittee.

## **2. MONITORING, RECORDING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

### **2.1. Representative Sampling**

Samples taken in compliance with the monitoring requirements established under Part 1 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.

### **2.2. 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.

### **2.3. 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 \$10,000, or by imprisonment for not more than six months, or by both.

### **2.4. 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 reporting period, "no discharge" must be reported on the report form. Legible copies of these, and all other reports required herein, must be signed and certified in accordance with Part 4.7 '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

### **2.5. Compliance Schedules**

Reports of compliance or noncompliance with, or any progress reports on, interim and final requirements contained in any compliance schedule of the permit must be submitted to DEQ in either electronic or paper format and be postmarked no later than 14 days following each schedule date unless otherwise specified in the permit.

### **2.6. 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.

### **2.7. 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.

## **2.8. 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.

## **2.9. Twenty-four Hour Notice of Noncompliance Reporting**

1. The permittee shall report any serious incidents 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. The report shall be made to the Water Protection Bureau at (406) 444-3080 or the Office of Disaster and Emergency Services at (406) 324-4777. The following examples are considered serious incidents:
  - a. Any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment;
  - b. Any unanticipated bypass which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit (See Part 3.7 of this permit, "Bypass of Treatment Facilities"); or
  - c. Any upset which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit (see Part 3.8 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) 444-3080.
4. Reports shall be submitted to the addresses in Part 2.4 of this permit, "Reporting of Monitoring Results."

**2.10. 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 2.4 of this permit are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed in Part 2.9.2 of this permit.

**2.11. Inspection and Entry**

The permittee shall allow the head of the Department or the Director, or an authorized representative thereof, 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.

### **3. COMPLIANCE RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **3.1. Duty to Comply**

The permittee must comply with all conditions of this permit. Any permit noncompliance constitutes a violation of the 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 and the Director advance notice of any planned changes at the permitted facility or of an activity which may result in permit noncompliance.

#### **3.2. 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 3.7 of this permit, "Bypass of Treatment Facilities" and Part 3.8 of this permit, "Upset Conditions," nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee of the civil or criminal penalties for noncompliance.

#### **3.3. Need to Halt or Reduce Activity not a Defense**

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

#### **3.4. 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.

#### **3.5. 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.

#### **3.6. Removed Substances**

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.

### **3.7. 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 3.7.2 and 3.7.3 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 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 judgement 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 3.7.2 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 3.7.3.a of this permit.

### **3.8. 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 2.9 of this permit, "Twenty-four Hour Notice of Noncompliance Reporting"; and
  - d. The permittee complied with any remedial measures required under Part 3.4 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.

#### **4. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

##### **4.1. 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; or
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.

##### **4.2. 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.

##### **4.3. 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.

##### **4.4. 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.

##### **4.5. 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 revoking, modifying 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.

##### **4.6. 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.

##### **4.7. 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 4.7.2 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 4.7.2 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.”

#### **4.8. 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.

#### **4.9. 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.

#### **4.10. 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.

#### **4.11. Property Rights**

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property or water rights of any sort, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights, nor any infringement of federal, state or local laws or regulations.

#### **4.12. 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.

#### **4.13. 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 4.13.2 of this permit; and
4. Required annual and application fees have been paid.

#### **4.14. 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 fee assessment computed at the rate established under ARM 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.

#### **4.15. 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. 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.

## 5. 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 at any effluent concentration. Mortality in the control must simultaneously be 10 percent or less for the effluent results to be considered valid.
4. “**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.
5. “**Average Monthly Limit**” 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.
6. “**Average Weekly Limit**” 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.
7. “**Bypass**” means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.
8. “**Composite samples**” means a sample composed of four or more discrete aliquots (samples) collected in a 24 hour period. 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. The aliquots shall be combined in a single container for analysis (simple composite). 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.
9. “**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 limits expressed in units of mass, the daily discharge is calculated as the total mass of the pollutant discharged over the day. For pollutants with limits expressed in other units of measurement, the daily discharge is calculated as the average measurement of the pollutant over the day.
10. “**Department**” means the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Established by 2-15-3501, MCA.
11. “**Director**” means the Director of the Montana DEQ.
12. “**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.
13. “**EPA**” means the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
14. “**Federal Clean Water Act**” means the federal legislation at 33 USC 1251, et seq.
15. “**Geometric Mean**” means the value obtained by taking the N<sup>th</sup> root of the product of N number of measured values.

16. "**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.
17. "**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.
18. "**Industrial User**" means a source of Indirect Discharge.
19. "**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.
20. "**Instantaneous Measurement**," for monitoring requirements, means a single reading, observation, or measurement.
21. "**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.
22. "**Maximum Daily Limit**" means the maximum allowable discharge of a pollutant during a calendar day. If it is expressed as units of mass, the daily discharge is cumulative mass discharged over the course of the day. If it is expressed as a concentration, it is the arithmetic average of all measurements taken that day.
23. "**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 Part 136. In most cases the ML is equivalent to the Required Reporting Value (RRV) unless otherwise specified in the permit.
24. "**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.
25. "**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 DEQ prior to April 29, 1993.
26. "**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).

27. "**Person(s)**" means any individual, partnership, firm, association, state, interstate body, municipality, public or private corporation, subdivision, or agency of the state, trust, estate, federal agency, or any other legal entity, or an agent or employee thereof.
28. "**Regional Administrator**" means the administrator of Region VIII of EPA, which has jurisdiction over federal water pollution control activities in the state of Montana.
29. "**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.
30. "**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.
31. "**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.
32. "**Upset**" means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology-based permit effluent limits 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.