

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE UNDER THE MONTANA GROUND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL SYSTEM

In compliance with Montana Water Quality Act, Title 75, Chapter 5, Montana Code Annotated (MCA) and the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30 Subchapter 5, Subchapter 7, and Subchapter 10 *et seq.*,

Contact Mining Company

must operate its facility, **Contact Mill**, in accordance with the limitations, monitoring requirements, and other provisions set forth herein.

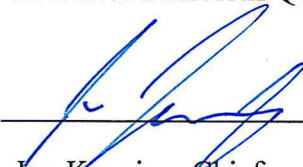
The facility is located at: East ½, Section 36, Township 07 North, Range 14 West; Granite County.

Authorization is limited to the conditions specifically listed in the permit. The limitations, monitoring requirements, and other provisions specified herein support the protection of state waters.

This permit shall become effective: **October 01, 2017.**

This permit and the authorization to operate shall expire at midnight, **September 30, 2022.**

FOR THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Jon Kenning, Chief
Water Protection Bureau

Issue Date: August 29, 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	EFFLUENT LIMITS, MONITORING REQUIREMENTS & OTHER CONDITIONS	3
	A. DESCRIPTION OF IMPOUNDMENT AREAS.....	3
	B. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS AND PROHIBITIONS	3
	C. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	4
	D. REHABILITATION AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS.....	13
II.	MONITORING, RECORDING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.....	14
	A. REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLING	14
	B. MONITORING PROCEDURES	14
	C. PENALTIES FOR TAMPERING	14
	D. REPORTING	14
	E. COMPLIANCE SCHEDULES.....	14
	F. ADDITIONAL MONITORING BY THE PERMITTEE	15
	G. RECORDS CONTENTS.....	15
	H. RETENTION OF RECORDS	15
	I. TWENTY-FOUR HOUR NOTICE OF NONCOMPLIANCE REPORTING.....	16
	J. OTHER NONCOMPLIANCE REPORTING	16
	K. INSPECTION AND ENTRY	17
III.	COMPLIANCE RESPONSIBILITIES.....	18
	A. DUTY TO COMPLY.....	18
	B. PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF PERMIT CONDITIONS.....	18
	C. NEED TO HALT OR REDUCE ACTIVITY NOT A DEFENSE.....	18
	D. DUTY TO MITIGATE	18
	E. PROPER OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	18
	F. REMOVED SUBSTANCES.....	19
	G. BYPASS OF TREATMENT FACILITIES	19
IV.	GENERAL REQUIREMENTS	20
	A. PLANNED CHANGES	20
	B. ANTICIPATED NONCOMPLIANCE.....	20
	C. PERMIT ACTIONS.....	20
	D. DUTY TO REAPPLY	20
	E. DUTY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION.....	20
	F. OTHER INFORMATION	20
	G. SIGNATORY REQUIREMENTS	21
	H. PENALTIES FOR FALSIFICATION OF REPORTS.....	22
	I. AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS	22
	J. OIL AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE LIABILITY	22
	K. PROPERTY OR WATER RIGHTS	22
	L. SEVERABILITY.....	22
	M. TRANSFERS	22
	N. FEES	23
	O. REOPENER PROVISIONS.....	23
V.	DEFINITIONS	24

I. EFFLUENT LIMITS, MONITORING REQUIREMENTS & OTHER CONDITIONS

A. Description of Impoundment Areas

The authorization to discharge provided under this permit is limited to any potential seepage occurring beneath the impoundments specially designated below. Discharges at any location not authorized under a MGWPCS permit is a violation of the Montana Water Quality Act and may 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.

Outfall

Description

002

Location: East Tailings Impoundment;
Latitude: 46.315544°; Longitude: -113.288641°;
Southeast 1/4 of Section 36, Township 07 North, Range 14
West; Granite County.

Mixing Zone: The Department has not authorized a mixing zone.

Treatment Works: Primary settling.

003

Location: West Tailings and Decant Impoundment;
Latitude: 46.31403°; Longitude: -113.29160°;
Southeast 1/4 of Section 36, Township 07 North, Range 14
West; Granite County.

Mixing Zone: The Department has not authorized a mixing zone.

