



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

May 17, 2022

Mr. Phillip L. Crowell Jr.
City Manager
60 Court Street
Auburn, Maine 04210
e-mail: pcrowell@auburnmaine.gov

**RE: Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit #MER041000
Final - MER041006**

Dear Mr. Crowell:

Enclosed please find a copy of your **final** MEPDES permit and Maine WDL which was approved by the Department of Environmental Protection. Please read this permit/license and its attached conditions carefully. Compliance with this permit/license will protect water quality.

Any interested person aggrieved by a Department determination made pursuant to applicable regulations, may appeal the decision following the procedures described in the attached DEP FACT SHEET entitled “*Appealing a Commissioner’s Licensing Decision.*”

If you have any questions regarding the matter, please feel free to call me at 287-7693. Your Department compliance inspector copied below is also a resource that can assist you with compliance. Please do not hesitate to contact them with any questions.

Thank you for your efforts to protect and improve the waters of the great state of Maine!

Sincerely,

Gregg Wood
Division of Water Quality Management
Bureau of Water Quality

Enc.

cc: Stacia Hoover, DEP/CMRO
Irene Saumur, DEP/CMRO
Richard Carvalho, USEPA

Lori Mitchell, DEP/CMRO
Damien Houlihan, USEPA
Newton Tedder, USEPA

Holliday Keen, DEP/CMRO
Nathan Chien, USEPA

AUGUSTA
17 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0017
(207) 287-7688 FAX: (207) 287-7826

BANGOR
106 HOGAN ROAD, SUITE 6
BANGOR, MAINE 04401
(207) 941-4570 FAX: (207) 941-4584

PORTLAND
312 CANCO ROAD
PORTLAND, MAINE 04103
(207) 822-6300 FAX: (207) 822-6303

PRESQUE ISLE
1235 CENTRAL DRIVE, SKYWAY PARK
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769
(207) 764-0477 FAX: (207) 760-3143



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
17 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, ME 04333

**DEPARTMENT ORDER
IN THE MATTER OF**

CITY OF AUBURN)	MUNICIPAL SEPARATE STORM
AUBURN, ANDROSCOGGIN COUNTY, MAINE)	SEWER SYSTEM
MER041006)	MER041000
)	GENERAL PERMIT COVERAGE
APPROVAL)	RENEWAL

The Department of Environmental Protection (Department/DEP) has considered the Notice of Intent submitted by the CITY OF AUBURN (City/permittee), with supportive data, agency review comments and other related materials on file for coverage under the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit, #MER041000, issued by the Department on October 15, 2020 and revised on November 23, 2021, and FINDS THE FOLLOWING FACTS.

The permittee submitted a Notice of Intent (NOI) with an initial Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) to the Department on March 30, 2021 that were made available for a 30-day public comment period on the Department's website at <https://www.maine.gov/dep/comment/comment.html?id=4463193>. No public comments were received on the NOI or the initial SWMP. The Department has reviewed the initial SWMP document and made the determination that the document is consistent with and fully articulates what is required to meet the MS4 GP standard. Pursuant to Part IV(B) of MS4 GP issued by the Department on October 15, 2020 and revised on November 23, 2021, the permittee must update the initial SWMP within 60 days of the effective date of this DEP permittee specific order or within 60 days of the final resolution to an appeal of this DEP permittee specific order. The final plan must be submitted to the Department and will be posted on the Department's website.

The permittee must fully implement the Best Management Practices (BMPs) in Minimum Control Measures (MCMs) MCM1- MCM6 in accordance with their associated schedules of compliance, as established in the Modified Stormwater Management Plan that is in effect at the time any schedule for compliance is due.

Impaired Waters

The City has discharges to Gulf Island Pond and Logan Brook that are impaired for total phosphorus, bacteria/pathogens and/or dissolved oxygen. To meet the standards of the MS4 GP for impaired waters, the permittee must fully implement the following BMPs in accordance with their associated schedules of compliance, or schedules established in the Modified Stormwater Management Plan that is in effect at the time any schedule for compliance is due.

