

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98101

AUTHORIZATION TO DISCHARGE UNDER THE
NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM

In compliance with the provisions of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq., as amended by the Water Quality Act of 1987, P.L. 100-4, the "Act",

Cabinet Gorge Power Station
P.O. Box 160
Clark Fork, Idaho 83811

is authorized to discharge from the wastewater treatment system at the dam and power plant facility near Clark Fork, Idaho.

to receiving waters named the Clark Fork River

in accordance with discharge point(s), effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth herein.

This permit shall become effective January 5, 2002

This permit and the authorization to discharge shall expire at midnight, January 5, 2007.

Signed this 30th day of November, 2001,

s/Mike Bussell for
Randall F. Smith
Director
Office of Water, Region 10
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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I. SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

A. Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements

1. During the period beginning on the effective date of this permit the permittee is authorized to discharge wastewater to the Clark Fork River from Outfall 001 provided the discharge meets the limitations and monitoring requirements set forth herein.

This permit does not authorize the discharge of any waste streams, including spills and other unintentional or non-routine discharges of pollutants, that are not part of the normal operation of the facility as disclosed in the permit application:

PARAMETER	EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS			MONITORING REQUIREMENTS		
	Average Monthly Limit	Average Weekly Limit	Daily Maximum Limit	Sample Location	Sample Frequency	Sample Type
Flow, MGD	---	---	---	Effluent	Continuous	recording
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD ₅)	30 mg/L	45 mg/L	---	Influent and Effluent	1/month	grab
	0.3 lb/day	0.5 lb/day				
Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	30 mg/L	45 mg/L	---	Influent and Effluent	1/month	grab
	0.3 lb/day	0.5 lb/day				
Fecal Coliform Bacteria	---	200/100 ml	---	Effluent	1/month	grab
E. Coli Bacteria ¹	126/100 ml	---	406/100 ml	Effluent	1/month	grab
Total Residual Chlorine	0.5 mg/L	0.75 mg/L	---	Effluent	1/week	grab
Total Ammonia ²	---	---	---	Effluent	1/month	grab
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen ²	---	---	---	Effluent	1/month	grab
Nitrate (as N) ²	---	---	---	Effluent	1/month	grab
Nitrite (as N) ²	---	---	---	Effluent	1/month	grab
Total Phosphorous (as P) ²	---	---	---	Effluent	1/month	grab
¹ If more than one sample is collected during the month, the geometric mean of the E. coli counts must not exceed 126/100 ml. See Part I.D. for definition of geometric mean. ² Nutrient monitoring is required for the first 12 months after the effective date of the permit.						

2. The pH range shall be between 6.5 - 9.0 standard units. The permittee shall monitor for pH once (1) per week. Sample analysis shall be conducted on a grab sample from the effluent.
3. There shall be no discharge of floating solids, visible foam, or oil and grease in other than trace amounts.
4. 85% Removal Requirements for BOD₅ and TSS: For any month, the monthly average BOD₅ and TSS effluent concentrations shall not exceed

15 percent of the monthly average influent concentrations.

Percent removal of BOD₅ and TSS shall be reported on the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs). The monthly average percent removal shall be calculated from the arithmetic mean of the influent value and the arithmetic mean of the effluent value for that month. Influent and effluent samples shall be taken over approximately the same time period.

B. Quality Assurance Requirements

1. The Permittee shall develop a Quality Assurance Plan. The primary purpose of the Quality Assurance Plan shall be to assist in planning for the collection and analysis of samples in support of the permit and in explaining data anomalies when they occur.
2. Throughout all sample collection and analysis activities, the Permittee shall use the EPA approved quality assurance, quality control, and chain-of-custody procedures described in:
 1. *Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans*, EPA QA/R-5 EPA, and
 2. *Guidance on Quality Assurance Project Plans*, EPA QA/G-5

The following reference may be helpful in preparing the Quality Assurance Plan for this permit: *The Volunteer Monitors Guide to Quality Assurance Project Plans* EPA 841-B-96-003, September 1996.

3. The plan shall be completed within 60 days of the effective date of this NPDES permit. The Permittee shall keep a copy of the permit on site at all times.
4. At a minimum the plan shall include the following:
 - Sampling techniques (field blanks, replicates, duplicates, control samples, etc).
 - Sampling preservation methods.
 - Sampling shipment procedures.
 - Instrument calibration procedures and preventive maintenance (frequency, standard, spare parts).
 - Qualification and training of personnel.
 - Analytical methods (including quality control checks, quantification/detection levels).
5. Name(s), address(es) and telephone number(s) of the laboratories, used by or proposed to be used by the Permittee, shall be specified in the Quality Assurance Plan.