Treatment Works: Primary settling.

B. Effluent Limitations and Prohibitions

No numeric effluent limits have been developed for this permit cycle.

Cyanide products and cyanide treated tailings may not be used on the property or placed in the tailings impoundment.

C. Monitoring and Reporting Requirements

1. **Facility Operational Monitoring:**

The following operational information must be recorded on a daily basis:

- Operational status of the mill.
- Operational status of tailings slurry flow into the east impoundment.
 - Daily flow rates of tailings slurry entering into the east impoundment.
- Operational status of tailing slurry flow into the west impoundment.
 - Daily flow rates of tailings slurry entering into the west impoundment.

Record logs monitoring daily operations must be maintained on-site at all times. During periods of shut down, the records need to only show the shut down and startup calendar dates.

Tailings slurry flow measurements must be representative of the volume of the monitored discharge and be collected from:

- FM-002/003: A single flow meter located on the slurry outflow pipeline and just after the slurry pump house.

Reports must be submitted directly to the Department on a yearly basis and include all daily operational information. Narrative statements will be accepted for periods of shut down so long as the report clearly identifies the starting and ending dates for each. Monitoring and reporting requirements are listed in Table 1.

A final cumulative report must be submitted directly to the Department that summarizes all facility operational monitoring information collected over the permit cycle. The report must be submitted in an electronic format that includes digitized and queryable data. Monitoring and reporting requirements are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Facility Operational Monitoring and Reporting Requirements			
Annual Report Action Date: <i>To be completed annually on October 1st through the term of the permit. The report must be received by DEQ on or before October 31st.</i>			
Permit Cycle Report Action Date: <i>A cumulative summary report must be received by DEQ on or before April 03, 2022.</i>			
Method	Units	Monitor Frequency	Reporting Requirements
Mill Operational Days	days	Daily	Number of Operational Days
For periods of operational shutdown (no outflows), report the calendar dates of when the shut down and start up occurred.			
Operational Days in which Tailings Slurry Flowed into the West Impoundment.	days	Daily	Number of Operational Days
Daily Flow Rates of Tailings Slurry Entering into the West Impoundment (FM 002/003).	gpd	Continuous	Daily Maximum Annual Average
Operational Days in which Tailings Slurry Flowed into the East Impoundment.	days	Daily	Number of Operational Days
Daily Flow Rates of Tailings Slurry Entering into the East Impoundment (FM 002/003).	gpd	Continuous	Daily Maximum Annual Average
Footnotes:			
FM-002/003: the individual flow meter is described in Table 1.			
Daily Maximum: Report highest measured daily value for the reporting period.			

2. Tailings Slurry Sampling:

Tailings slurry quality measurements must be representative of the nature of the tails slurry that enters into the impoundments and must be collected from:

- EFF-002/003: A single sample location at the slurry distribution vault.

Tailings slurry samples must be collected if the mill is operating at any time during the respective sampling frequency periods. Tailings slurry sampling requirements is listed in Table 2. The required sampling frequency is listed in Table 2 for each respective parameter. The required sample type is listed in Table 2 for each respective parameter.

Parameter analytical methods must be in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 136, unless specified or otherwise approved by the Department.

Submittal of reports is required, regardless of the operational status of the facility. Reports must be submitted directly to the Department on a yearly basis and must summarize each individual collected sample. The report at minimum must include all laboratory and statistical information as listed in Table 3. The report must provide a statistical summary for all individual samples collected within the annual reporting period. Narrative statements will be accepted for periods of shut down so long as the report clearly identifies the starting and ending dates for each. Monitoring and reporting requirements are summarized in Table 3.

A final cumulative report must be submitted directly to the Department that summarizes all sampling information collected over the permit cycle. The report must be submitted in an electronic format that includes digitized and queryable data. Monitoring and reporting requirements are summarized in Table 3.