- a. **On or before September 1, 2022** - Supplement the residential and business/commercial/institutional public education and outreach program with an annually timed message on specific topics, noting any existing regulations where appropriate.
 - i. March/April: disposal of grass clippings and use of slow-release and phosphorus-free fertilizers.
 - ii. June/July: proper management of pet waste.
 - iii. August/September/October: proper disposal of leaf litter.

- b. **On or before September 1, 2022** - Establish housekeeping procedures to manage grass cuttings and leaf litter on permittee property.
- c. **On or before September 1, 2022** - Increase street sweeping frequencies on all municipally owned streets and parking lots to a minimum of 2x per year (one time each spring and fall).
- d. **On or before September 1, 2022** - Implement a fall leaf litter clean program that reduces leaf litter related nutrient loads.

For the areas that discharge to waters that are impaired by bacteria or pathogens (Logan Brook, Androscoggin River, Little Androscoggin River):

- a. **On or before September 1, 2022** - Supplement residential public education and outreach program with an annual, web-based message encouraging the proper management of pet waste.
- b. **On or before September 1, 2022** - Designate catchments draining to any waterbody impaired for bacteria or pathogens as either problem or high priority catchments in implementation of the IDDE program.

For the areas that discharge to waters that are impaired by total suspended solids (Gulf Island Pond):

- a. **On or before September 1, 2022** - Prioritize inspection of catch basins to ensure that no catch basin sump exceeds 50% full.
- b. **On or before April 1, 2023** - Increase annual street sweeping on municipally owned or operated facilities to target areas with high potential pollutant load.

4. For the areas that discharge to waters that are impaired by impervious cover (Logan Brook):

- a. Consistent with the requirements of MCM 4 and MCM 5, continue to refine regulatory policies that minimize the impact of development and redevelopment on waters in Auburn. With existing policies, it is anticipated that there will be reductions in the impact of impervious cover through redevelopment over time. The BMPs the permittee must implement in the Logan Brook Watershed are:
 - i. **On or before July 1, 2022** - Initiate development of a targeted watershed planning effort.
 - ii. **On or before July 1, 2024** - Implement an outreach and educational program with Logan Brook commercial landowners on environmentally appropriate winter salt management.
 - iii. **Beginning July 1, 2022** - Consult with DEP watershed management program on a targeted water quality monitoring program and an in-stream habitat evaluation as a part of planning effort outlined above.
 - iv. **On or before July 1, 2025** - Complete the Logan Brook watershed plan.
 - v. **Beginning July 1, 2025** – Commence annual monitoring for Logan Brook in accordance with the final in-stream habitat evaluation.

Results of implementation of the practices in the Impaired Waters section above must be documented in the permittee’s annual report required by Special Condition G, *Annual Compliance Report*, of MS4 GP #MER041000 referenced above.

The permittee has agreed to comply with all terms and conditions of the MS4 General Permit, #MER041000, dated October 15, 2020 and revised on November 23, 2021. Operated in accordance with the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit, #MER041000, the discharges identified by the permittee will not have a significant adverse effect on water quality or cause or contribute to the violation of the water quality standards of the receiving water.

THEREFORE, the Department GRANTS the CITY OF AUBURN, coverage under the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit, #MER041000, issued by the Department on October 15, 2020 and revised on November 23, 2021, subject to the terms and conditions therein.

This DEP permittee specific order becomes effective on July 1, 2022 and expires at midnight five (5) years after that date. If the GP is to be renewed, this DEP permittee specific order will remain in effect and enforceable until the Department takes final action on the renewal.

DONE AND DATED AT AUGUSTA, MAINE, THIS 17 DAY OF May, 2022.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BY: 
for Melanie Loyzim, Commissioner

PLEASE NOTE ATTACHED SHEET FOR GUIDANCE ON APPEAL PROCEDURES

The Notice of Intent was received by the Department on March 30, 2021.

The Notice of Intent was accepted by the Department on April 5, 2021.

FILED
MAY 17, 2022
State of Maine
Board of Environmental Protection

Date filed with Board of Environmental Protection: _____

This Order prepared by GREGG WOOD, BUREAU OF WATER QUALITY

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

During the period of March 16, 2022 through the effective date of this final agency action, the Department solicited comments on the draft MEPDES permit. The Department did not receive any comments that resulted in any substantive changes to the draft permit. Therefore, the final permit is being issued as drafted.



