

Chapter 550: DISCONTINUANCE OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT LAGOONS

SUMMARY: These Rules define the term wastewater treatment lagoon and outline the procedures by which this type of lagoon maybe discontinued either temporarily or permanently.

1. Definitions

- A. Wastewater Treatment Lagoons.** Wastewater treatment lagoons means a lagoon, basin or pond consisting of a relatively shallow body of water contained in an earthen basin, lined or unlined, or controlled shape designed for the purpose of storing and/or treating wastewater.
 - B. Permanent Discontinuance.** Permanent discontinuance means the cessation of depositing wastewater into lagoons for more than ninety (90) days.
 - C. Temporary Discontinuance.** Temporary discontinuance means the cessation of depositing wastewater into lagoons for ninety (90) or less days.
- 2. Notice of Discontinuance.** Any person who discontinues the use of a lagoon shall give notice to the Commissioner, in writing, no later than fifteen (15) days after wastewaters have ceased to enter the lagoon.
- 3. Reclamation Plan.** The notices of discontinuance shall be accompanied by a reclamation plan and/or maintenance plan satisfactory to the Commissioner. The method of sludge disposal and the selection of a sludge disposal area shall be in accordance with applicable State laws and regulations.
- 4. Permanent Abandonment.** Any person who intends to permanently discontinue the use of a lagoon shall follow the following minimum procedures:
- A.** The contents of the lagoon shall be diluted by uncontaminated water until the effluent parameters within the lagoon are equal to or less than the final discharge parameters.
 - B.** The discharge at the time of dilution shall be consistent with the terms of the discharge license.
 - C.** When the contents of the lagoons are equal to or less than the final discharge parameters the lagoon area shall be emptied at a rate consistent with the receiving waters classification requirements.
 - D.** When the liquid in the lagoon has been completely discharged and/ or evaporated the sludge in the lagoon shall be (1) removed, or (2) if appropriate used as a soil conditioner.
 - E.** Within fifteen (15) days of removal of the sludge or preparing the soil/sludge mixture the lagoon area shall be graded and seeded with a perennial type plant growth that will prevent erosion and leaching of contaminants into surface and ground waters.
 - F.** If any any time during the dewatering, sludge removal, soil-sludge mixture, and/or seeding, process water is added to the lagoon area by natural or artificial means the dewatering process shall be repeated in accordance with these regulations.

- 5. Temporary Discontinuance.** Any person who intends to temporarily discontinue a lagoon shall follow the following minimum procedures:
- A.** The contents of the lagoon shall be maintained in an aerobic condition.
 - B.** Solids of any type inconsistent with the terms of the discharge license shall not be allowed to be discharged in the final effluent.
 - C.** The lagoon area may only be emptied in accordance with (1) the terms of the discharge license, or (2) any reasonable terms the Board of Environmental Protection may require of the discharger.
- 6. Exemption.** The Commissioner may upon written request exempt any seasonal lagoon area from Section 4 of this regulation. The Commissioner in granting a seasonal exemption shall specify the maintenance procedures to be followed while the lagoon area is not receiving wastewaters.

After public notice and public hearing November 21, 1977 the above regulation is hereby adopted this 21st Day of December, 1977.

AUTHORITY: 38 M.R.S.A. Section 361

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 27, 1974

Amended: February 8, 1978

EFFECTIVE DATE (ELECTRONIC CONVERSION): May 4, 1996

BASIS STATEMENT

These Rules provide for the protection of water quality whenever it becomes necessary to discharge the contents of a lagoon to a body of water when in the process of discontinuing the use of a lagoon as a treatment process.