Table 2: Tailings Slurry Sampling Requirements

Analyte	Monitor Location	Units	Sample Type ⁽¹⁾	Minimum Sample Frequency
pH	EFF-002/003	s.u.	Grab or Instant.	1/Day
Specific conductivity @ 25°C	EFF-002/003	µS/cm	Grab or Instant.	1/Day
Alkalinity, total [as CaCO ₃]	EFF-002/003	mg/L	Composite	1/Week
Nitrogen, ammonia total [as N]	EFF-002/003	mg/L	Composite	1/Week
Nitrogen, Nitrite + Nitrate total [as N]	EFF-002/003	mg/L	Composite	1/Week
Total dissolved solids [TDS]	EFF-002/003	mg/L	Composite	1/Week
Antimony, dissolved [as Sb]	EFF-002/003	µg/L	Composite	1/Week
Arsenic, dissolved [as As]	EFF-002/003	µg/L	Composite	1/Week
Cadmium, dissolved [as Cd]	EFF-002/003	µg/L	Composite	1/Week
Copper, dissolved [as Cu]	EFF-002/003	µg/L	Composite	1/Week
Nickel, dissolved [as Ni]	EFF-002/003	µg/L	Composite	1/Week
Zinc, dissolved [as Zn]	EFF-002/003	µg/L	Composite	1/Week
Beryllium, dissolved [as Be]	EFF-002/003	µg/L	Composite	1/Month
Chromium, dissolved [as Cr]	EFF-002/003	µg/L	Composite	1/Month
Lead, dissolved [as Pb]	EFF-002/003	µg/L	Composite	1/Month
Mercury, dissolved [as Hg]	EFF-002/003	µg/L	Composite	1/Month
Selenium, dissolved [as Se]	EFF-002/003	µg/L	Composite	1/Month
Silver, dissolved [as Ag]	EFF-002/003	µg/L	Composite	1/Month
Thallium, dissolved [as Tl]	EFF-002/003	µg/L	Composite	1/Month

Footnotes:
 Compositing Period: 6 to 24 hours; or as established by the permittee in a DEQ approved Sampling Standard Operating Procedure Plan.
 Dissolved: Metal parameters will be analyzed using the dissolved portion (0.45 micron filter).
 Instant.: Instantaneous reading using on-site equipment.
 s.u. = standard units
 (1) See definitions in Part V of the permit.

Table 3: Tailings Slurry Reporting Requirements

Annual Report Action Date: To be completed annually on October 1st through the term of the permit. The report must be received by DEQ on or before October 31st.

Permit Cycle Report Action Date: A cumulative summary report must be received by DEQ on or before April 03, 2022.

Analyte	Units	Individual Sample Record (Repeat as Necessary)					Annual Statistical Summary Report						
		Sample Collection Date	Result	Laboratory Reporting Level	Non-Detect? (y/n)	Laboratory Qualifier(s)	Count of Samples Collected	Minimum	Average	Median	Maximum	Count of Non-detects	Average Laboratory Reporting Level
pH	s. u.												
Specific conductivity @ 25°C	µS/cm												
Alkalinity, total [as CaCO3]	mg/L												
Nitrogen, ammonia total [as N]	mg/L												
Nitrogen, Nitrite + Nitrate total [as N]	mg/L												
Total dissolved solids [TDS]	mg/L												
Antimony, dissolved [as Sb]	µg/L												
Arsenic, dissolved [as As]	µg/L												
Cadmium, dissolved [as Cd]	µg/L												
Copper, dissolved [as Cu]	µg/L												
Nickel, dissolved [as Ni]	µg/L												
Zinc, dissolved [as Zn]	µg/L												
Beryllium, dissolved [as Be]	µg/L												
Chromium, dissolved [as Cr]	µg/L												
Lead, dissolved [as Pb]	µg/L												
Mercury, dissolved [as Hg]	µg/L												
Selenium, dissolved [as Se]	µg/L												
Silver, dissolved [as Ag]	µg/L												
Thallium, dissolved [as Tl]	µg/L												

Footnotes:

The permittee may create their own report in a format that suites their operating and reporting needs. It must however contain all data inputs as shown above. All data must be in a digital form and the report must be queryable.

For analytes that are required to be sampled on a daily basis, the permittee may submit on-site record logs in place of the above Individual Sample Record reporting requirements.

For calculation purposes, non-detects must be entered as "0" (zero).

Laboratory qualifiers are not common but may be listed in the lab report, leave blank if none, if using codes please provide a supplemental definition of each.