DEP INFORMATION SHEET

Appealing a Department Licensing Decision

Dated: August 2021

Contact: (207) 314-1458

SUMMARY

This document provides information regarding a person's rights and obligations in filing an administrative or judicial appeal of a licensing decision made by the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Commissioner.

Except as provided below, there are two methods available to an aggrieved person seeking to appeal a licensing decision made by the DEP Commissioner: (1) an administrative process before the Board of Environmental Protection (Board); or (2) a judicial process before Maine's Superior Court. An aggrieved person seeking review of a licensing decision over which the Board had original jurisdiction may seek judicial review in Maine's Superior Court.

A judicial appeal of final action by the Commissioner or the Board regarding an application for an expedited wind energy development ([35-A M.R.S. § 3451\(4\)](#)) or a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project ([38 M.R.S. § 480-HH\(1\)](#)) or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project ([38 M.R.S. § 636-A](#)) must be taken to the Supreme Judicial Court sitting as the Law Court.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS TO THE BOARD

LEGAL REFERENCES

A person filing an appeal with the Board should review Organization and Powers, [38 M.R.S. §§ 341-D\(4\)](#) and [346](#); the Maine Administrative Procedure Act, 5 M.R.S. § [11001](#); and the DEP's [Rule Concerning the Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters \(Chapter 2\)](#), 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 2.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD

Not more than 30 days following the filing of a license decision by the Commissioner with the Board, an aggrieved person may appeal to the Board for review of the Commissioner's decision. The filing of an appeal with the Board, in care of the Board Clerk, is complete when the Board receives the submission by the close of business on the due date (5:00 p.m. on the 30th calendar day from which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board, as determined by the received time stamp on the document or electronic mail). Appeals filed after 5:00 p.m. on the 30th calendar day from which the Commissioner's decision was filed with the Board will be dismissed as untimely, absent a showing of good cause.

HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPEAL TO THE BOARD

An appeal to the Board may be submitted via postal mail or electronic mail and must contain all signatures and required appeal contents. An electronic filing must contain the scanned original signature of the appellant(s). The appeal documents must be sent to the following address.

Chair, Board of Environmental Protection
c/o Board Clerk
17 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0017
ruth.a.burke@maine.gov

The DEP may also request the submittal of the original signed paper appeal documents when the appeal is filed electronically. The risk of material not being received in a timely manner is on the sender, regardless of the method used.

At the time an appeal is filed with the Board, the appellant must send a copy of the appeal to: (1) the Commissioner of the DEP (Maine Department of Environmental Protection, 17 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0017); (2) the licensee; and if a hearing was held on the application, (3) any intervenors in that hearing proceeding. **Please contact the DEP at 207-287-7688 with questions or for contact information regarding a specific licensing decision.**

REQUIRED APPEAL CONTENTS

A complete appeal must contain the following information at the time the appeal is submitted.

1. *Aggrieved status.* The appeal must explain how the appellant has standing to bring the appeal. This requires an explanation of how the appellant may suffer a particularized injury as a result of the Commissioner's decision.
2. *The findings, conclusions, or conditions objected to or believed to be in error.* The appeal must identify the specific findings of fact, conclusions of law, license conditions, or other aspects of the written license decision or of the license review process that the appellant objects to or believes to be in error.
3. *The basis of the objections or challenge.* For the objections identified in Item #2, the appeal must state why the appellant believes that the license decision is incorrect and should be modified or reversed. If possible, the appeal should cite specific evidence in the record or specific licensing criteria that the appellant believes were not properly considered or fully addressed.
4. *The remedy sought.* This can range from reversal of the Commissioner's decision on the license to changes in specific license conditions.
5. *All the matters to be contested.* The Board will limit its consideration to those matters specifically raised in the written notice of appeal.
6. *Request for hearing.* If the appellant wishes the Board to hold a public hearing on the appeal, a request for hearing must be filed as part of the notice of appeal, and it must include an offer of proof regarding the testimony and other evidence that would be presented at the hearing. The offer of proof must consist of a statement of the substance of the evidence, its relevance to the issues on appeal, and whether any witnesses would testify. The Board will hear the arguments in favor of and in opposition to a hearing on the appeal and the presentations on the merits of an appeal at a regularly scheduled meeting. If the Board decides to hold a public hearing on an appeal, that hearing will then be scheduled for a later date.
7. *New or additional evidence to be offered.* If an appellant wants to provide evidence not previously provided to DEP staff during the DEP's review of the application, the request and the proposed supplemental evidence must be submitted with the appeal. The Board may allow new or additional evidence to be considered in an appeal only under limited circumstances. The proposed supplemental evidence must be relevant and material, and (a) the person seeking to add information to the record must show due diligence in bringing the evidence to the DEP's attention at the earliest possible time in the licensing process; or (b) the evidence itself must be newly discovered and therefore unable to have been presented earlier in the process. Requirements for supplemental evidence are set forth in [Chapter 2 § 24](#).