C. Nutrient TMDL Reopener Clause

This permit may specifically be reopened to include any applicable requirements of a nutrient TMDL for the Pend Oreille Lake Subbasin finalized by IDEQ and approved by EPA

D. Definitions

1. "Average monthly discharge limitation" 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.
2. "Average weekly discharge limitation" 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.
3. "Bypass" means the intentional diversion of waste streams from any portion of a treatment facility.
4. "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 limitations expressed in units of mass, the "daily discharge" is calculated as the total mass of the pollutant discharged over the day. For pollutants with limitations expressed in other units of measurement, the "daily discharge" is calculated as the average measurement of the pollutant over the day.
5. An "eight hour composite" sample shall consist of three discrete aliquots collected over an eight hour period. Each aliquot shall be a grab sample of not less than 100 ml and shall be collected and stored in accordance with procedures prescribed in *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater*, 18th Edition.
6. "Geometric mean" of "n" quantities is the "nth" root of the product of the quantities. For example the geometric mean of 100, 200 and 300 is $(100 \times 200 \times 300)^{1/3} = 181.7$
7. A "Grab" sample is a single sample or measurement taken at a specific time or over as short a period of time as is feasible.
8. "Maximum daily discharge limitation" means the highest allowable "daily discharge."
9. "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.

10. "Upset" means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary noncompliance with technology-based permit effluent limitations 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.

II. MONITORING, RECORDING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- A. **Representative Sampling.** Samples taken in compliance with the monitoring requirements established under Part I 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 40 CFR Part 136, unless other test procedures have been specified in this permit.
- C. **Reporting of Monitoring Results.** Monitoring results shall be summarized each month on the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) form (EPA No. 3320-1). The reports shall be submitted monthly and are to be postmarked by the 10th day of the following month. Legible copies of these, and all other reports, shall be signed and certified in accordance with the requirements of Part IV.J., Signatory Requirements, and submitted to the Director, Office of Water and the State agency at the following addresses:

original to: United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, OW-133
Seattle, Washington 98101

copy to: Coeur d'Alene Regional Office
2110 Ironwood Parkway
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

- D. **Additional Monitoring by the Permittee.** If the permittee monitors any pollutant more frequently than required by this permit, using test procedures approved under 40 CFR 136 or as specified in this permit, the results of this monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the data submitted in the DMR. Such increased frequency shall also be indicated.
- E. **Records Contents.** Records of monitoring information shall include:
 1. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;
 2. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;

3. The date(s) analyses were performed;
4. The individual(s) who performed the analyses;
5. The analytical techniques or methods used; and
6. The results of such analyses.

F. **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 Director at any time. Data collected on-site, copies of Discharge Monitoring Reports, and a copy of this NPDES permit must be maintained on-site.

G. **Twenty-four Hour Notice of Noncompliance Reporting.**

1. The following occurrences of noncompliance shall be reported by telephone, to the EPA NPDES hotline at 206-553-1846, within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances:
 - a. Any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment;
 - b. Any unanticipated bypass which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit (See Part III.G., Bypass of Treatment Facilities.);
 - c. Any upset which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit (See Part III.H., Upset Conditions.); or
 - d. Violation of a maximum daily discharge limitation for any of the pollutants listed in the permit to be reported within 24 hours.
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 Director may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the oral report has been received within 24 hours by the Water Compliance Section in Seattle, Washington.

4. Reports shall be submitted to the addresses in Part II.C., Reporting of Monitoring Results.

H. **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.C. are submitted. The reports shall contain the information listed in Part II.G.2.

I. **Inspection and Entry.** The permittee shall allow the Director or an authorized representative (including an authorized contractor acting as a representative of the Administrator), 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 or as otherwise authorized by the Act, any substances or parameters at any location.

J. **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 (Part I) shall be submitted no later than 10 days following each schedule date.

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 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 advance notice to the Director of any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity which may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.

B. **Penalties for Violations of Permit Conditions.**

1. **Civil and Administrative Penalties.** Any person who violates a permit condition implementing Sections Penalty. The Act provides that any person who violates a permit condition implementing Sections 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act shall be subject to a civil or administrative penalty, not to exceed the maximum amounts specified in Sections 309(d) and 309(g) of the Act and the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act (28 U.S. C. § 2461 note) as amended by the Debt collection Improvement Act (31 U.S.C. § 3701 note).

2. **Criminal Penalties:**

a. **Negligent Violations.** The Act provides that any person who negligently violates

a permit condition implementing Sections 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act; or negligently introduces into a sewer system or into a publicly owned treatment works any pollutant or hazardous substance which such person knew or reasonably should have known could cause personal injury or property damage or, other than in compliance with all applicable federal, state, or local requirements or permits, which causes such treatment works to violate any effluent limitation or condition in a permit issued to the treatment works under Section 402 of this Act; shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$2,500 nor more than \$25,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or by both.