Daily Maximum: Report highest measured daily value for the reporting period.

Daily Minimum: Report lowest measured daily value for the reporting period.

3. Ground Water Monitoring:

Monitoring wells MW-1, MW-2, and MW-3, must be individually sampled at the frequency and with the type of measurement respectively listed in Table 4. Samples must include, but not be limited to, the respective parameters listed in Table 4 for each listed monitoring well.

Monitoring of each monitoring well is required, regardless of the operational status of the facility. Each individual sampling event must be separately documented and recorded. In the occurrence of a dry-well sampling event, the permittee is to record the individual event and how the dry conditions were determined. The permittee must document the methodology and equipment used to sample monitoring wells during each sampling event. Records of all sampling events must be kept on-site at all times.

Parameter analytical methods must be in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Part 136, unless specified or otherwise approved by the Department.

If any of the monitoring wells are abandoned, destroyed, decommissioned or non-viable; or if monitoring well MW-1 is no longer able to be sampled due to fluctuations in the ground water table; the permittee must install (or rehab) a new well to replace the abandoned, destroyed, decommissioned, or non-viable well(s).

Submittal of reports is required, regardless of the operational status of the facility or of the condition of each individual monitoring well. Reports must be submitted directly to the Department on a yearly basis and must summarize each individual collected sample. The report at minimum must include all laboratory and statistical information as listed in Table 5. The report must provide a statistical summary for all individual samples collected within the annual reporting period. Monitoring and reporting requirements are summarized in Table 5. Self-monitoring records must be maintained in accordance with Part II.H. of this permit.

A final cumulative report must be submitted directly to the Department that summarizes all sampling information collected over the permit cycle. The report must be submitted in an electronic format that includes digitized and queryable data. Monitoring and reporting requirements are summarized in Table 5.

Table 4: Ground Water Monitoring Requirements, Separately

Analyte	Monitor Location	Units	Sample Measurement Type ⁽²⁾	Minimum Sample Frequency
pH	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	s.u.	Grab or Instant.	1/Quarter
Specific conductivity @ 25°C	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	µS/cm	Grab or Instant.	1/Quarter
Water Temperature	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	°C	Grab or Instant.	1/Quarter
Static Water Level	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	ft-bmp	Instant.	1/Quarter
Hardness [as CaCO ₃]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	mg/L	Grab	1/Quarter
Nitrogen, ammonia total [as N]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	mg/L	Grab	1/Quarter
Nitrogen, Nitrite + Nitrate total [as N]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	mg/L	Grab	1/Quarter
Total dissolved solids [TDS]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	mg/L	Grab	1/Quarter
Antimony, dissolved [as Sb]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	µg/L	Grab	1/Quarter
Arsenic, dissolved [as As]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	µg/L	Grab	1/Quarter
Cadmium, dissolved [as Cd]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	µg/L	Grab	1/Quarter
Copper, dissolved [as Cu]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	µg/L	Grab	1/Quarter
Nickel, dissolved [as Ni]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	µg/L	Grab	1/Quarter
Zinc, dissolved [as Zn]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	µg/L	Grab	1/Quarter
Beryllium, dissolved [as Be]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	µg/L	Grab	1/Year
Chromium, dissolved [as Cr]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	µg/L	Grab	1/Year
Lead, dissolved [as Pb]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	µg/L	Grab	1/Year
Mercury, dissolved [as Hg]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	µg/L	Grab	1/Year
Selenium, dissolved [as Se]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	µg/L	Grab	1/Year
Silver, dissolved [as Ag]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	µg/L	Grab	1/Year
Thallium, dissolved [as Tl]	MW-1, MW-2, MW-3	µg/L	Grab	1/Year

Footnotes:
 Dissolved: Metal parameters will be analyzed using the dissolved portion (0.45 micron filter).
 Instant.: Instantaneous reading using on-site equipment.
 Static water levels shall be measured to the hundredth of a foot.
 ft-bmp = feet below established measuring point
 s.u. = standard units
 (1) See definitions in Part V of the permit.