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS IN APPEALING A DECISION TO THE BOARD

1. *Be familiar with all relevant material in the DEP record.* A license application file is public information, subject to any applicable statutory exceptions, and is made accessible by the DEP. Upon request, the DEP will make application materials available to review and photocopy during normal working hours. There may be a charge for copies or copying services.

2. *Be familiar with the regulations and laws under which the application was processed, and the procedural rules governing the appeal.* DEP staff will provide this information upon request and answer general questions regarding the appeal process.
3. *The filing of an appeal does not operate as a stay to any decision.* If a license has been granted and it has been appealed, the license normally remains in effect pending the processing of the appeal. Unless a stay of the decision is requested and granted, a licensee may proceed with a project pending the outcome of an appeal, but the licensee runs the risk of the decision being reversed or modified as a result of the appeal.

WHAT TO EXPECT ONCE YOU FILE A TIMELY APPEAL WITH THE BOARD

The Board will acknowledge receipt of an appeal, and it will provide the name of the DEP project manager assigned to the specific appeal. The notice of appeal, any materials admitted by the Board as supplementary evidence, any materials admitted in response to the appeal, relevant excerpts from the DEP's administrative record for the application, and the DEP staff's recommendation, in the form of a proposed Board Order, will be provided to Board members. The appellant, the licensee, and parties of record are notified in advance of the date set for the Board's consideration of an appeal or request for a hearing. The appellant and the licensee will have an opportunity to address the Board at the Board meeting. The Board will decide whether to hold a hearing on appeal when one is requested before deciding the merits of the appeal. The Board's decision on appeal may be to affirm all or part, affirm with conditions, order a hearing to be held as expeditiously as possible, reverse all or part of the decision of the Commissioner, or remand the matter to the Commissioner for further proceedings. The Board will notify the appellant, the licensee, and parties of record of its decision on appeal.

II. JUDICIAL APPEALS

Maine law generally allows aggrieved persons to appeal final Commissioner or Board licensing decisions to Maine's Superior Court (see [38 M.R.S. § 346\(1\)](#); 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 2; [5 M.R.S. § 11001](#); and M.R. Civ. P. 80C). A party's appeal must be filed with the Superior Court within 30 days of receipt of notice of the Board's or the Commissioner's decision. For any other person, an appeal must be filed within 40 days of the date the decision was rendered. An appeal to court of a license decision regarding an expedited wind energy development, a general permit for an offshore wind energy demonstration project, or a general permit for a tidal energy demonstration project may only be taken directly to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court. See 38 M.R.S. § 346(4).

Maine's Administrative Procedure Act, DEP statutes governing a particular matter, and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure must be consulted for the substantive and procedural details applicable to judicial appeals.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions or need additional information on the appeal process, for administrative appeals contact the Board Clerk at 207-287-2811 or the Board Executive Analyst at 207-314-1458 bill.hinkel@maine.gov, or for judicial appeals contact the court clerk's office in which the appeal will be filed.

Note: This information sheet, in conjunction with a review of the statutory and regulatory provisions referred to herein, is provided to help a person to understand their rights and obligations in filing an administrative or judicial appeal. The DEP provides this information sheet for general guidance only; it is not intended for use as a legal reference. Maine law governs an appellant's rights.