- b. **Knowing Violations.** The Act provides that any person who knowingly violates a permit condition implementing Sections 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act; or knowingly introduces into a sewer system or into a publicly owned treatment works any pollutant or hazardous substance which such person knew or reasonably should have known could cause personal injury or property damage or, other than in compliance with all applicable federal, state, or local requirements or permits, which causes such treatment works to violate any effluent limitation or condition in a permit issued to the treatment works under Section 402 of this Act; shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$50,000 per day of violation, or by imprisonment for not more than 3 years, or by both.
- c. **Knowing Endangerment.** The Act provides that any person who knowingly violates a permit condition implementing Sections 301, 302, 306, 307, 308, 318, or 405 of the Act, and who knows at that time that he thereby places another person in imminent danger of death or serious bodily injury, shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not more than \$250,000 or imprisonment of not more than 15 years, or both. A person which is an organization shall, upon conviction of violating this subparagraph, be subject to a fine of not more than \$1,000,000.
- d. **False Statements.** The Act provides that any person who knowingly makes any false material statement, representation, or certification in any application, record, report, plan, or other document filed or required to be maintained under this Act or who knowingly falsifies, tampers with, or renders inaccurate any monitoring device or method required to be maintained under this Act, shall upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more that \$10,000, or by imprisonment for not more than 2 years, or by both.

Except as provided in permit conditions in Part III.G., Bypass of Treatment Facilities and Part III.H., Upset Conditions, 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 or sludge use or disposal 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 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.
- F. **Removed Substances.** Collected screenings, grit, solids, sludges, filter backwash, or other pollutants removed in the course of treatment or control of wastewaters shall be disposed of in a manner such as to prevent any pollutant from such materials from entering navigable waters.
- 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 paragraphs 2 and 3 of this section.
 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.G., Twenty-four Hour Notice of Noncompliance Reporting.
 3. Prohibition of bypass.
 - a. Bypass is prohibited and the Director 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 paragraph 2 of this section.

b. The Director may approve an anticipated bypass, after considering its adverse effects, if the Director determine that it will meet the three conditions listed above in paragraph 3.a. of this section.

H. **Upset Conditions.**

1. Effect of an upset. An upset constitutes an affirmative defense to an action brought for noncompliance with such technology based permit effluent limitations if the requirements of paragraph 2 of this section 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.

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 II.G., Twenty-four Hour Notice of Noncompliance Reporting; and

d. The permittee complied with any remedial measures required under Part III.D., 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.

IV. **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

A. **Notice of New Introduction of Pollutants.** The permittee shall provide adequate notice to the Director, Office of Water of:

1. Any new introduction of pollutants into the treatment works from an indirect discharger which would be subject to Sections 301 or 306 of the Act if it were directly discharging those pollutants; and

2. Any substantial change in the volume or character of pollutants being introduced into the treatment works by a source introducing pollutants into the treatment works at the time of issuance of the permit.

3. For the purposes of this section, adequate notice shall include information on:

a. The quality and quantity of effluent to be introduced into such treatment works;

and

- b. Any anticipated impact of the change on the quantity or quality of effluent to be discharged from such publicly owned treatment works.

- B. **Planned Changes.** The permittee shall give notice to the Director as soon as possible of any planned physical alterations or additions to the permitted facility. Notice is required only when the alteration or addition could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged. This notification applies to pollutants which are not subject to effluent limitations in the permit.
- C. **Anticipated Noncompliance.** The permittee shall give advance notice to the Director of any planned changes in the permitted facility or activity which may result in noncompliance with permit requirements.
- D. **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.
- E. **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 should be submitted at least 180 days before the expiration date of this permit.
- F. **Duty to Provide Information.** The permittee shall furnish to the Director, within a reasonable time, any information which the Director may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this permit, or to determine compliance with this permit. The permittee shall also furnish to the Director, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this permit.
- G. **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 Director, it shall promptly submit such facts or information.
- H. **Signatory Requirements.** All applications, reports or information submitted to the Director 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 Director shall be signed by a person described above or by a duly authorized representative of that person. A person is a duly authorized representative only if:
 - a. The authorization is made in writing by a person described above and submitted to the Director, 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 any individual occupying a named position.)

3. Changes to authorization. If an authorization under paragraph IV.J.2. 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 paragraph IV.J.2. must be submitted to the Director 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."

- I. **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 Director. As required by the Act, permit applications, permits and effluent data shall not be considered confidential.
- 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 Act.
- K. **Property Rights.** The issuance of this permit does not convey any property 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.
- 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 Director 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; and

3. The Director does not notify the existing permittee and the proposed new permittee of his or her intent to modify, or revoke and reissue the permit. If this notice is not received, the transfer is effective on the date specified in the agreement mentioned in paragraph 2 above.
- N. **State Laws.** 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 established pursuant to any applicable state law or regulation under authority preserved by Section 510 of the Act.