**Table 5: Ground Water Reporting Requirements - Separately for MW-1, MW-2, and MW-3.
 Annual Report Action Date: To be completed annually on October 1st through the term of the permit. The report must be received by DEQ on or before October 31st.
 Permit Cycle Report Action Date: A cumulative summary report must be received by DEQ on or before April 03, 2022.**

Analyte	Units	Individual Sample Record (Repeat as Necessary)							Annual Statistical Summary Report						
		Sample Collection Date	Dry-Well Conditions? (y/n)	Result	Laboratory Reporting Level	Non-Detect? (y/n)	Laboratory Qualifier(s)	Count of Samples Collected	Count of Dry-Well Occurrences	Minimum	Average	Median	Maximum	Count of Non-detects	Average Laboratory Reporting Level
pH	s.u.														
Specific conductivity @ 25°C	µS/cm														
Water Temperature	°C														
Static Water Level	ft-bmp														
Alkalinity, total [as CaCO3]	mg/L														
Nitrogen, ammonia total [as N]	mg/L														
Nitrogen, Nitrite + Nitrate total [as N]	mg/L														
Total dissolved solids [TDS]	mg/L														
Antimony, dissolved [as Sb]	µg/L														
Arsenic, dissolved [as As]	µg/L														
Cadmium, dissolved [as Cd]	µg/L														
Copper, dissolved [as Cu]	µg/L														
Nickel, dissolved [as Ni]	µg/L														
Zinc, dissolved [as Zn]	µg/L														
Beryllium, dissolved [as Be]	µg/L														
Chromium, dissolved [as Cr]	µg/L														
Lead, dissolved [as Pb]	µg/L														
Mercury, dissolved [as Hg]	µg/L														
Selenium, dissolved [as Se]	µg/L														
Silver, dissolved [as Ag]	µg/L														
Thallium, dissolved [as Tl]	µg/L														

Footnotes:

The permittee may create their own report in a format that suits their operating and reporting needs. It must however contain all data inputs as shown above and in Appendix VIII. All data must be in a digital form and the report must be queryable.
 For calculation purposes, non-detects must be entered as "0" (zero).
 Laboratory qualifiers are not common, leave blank if none, provide supplemental descriptions if using codes.
 Daily Maximum: Report highest measured daily value for the reporting period.
 Daily Minimum: Report lowest measured daily value for the reporting period.

4. Impoundments – Monitoring and Mitigation Plan

The permittee must develop a Standard Operating Procedure plan to monitor the integrity of the west impoundment, east impoundment, lower impoundment, decant impoundment, and the emergency basin. The plan will use best management practices to identify and mitigate potential impacts which may result in unauthorized discharge of wastewater; or unauthorized placement or redeposition of waste. The plan will identify both anthropogenic and naturally occurring impacts. The plan must include a proposed timetable for recurring self-monitoring. If potential impacts are identified, the plan must document mitigation measures that will be or have been taken. A report documenting the monitoring and mitigation measures taken must be submitted to the Department on an annual basis. Each submitted report must attach a copy of the most up-to-date mitigation plan.

5. Pipelines – Monitoring and Mitigation Plan

The permittee must develop a Standard Operating Procedure plan to monitor the integrity of operational equipment, pipelines, and structures used to convey or distribute tailings slurry, source water, recycled water, emergency flows, storage flows, storm water, or other potential sources of pollutants. The plan will use best management practices to identify and mitigate potential impacts which may result in unauthorized discharge of wastewater; or unauthorized placement or redeposition of waste. The plan must at minimum include pre-startup inspections, and daily inspections while in operation. If potential impacts are identified, the plan must document mitigation measures that will be or have been taken. A report documenting the monitoring and mitigation measures taken must be submitted to the Department on an annual basis. Each submitted report must attach a copy of the most up-to-date monitoring and mitigation plan.

6. Douglas Creek Flume and Diversion Channel – Monitoring and Mitigation Plan

The permittee must develop a Standard Operating Procedure plan to monitor the integrity of the Douglas Creek Flume and the diversion channel. The plan will use best management practices to identify and mitigate potential anthropogenic and naturally occurring impacts. The plan must include a proposed timetable for recurring self-monitoring. The plan must at minimum include daily inspections during peak flows of spring runoff, and during large storm events. If potential impacts are identified, the plan must document mitigation measures that will be or have been taken. A report documenting the monitoring and mitigation measures taken must be submitted to the Department on an annual basis. Each submitted report must attach a copy of the most up-to-date monitoring and mitigation plan.

