

List of Potential Changes to Maine's Water Quality Standards ("The Docket")

2006-2007 Legislative Session (PL 2007)

Statute

Legislative hearings are advertised in the Bangor Daily News, Lewiston Sun Journal, and Main Sunday Telegram (Portland Press Herald).

Ch. 65 (LD 587). An Act to Protect and Improve Lake Water Quality by Reducing Phosphorus in Lawn Care Fertilizer. Effective September 20, 2007. See Section 1.

Hearing: Tue Feb 27, 2007, 1:00 pm, Cross Building Room 214

Worksession: Tue Mar 13, 2007, 2:00 pm, Cross Building Room 214

Description. Section 1 of Chapter 65 amends 38 MRSA § 419. It retains an existing prohibition on the sale or use of high phosphorus detergent, and adds a prohibition on the sale of fertilizer containing phosphorus unless specified conditions are met. The prohibition is subject to a number of exceptions.

Ch. 291 (LD 1274). An Act to Allow the Discharge of Aquatic Pesticides Approved by the Department of Environmental Protection for the Control of Mosquito-borne Diseases in the Interest of Public Health and Safety. Effective September 20, 2007. See Sections 1-7.

Hearing: Tue Mar 27, 2007, 2:00 pm, Cross Building Room 214

Worksession: Wed Apr 18, 2007, 9:00 am, Cross Building Room 214

Description: This bill adds an exception to allow discharges of aquatic pesticides approved by the DEP for the control of mosquito-borne diseases in the interest of public health and safety when materials and methods provide for the protection of nontarget species. The exception is added to the existing prohibitions on discharges contained in the following provisions: waters having a drainage area of less than 10 square miles, 38 MRSA 464(4)(A); Class AA waters, 38 MRSA 465(1)(C); Class A waters, 38 MRSA 465(2)(C); Class B waters, 38 MRSA 465(3)(C); tributaries of GPA waters, 38 MRSA 465-A(1)(C); Class SA waters, 38 MRSA 465-B(1)(C); and Class SB waters, 38 MRSA 465-B(2)(C).

Ch. 292 (LD 1778). An Act to Amend Certain Laws Administered by the Department of Environmental Protection. Effective September 20, 2007. See Sections 16, 17, 20, and 23.

Hearing: Tue Apr 17, 2007, 8:30 am, Cross Building Room 214

Worksession: Tue May 8, 2007, 1:00 pm, Cross Building Room 214

Description: Section 16 amends 38 M.R.S.A. § 361-A to update the definition of the Code of Federal Regulations to include regulations published on or before July 1, 1007.

Section 18 amends 38 M.R.S.A. § 361-A(1-K), the "transfer" provision of the waste discharge law, to provide that an application for transfer of a license must be made no later than 2 weeks after the transfer of ownership or interest in the source of the discharge is completed. This amendment is consistent with requirements already in DEP's administrative rules, but makes the requirement more visible.

Maine Department of Environmental Protection
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Section 20 amends 38 M.R.S.A. § 437(4) to clarify a description of a segment of the Fish River in Maine's Classification Law. This was necessary because the existing language referred to a bridge that no longer exists. The amendment is not a substantive change.

Section 23 Amend 38 MRSA § 465-A(1), (B) to add "and domestic animal" to the bacteria standard for Class GPA waters. This amendment should have been included in recently enacted legislation¹ but was overlooked.

Recent Rulemaking

No recent rulemaking affects the water quality standards docket.

¹ Recently enacted legislation: PL 2005, ch. 409 (LD 1450). An Act to Amend Water Quality Standards. First Special Session. Emergency legislation, effective June 20, 2005.