D. Rehabilitation and Other Requirements

All design criteria, engineering specifications, rehabilitation procedures, and operating procedures contained in application documents and the rehabilitation plan must be implemented and will be considered part of the permit.

1. An average of two (2) feet of topsoil and/or sub-soil must be stripped and stock piled for rehabilitation use from all disturbed areas, i.e., roads, diversion areas and impoundment expansions.
2. A minimum of two (2) feet of soil material must be spread over the tailings and dike face of the west impoundment. The permittee may request a change in this requirement if it can be documented by a qualified soil scientist with data submitted to a qualified laboratory that the tailing in the impoundment and on the dike face at the end of the impoundment life will not adversely affect revegetation efforts with less cover.
3. A minimum of two (2) feet of freeboard must be maintained in the impoundment at all times.
4. Surface runoff from outside the project area must be diverted to prevent its flow through the operation.
5. Tailing pond dikes must be carefully maintained to prevent erosion and transport of materials off the property of the permittee or into state waters.
6. Dikes must be revegetated for permanent stability before abandonment.
7. Best management practices (BMPs) must be utilized to control fugitive dust emissions from the facility. The following BMPs are examples of what may be required on wind erosive sites: watering, temporary seeding, top-soiling and revegetation, wind breaks, chemical amendments, soil amendments and/or stabilization fabric.
8. Best management practices (BMPs) must be utilized to control sedimentation and erosion. Exhibit II must be consulted as a guide in selecting appropriate BMPs.

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. All flow-measuring and flow-recording devices used in obtaining the 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

All reports (e.g. special conditions, compliance actions) must be submitted no later than the 28th day of the month following the completion due date, unless otherwise specified. All reports required herein, 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 Schedules

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

F. Additional Monitoring by the Permittee

If the permittee monitors any additional parameters or any parameter 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 analysis and reporting of the data submitted in reports to DEQ. Such increased frequency shall also be indicated.

G. Records Contents

Records of monitoring information shall at minimum 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 the request of DEQ at any time. Data collected on site and a copy of this MGWPCS 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 incidents 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) 444-3080 or the Office of Disaster and Emergency Services at (406) 324-4777. The following examples are considered serious incidents:
 - a. Any noncompliance which may seriously endanger health or the environment; or
 - b. Any unanticipated bypass which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit (See Part III.G. of this permit, "Bypass of Treatment Facilities").
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, at (406) 444-3080.
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, 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.

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(9)(a) also provides for administrative penalties not to exceed \$10,000 for each day of violation and up to a maximum not to exceed \$100,000 for any related series of violations. Except as provided in Part III.G. of this permit, "Bypass of Treatment Facilities," 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

Collected screenings, grit, solids, sludge, 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.

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 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:
 - 1) The bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;
 - 2) 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
 - 3) 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.

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; 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.

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 revoked, modified 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 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.

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 shall be signed and certified.

1. All permit applications shall be signed as follows:
 - a. For a corporation: by a responsible corporate officer:
 - b. For a partnership or sole proprietorship: by a general partner or the proprietor, respectively; or
 - c. For a municipality, State, Federal, or other public agency: 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 specifies either an individual or a position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated facility, such as the position of plant manager, superintendent, position of equivalent responsibility, or an individual or position having overall responsibility for environmental matters (a duly authorized representative may thus be either a named individual or an individual occupying a named position).
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
All reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Department and the EPA. Permit applications, permits and effluent data shall not be considered confidential and shall also be available for public inspection.
- 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 or Water 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, any invasion of personal rights, or any infringement of federal, state or local laws or regulations.
- 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 the 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 additional fee assessment(s) computed at the rates 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.

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; or
2. Water Quality Standards are Exceeded: If it is found that water quality standards or trigger values, excluding mixing zones designated by ARM 17.30.501-518, for parameters included in the permit or others, the department may modify the effluent limits or water management plan.

V. DEFINITIONS

1. **"30-day (and Monthly) Average"** other than for *E. coli* bacteria, means the arithmetic average of all individual daily discharge measurements during a consecutive 30-day period or calendar month, whichever is applicable (see Daily Discharge). Geometric means shall be calculated for the *E. coli* bacteria parameter.
2. **"90-day (and Quarterly) Average"** other than for *E. coli* bacteria, means the arithmetic average of all individual daily discharge measurements during a consecutive 90-day period or calendar quarter, whichever is applicable (see Daily Discharge). Geometric means shall be calculated for the *E. coli* bacteria parameter.
3. **"180-day (and Six-Month or Semi-Annual) Average"** other than for *E. coli* bacteria, means the arithmetic average of all individual daily discharge measurements collected during a consecutive 180-day period or calendar half-year, whichever is applicable (see Daily Discharge). Geometric means shall be calculated for the *E. coli* bacteria parameter.
4. **"Act"** means the Montana Water Quality Act, Title 75, chapter 5, MCA.
5. **"Annual Average Load"** means the arithmetic mean of all 30-day (or calendar month) or 90-day (or calendar quarter) average loads reported during the calendar year for a monitored parameter.
6. **"Annual Maximum Load"** means the arithmetic mean of all calculated individual daily average loads (lbs/day) recorded during the calendar year, multiplied by 365 (days/year) for a monitored parameter.
7. **"Annual Maximum Limit"** means the maximum allowable discharge of a parameter during a calendar year (or defined 365 day period).
8. **"Best management practices" ("BMPs")** means schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of state waters. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waste disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.
9. **"BOD₅"** means the five-day measure of the biochemical oxygen demand parameter.
10. **"Bypass"** means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.

11. **“Composite Sample”** means a sample that consists of two or more discrete aliquots. Composite samples shall be flow proportioned. The composite sample shall, as a minimum, contain at least four (4) samples collected over the compositing period. Unless otherwise specified, the time between the collection of the first sample and the last sample shall not be less than six (6) hours nor more than 24 hours. Acceptable methods for preparation of composite samples are as follows:
 - a. Constant time interval between samples, sample volume proportional to flow rate at time of sampling;
 - b. Constant time interval between samples, sample volume proportional to total flow (volume) since last sample. For the first sample, the flow rate at the time the sample was collected may be used;
 - c. Constant sample volume, time interval between samples proportional to flow (i.e. sample taken every “X” gallons of flow); and,
 - d. Continuous collection of sample, with sample collection rate proportional to flow rate.
12. **“CFR”** means Code of Federal Regulations.
13. **“CFU”** means Colony Forming Units.
14. **“Continuous”** means a measurement occurring without interruption throughout the operating hours of the facility, except for infrequent shutdowns for maintenance process changes, or other similar activities.
15. **“Daily Discharge”** means the discharge of a parameter (or pollutant) measured during a calendar day (or any 24-hour period that reasonably represents the calendar day for purposes of sampling). For parameters with limitations expressed in units of mass, the daily discharge is calculated as the total mass of the parameter discharged over the day. For parameters with limitations expressed in other units of measurement, the daily discharge is calculated as the arithmetic average of all measurements (or samples) collected over the day.
16. **“Daily Maximum”** means the highest individual measured daily value occurring in a defined reporting period (see Daily Discharge).
17. **“Daily Maximum Limit”** means the maximum allowable discharge of a parameter for any calendar day (see Daily Discharge).
18. **“DEQ”** means the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

19. **“Department”** means the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.
20. **“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.
21. **“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.
22. **“Instantaneous”** means a single reading, observation, or measurement.
23. **“Load Limits”** are mass-based discharge limits expressed in units such as lbs/day.
24. **“Mixing Zone”** means a limited area of a surface water body or ground water bearing zone 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 design capacity or limitations established under or determined from a permit or approval issued by the Department prior to April 29, 1993.
26. **“RRV”** means Required Reporting Values (DEQ Circular 7).
27. **“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.
28. **“TSS”** means the total suspended solids parameter.
29. **“Total Inorganic Nitrogen (TIN)”** means the arithmetic sum of Nitrate + Nitrite and Ammonia.
30. **“Total Nitrogen (TN)”** means the arithmetic sum of Nitrate + Nitrite and Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen.