STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
KNOXVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD OFFICE
3711 MIDDLEBROOK PIKE
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37921-6538
PHONE (865) 594-6035 STATEWIDE 1-888-891-8332 FAX (865) 594-6105

September 19, 2012

Mr. Steven R. Bennett, Area Manager
Aggregates USA LLC
P. O. Box 15005
Knoxville, TN 37901

RE: Draft NPDES Permit TN0001775 (Renewal)
Aggregates USA (Watauga) LLC
Watauga Quarry
Carter and Washington Counties

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Enclosed please find a draft copy of the NPDES permit which the Division of Water Resources proposes to issue. This draft copy is furnished to you solely for your review of its provisions and does not authorize the discharge of wastewater. The issuance of an official permit is contingent upon your meeting all of the requirements of *The Tennessee Water Quality Control Act* and the rules and regulations of the Tennessee Water Resources Board.

If you disagree with the provisions and requirements contained in the draft permit, you have twenty-five (25) days from the date of this correspondence to notify us of your objections. If your objections cannot be resolved, you may appeal this permit upon issuance. This appeal should be filed in accordance with *Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 69-3-105 (i)*, and the general regulations of the Tennessee Water Resources Board.

If you have questions concerning this correspondence, contact Bryan Epperson at (865) 594-5555.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Mullins
NPDES Permitting Supervisor
Division of Water Resources
Mining Section

GWM NPDES TN0001775

Enclosures

cc: Bruce Ragon, KEFO
NPDES Pending File

STATE OF TENNESSEE

NPDES PERMIT

Draft
NPDES Permit TN0001775
Renewal

Authorization to discharge under the
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

Issued By

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
Division of Water Resources
3711 Middlebrook Pike
Knoxville, Tennessee 37921-6538

Under authority of the *Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977* (*T.C.A. 69-3-101* et seq.) and the delegation of authority from the United States Environmental Protection Agency under the *Federal Water Pollution Control Act*, as amended by the *Clean Water Act of 1977* (*33 U.S.C. 1251,* et seq.)

Discharger: **Aggregates USA (Watauga) LLC**
Watauga Quarry

is authorized to discharge treated wastewater and storm water:

from a facility located in **Carter and Washington** Counties at latitude **36°22′22.6″**, longitude **82°17′48.8″**

consisting of **166 acres**

to receiving waters named: **Watauga River 001 (at mile 17.2)**

in accordance with effluent limitations, monitoring requirements and other conditions set forth herein.

This permit shall become effective on:

This permit shall expire on:

Transmittal date:

Sandra K. Dudley, Ph.D., P.E.
Director
Division of Water Resources

CN-0759

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PART I

A. WASTEWATER LIMITATIONS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS (Limestone Quarry and Processing Facility and Drainage Associated with an Asphalt Plant)

1. During the period beginning with the effective date of this permit and lasting through the expiration date of this permit, the permittee is authorized to discharge treated wastewater from all point sources associated with the mining and related facilities indicated on the approved area maps.

   Such wastewater shall be limited and monitored by the permittee as specified below until the site has been closed and stabilized according to plans approved by the Division. Additionally, conditions stipulated in Part III B., *Termination of Monitoring*, shall be met.

WASTEWATER LIMITATIONS (001)

Wastewater Characteristics	Discharge Limitations Maximum for any 1 Day	Monitoring Requirements Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Total Suspended Solids	40.0 mg/L	Two per Month	Grab
Oil and Grease[1]	None Visible	Daily	Observe
Flow (GPM)	Report	Two per Month	Est.
pH[2]	6.0 to 9.0 Standard Units	Two per Month	Grab

[1] After application of the best available technology economically achievable, there shall be no discharge of process wastewater pollutants to navigable waters (*40 CFR, Part 443.23*).

[2] The pH value shall lie within the range of 6.0 to 9.0 and shall not fluctuate more than 1.0 unit in this range over a period of twenty-four (24) hours.

2. There shall be no distinctly visible floating scum, oil, or other matter contained in the wastewater discharge. The wastewater discharge must not cause an objectionable color contrast in the receiving stream.

3. The wastewater discharge shall result in no other materials in concentrations sufficient to be hazardous or otherwise detrimental to humans, livestock, wildlife, plant life, or fish and aquatic life in the receiving stream.

4. Sludge or any other material removed by any treatment works shall be disposed of in a manner which prevents its entrance into or pollution of any surface or subsurface waters. Additionally, the disposal of such sludge or other material shall be in

compliance with the *Tennessee Solid Waste Disposal Act, TCA 68-211-101, et seq.* and the *Tennessee Hazardous Waste Management Act, TCA 68-212-101, et seq.*

5. Representative samples shall be taken according to the following established sampling frequencies unless otherwise approved by the Division subsequent to a specific written request by the permittee: (see Part I, E. 1. for a definition of representative sampling)

   a. Gravity Discharges from Sediment Control Structures and/or Treatment Facilities

      A minimum of two samples shall be collected per month. These samples shall be taken as follows:

      1) One sample of the first discharge during the first half of the month and
      2) One sample of the first discharge during the second half of the month.

   b. Batch, Siphon, or Pump Discharges

      Batch, siphon, or pump discharge(s) of any treated mine wastewater from approved treatment structures shall comply with effluent standards set forth herein and shall be directed to a splashpad or the pond's spillway constructed of non-erosive material. Pumpage or batch discharge of wastewater is a prohibited bypass if the sampling procedures as stated herein are not followed.

      A minimum of two samples shall be collected per month. These samples shall be taken as follows:

      1) One sample of the first discharge during the first half of the month and
      2) One sample of the first discharge during the second half of the month.

   c. Duration of the discharge shall be noted on the Discharge Monitoring Report.

   d. The permittee must take proper measures to ensure that the pump intake does not stir up solids or take in sediment materials from the bottom of the treatment structure during the discharge period.

6. Any change or modification in sampling frequency will be based on the nature and effect of the discharge and its impact on the receiving waters. Impacts on the receiving waters will include any impairment of the stream use classification. These classifications are specified under *Rules of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Chapter 1200-4-3-.03. Criteria for Water Uses, (3) Fish and Aquatic Life.* This provision applies to applicable discharges of treated wastewater and storm water covered in Part I, A and B.

B. Storm Water Reporting Levels and Monitoring Requirements

Storm water discharges associated with access and haul roads and other discharges composed entirely of storm water shall be monitored by the permittee as specified below until the site has been closed and stabilized according to plans approved by the Division. Additionally, conditions stipulated in Part III B., Termination of Monitoring, shall be met.

NOTE: Part I B. entitled, "Storm Water Reporting Levels and Monitoring Requirements," is not applicable if all storm water discharges associated with access and haul roads and/or other areas of the permit requiring storm water coverage are routed to and adequately treated by approved wastewater treatment structures. Sufficient documentation (i.e. narrative, drainage maps, etc.) of such treatment shall be provided to the Division before this exemption is valid.

STORM WATER DISCHARGES*

Parameters	Reporting Levels	Monitoring Requirements	
Measurement		Frequency	Sample Type
pH	5.0 to 9.0 Standard Units at all times	Annually	Grab
Total Suspended Solids	150 mg/L	Annually	Grab
Oil and Grease	15 mg/L	Annually	Grab

*Note: If the storm water discharge is from an area not associated with an access road or haul road or is not a source for vehicular traffic, monitoring for Oil and Grease is not required.

1. Samples shall be collected from discharges resulting from a storm event that is greater than 0.1 inch in magnitude and that occurs at least seventy-two (72) hours after any previous storm event of 0.1 inch or greater.

2. Grab samples shall be collected as soon as practicable during a storm event discharge.

3. In addition to the information contained in Part I, Section E (3), the monitoring report form shall include:

   a. The exact location from which the sample was taken, i.e., culvert, sump, etc.

   b. The duration (in hours), starting and ending times, and magnitude (in inches) of the storm event sampled.

C. Sediment Control Structures and/or Treatment Facilities Construction Schedule

1. Full compliance and operational levels shall be attained from the effective date of this permit.

2. All pollution control equipment required to meet the conditions of this permit shall be installed, be in operational condition, and shall be "started-up" prior to discharge.

3. Prior to receiving drainage from disturbance of the permitted mine area, wastewater treatment structures and/or treatment facilities shall be constructed according to approved plans and certified after construction by a Tennessee Registered Professional Engineer or an authorized responsible representative of the company. Such certifications shall be submitted to and approved by the Division.

D. Reporting

1. Monitoring Results

   a. Wastewater Discharges

      1) Monitoring results for wastewater discharges shall be reported on Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) forms. DMRs shall be recorded monthly and submitted quarterly.

         The first DMR is due on:

      2) Each subsequent DMR shall be due no later than fifteen (15) days after completion of each quarterly reporting period.

      3) DMRs shall be submitted for each outfall number listed on the permit. If a wastewater treatment structure(s) listed on the permit has not been constructed, this shall be noted on the DMR as "not constructed."

   b. Storm Water Discharges

      Monitoring results for storm water discharges shall be reported on Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) forms. DMRs shall be recorded and submitted annually. The DMR is due no later than fifteen (15) days after completion of the quarterly reporting period in which the sample was taken.

2. Definition of "Quarter" for Reporting Purposes

   For the purpose of this permit, a "quarter" is defined as any of the following three month periods: January 1 through March 31; April 1 through June 30; July 1 through September 30; and October 1 through December 31.

3. Submittal of Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) Forms

   The DMR with the original signature shall be submitted to the Division of Water Resources, Mining Section. A copy shall be submitted to the respective Environmental Field Office (EFO) and the permittee shall retain a copy for his file.

4. Signature Requirements for DMR Forms

   Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) shall be signed and certified by a principal corporate officer of at least the level of vice-president, a general partner or proprietor, or his duly authorized representative. Such authorization shall be submitted in writing, signed by the permittee, and shall explain the duties and responsibilities of the authorized representative.

5. Address for Submittal of DMR Forms

   Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) and any communication regarding compliance with the conditions of this permit shall be sent to:

   Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
   Division of Water Resources
   3711 Middlebrook Pike
   Knoxville, TN 37921-6538
   ATTENTION: Mining Compliance

   Telephone (865) 594-6035 **Fax (865) 594-6105**

6. Additional Monitoring by Permittee

   If the permittee monitors any pollutant at the location(s) designated herein more frequently than required by this permit, using approved analytical methods as specified herein, the results of such monitoring shall be included in the calculation and reporting of the values required on the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR). Such increased frequency shall also be indicated.

7. Falsifying Reports

   Knowingly making any false statement on any report required by this permit may result in the imposition of criminal penalties as provided for in *Section 309* of *The Federal Clean Water Act of 1977*, as amended, and in *Section 69-3-115(c)* of *The Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977*, as amended.

E. Monitoring Procedures

1. Representative Sampling

   Samples and measurements taken in compliance with the monitoring requirements specified above shall be representative of the volume and nature of the monitored discharge and shall be taken at the following location(s): nearest accessible point after final treatment but prior to actual discharge(s) to or mixing with the receiving waters.

2. Test Procedures

   a. Test procedures for the analysis of pollutants shall conform to regulations published pursuant to *Section 304(h)* of *The Federal Clean Water Act of 1977*, as amended, under which such procedures may be required.

   b. Unless otherwise noted in the permit, all pollutant parameters shall be determined according to methods prescribed in *Title 40, CFR, Part 136,* as amended, promulgated pursuant to *Section 304 (h)* of *The Federal Clean Water Act of 1977*, as amended.

3. Recording of Results

   For each measurement or sample taken pursuant to the requirements of this permit, the permittee shall record the following information:

   a. The date, exact place, and time of sampling or measurements;

   b. The individual(s) who performed the sampling or measurements;

   c. The date(s) analyses were performed;

   d. The individual(s) who performed the analyses;

   e. The analytical techniques or methods used; and

   f. The results of such analyses.

4. Records Retention

   All records and information resulting from the monitoring activities required by this permit, including all records of analyses performed and calibration and maintenance of instrumentation, shall be retained for a minimum of three (3) years, or longer, if requested by the Division of Water Resources, and be readily available to the Division's representative for review.

PART II

A. General Provisions

1. Duty to Reapply

   Permittee is not authorized to discharge after the expiration date of this permit. In order to receive authorization to discharge beyond the expiration date, the permittee shall submit such information and forms as are required to the Director no later than 180 days prior to the expiration date.

2. Right of Entry

   The permittee shall allow the Director, the Regional Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or their authorized representatives, upon the presentation of credentials to:

   a. Enter upon the permittee's premises where an effluent source is located or where records are required to be kept under the terms and conditions of this permit, and copy these records;

   b. Inspect any monitoring equipment or method or any collection, treatment, pollution management, or discharge facilities required under this permit and;

   c. Sample any discharge of pollutants.

3. Availability of Reports

   Except for data determined to be confidential under *Section 308* of *The Federal Clean Water Act of 1977*, as amended, all reports prepared in accordance with the terms of this permit shall be available for public inspection at the Division of Water Resources. As required by the Federal Act, effluent data shall not be considered confidential.

4. Proper Operation and Maintenance

   a. Proper operation and maintenance shall be implemented at this site to control and minimize pollutants from entering the wastewater treatment structure(s). The permittee shall visually inspect the wastewater treatment structure(s) daily to ensure that no floating scum, oil, or other matter is contained in the wastewater discharge. The daily visual inspection requirement extends to BMPs or other treatment devices established to control storm water discharges associated with access roads and haul roads.

   b. The permittee shall at all times properly operate and maintain all facilities and systems (and related appurtenances) for collection and treatment installed or used

by the permittee to achieve compliance with the terms and conditions of this permit. Proper operation and maintenance also includes adequate laboratory and process controls and appropriate quality assurance procedures. This provision requires the operation of backup 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.

c. Dilution water shall not be added to comply with effluent requirements.

5. Property Rights

The issuance of this permit does not convey any property rights in either real or personal property, or any exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal right, nor any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

6. Severability

The provisions of this permit are severable. If any provision of this permit, or the application of any provision of this permit to any circumstance, is held invalid, then the application of such provision to other circumstances and to the remainder of this permit shall not be affected thereby.

7. Other Information

If the permittee becomes aware that he failed to submit any relevant facts in a permit application, or submitted incorrect information in a permit application, or in a report to the Director, then he shall promptly submit such facts or information.

8. Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The permittee shall utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent or minimize erosion and the contribution of suspended solids and sediment to surface waters and/or adjacent properties. Such practice(s) shall be implemented to reduce the impacts caused by disturbances created by the installation of culverts, the construction of haulroads, access roads, spoil storage, and stockpile areas, and other related activities.

BMPs include, but are not limited to, rapid grading, mulching, and revegetation of disturbed areas, sediment traps and swells, vegetative buffer zones, erosion control structures, and rock check dams. BMPs are to be utilized as supplemental or auxiliary erosion control measures, not as substitutes for monitoring requirements of point source discharges.

Additional information regarding acceptable practices may be found in the **Tennessee Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook, August 2012,** which is available from the Division.

B. Changes Affecting the Permit

1. 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:

   a. The alteration or addition to a permitted facility may meet one of the criteria for determining whether a facility is a new source in *40 CFR 122.29(b)*; or

   b. The alteration or addition could significantly change the nature or increase the quantity of pollutants discharged. This notification applies to pollutants which are subject neither to effluent limitations in the permit, nor to requirements under *40 CFR 122.42 (a) (1)*.

2. Permit Modification, Revocation, or Termination

   a. This permit may be modified, revoked and reissued, or terminated for cause as described in *40 CFR 122.62* and *122.64*.

   b. 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.

   c. If any applicable effluent standard or prohibition (including any schedule of compliance specified in such effluent standard or prohibition) is established for any toxic pollutant under *Section 307(a)* of *The Federal Clean Water Act of 1977*, as amended, the Director shall modify or revoke and reissue the permit to conform to the prohibition or to the effluent standard, providing that the effluent standard is more stringent than the limitation in the permit on the toxic pollutant. The permittee shall comply with these effluent standards or prohibitions within the time provided in the regulations that establish these standards or prohibitions, even if the permit has not yet been modified or revoked and reissued to incorporate the requirement.

3. Transfer of Ownership

   Individual permits are not transferable to any person except after notice to the commissioner, as specified below.

   a. The permittee notifies the Commissioner of the proposed transfer at least thirty (30) days in advance of the proposed transfer date;

b. The notice includes a written agreement between the existing and new permittee containing a specified date for transfer of the permit responsibility, coverage, and liability between them;

c. The permittee must provide the following information to the commissioner in their formal notice of intent to transfer ownership:

(1) The permit number of the subject permit;
(2) The effective date of the proposed transfer;
(3) The name and address of the transferor;
(4) The name and address of the transferee;
(5) The names of the responsible parties for both the transferor and transferee;
(6) A statement that the transferee assumes responsibility for the subject permit;
(7) A statement that the transferor relinquishes responsibility for the subject permit;
(8) The signatures of the responsible parties for both the transferor and transferee pursuant to the signatory requirements of this part; and
(9) A statement regarding any proposed modifications to the facility, its operations, or any other changes, which might affect the permit, limits and conditions contained in the permit.

d. The Commissioner, within thirty (30) days, does not notify the existing permittee and the proposed new permittee of his intent to modify, revoke and reissue, or terminate the permit and to require that a new application be filed rather than agreeing to the transfer of the permit.

NOTE: To expedite and facilitate the permit transfer process and provide the required information, the Division has prepared two documents, "Notice of Transfer: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit" and "NPDES Permit Application Addresses Transfer of Ownership." These documents may be obtained by contacting the Division at telephone number **(865) 594-5460.**

4. Change of Mailing Address

The permittee shall promptly provide to the Director written notice of any change of mailing address. In the absence of such notice, the original address of the permittee will be assumed to be correct.

C. Non-Compliance

1. Effect of Non-Compliance

All discharges shall be consistent with the terms and conditions of this permit. Any permit non-compliance constitutes a violation of applicable state and federal laws and

is grounds for enforcement action, permit termination, permit modification, or denial of permit reissuance.

2. Reporting of Non-Compliance

   a. 24-Hour Reporting

      In the case of any non-compliance which could cause a threat to the public drinking water supplies, or any other discharge which could constitute a threat to human health or the environment, a required notice of non-compliance shall be provided to the Division of Water Resources within twenty-four (24) hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances.

      Telephone No. (865) 594-6035 **Fax No. (865) 594-6105**

      Additionally, written submission shall be provided within five (5) days of the time the permittee becomes aware of the circumstances unless the Director on a case-by-case basis waives this requirement. The permittee shall provide the Director with the following information:

      (1) A description of the discharge and cause of non-compliance;

      (2) The period of non-compliance, including exact dates and times, or, if not corrected, the anticipated time non-compliance is expected to continue; and

      (3) The steps being taken to monitor, reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the non-complying discharge.

      This written notice shall not be considered as excusing or justifying the failure to comply with the effluent limitations. This non-compliance shall also be reported on the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR). The details may be incorporated by reference to the written five (5) day notification.

   b. Scheduled Reporting

      For instances of non-compliance which are not reported under subparagraph 2(a) above, the permittee shall report the non-compliance on the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR). The report shall contain all information concerning the steps taken, or planned, to monitor, reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the violation and the anticipated time the violation is expected to continue.

3. Bypassing

   a. "Bypass" means the intentional diversion of wastes from any portion of a treatment facility. "Severe property damage" means substantial physical damage to property, damage to the treatment facilities which could cause 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.

b. Bypass is prohibited and the Director may take enforcement action against a permittee for bypass, unless the following three (3) conditions are met:

(1) Bypass was unavoidable to prevent loss of life, personal injury, or severe property damage;

(2) There are no feasible alternatives to 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 backup 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 submits notice of an unanticipated bypass to the Division of Water Resources within twenty-four (24) hours of becoming aware of the bypass (if this information is provided orally, a written submission shall be provided within five (5) days). When the need for the bypass is foreseeable, prior notification shall be submitted for approval to the Director, if possible, at least ten (10) days before the date of the bypass.

c. The Director may prohibit bypass in consideration of the adverse effect of the proposed bypass or if the proposed bypass does not meet the conditions set forth in subparagraphs 3(b)(1) and (2).

d. 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 subparagraph b. above.

4. Upset

a. "Upset" means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary non-compliance with technology-based effluent limitations because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the permittee. An upset does not include non-compliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, inadequate treatment facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless or improper operation.

b. Conditions necessary for the demonstration of an upset. An upset shall constitute an affirmative defense to an action brought for non-compliance with such technology-based permit effluent limitations if the permittee demonstrates, through properly signed, contemporaneous operating logs, or other relevant evidence that:

(1) An upset occurred and that the permittee can identify the cause(s) of the upset;

(2) At the time the permitted facility was being operated in a prudent and workmanlike manner and in compliance with proper operation and maintenance procedures;

(3) The permittee submitted information required under "Reporting of Non-Compliance" within twenty-four (24) hours of becoming aware of the upset (if this information is provided orally, a written submission shall be provided within five (5) days); and

(4) The permittee complied with any remedial measures required under "Adverse Impact."

c. In any enforcement proceeding the permittee seeking to establish the occurrence of an upset has the burden of proof.

5. Adverse Impact

The permittee shall take all reasonable steps to minimize any adverse impact to the waters of Tennessee resulting from non-compliance with this permit, including such accelerated or additional monitoring as necessary to determine the nature and impact of the non-complying discharge. In an enforcement action it shall not be a defense for the permittee 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. Liabilities

1. Civil and Criminal Liability

Except as provided in permit conditions for "Bypassing," nothing in this permit shall be construed to relieve the permittee from civil or criminal penalties for non-compliance. Notwithstanding this permit, the permittee shall remain liable for any damages sustained by the state of Tennessee including, but not limited to, fish kills and losses of aquatic life and/or wildlife, as a result of the discharge of wastewater to any surface or subsurface waters. Additionally, notwithstanding this permit, it shall be the responsibility of the permittee to conduct its wastewater treatment and/or discharge activities in a manner such that public or private nuisances or health hazards will not be created.

2. Liability under State Law

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 *The Federal Clean Water Act of 1977*, as amended.

3. Liability to Obtain Required Permits

   It is a violation of this permit to fail to obtain a permit or permit coverage for any activity that requires a permit under *The Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977.*

PART III

A. General Requirements

1. Prior to the creation of any disturbed area or point source discharge within the projected area of operation, and prior to changes, corrections, modifications, or adjustments in the location of any point source discharge, an Engineering Plan shall be submitted to and approved by the Division of Water Resources.

2. No mining activity shall be conducted within the projected area of operation unless the detailed Engineering Plan for the specific area of operation or disturbance has been approved in advance. The Engineering Plan shall include those documents, maps, drawings, and other materials as required by the Division.

B. Termination of Monitoring

Monitoring of a discharge may be terminated when all of the following have been satisfactorily completed:

1. Sufficient data has been accumulated to show to the satisfaction of the Director of the Division of Water Resources that the untreated discharge from an area where mining is completed shall meet limitations established by the Division as stated herein [Part I, A(1), Page 1] and water quality standards. Other factors such as watershed or background characteristics may be taken into consideration if sufficient data and documentation are provided to the Division by the permittee.

2. The permittee or his duly authorized representative submits proof of final bond release, where applicable or equivalent documentation and a letter to the Division of Water Resources requesting permit termination.

3. The site has been closed and stabilized to the satisfaction of the Division.

4. After a thirty-day (30) public notice, there is no adverse public comment to uphold termination.

C. Examples of Discharges Covered by This Permit

Examples of discharges which are covered by *The Federal Clean Water Act of 1977*, as

amended, and this permit include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Pumped or gravity drainage from the permitted area including, but not limited to, the mine, overburden storage and stockpile areas; and other adjacent areas which are associated with or incidental to the extraction of a natural resource or related activities.

2. Discharges from sediment control structures and/or treatment facilities.

D. Duration and Reissuance of Permits *(Rule 1200-4-5-.11 [3])*

The Commissioner shall review the permit and other available information to insure:

1. That the permittee is in compliance with or has substantially complied with all terms, conditions, requirements, and schedules of compliance of the expired permit;

2. That the Commissioner has up-to-date information on the permittee's production levels, permittee's waste treatment practices, nature, contents, and frequency of permittee's discharge, either pursuant to monitoring records and reports submitted to the Commissioner by the permittee; and,

3. That the discharge is consistent with applicable effluent standards and limitations, water quality standards, and other legally applicable requirements including any additions to, or revisions or modifications of such effluent standards and limitations, water quality standards, or other legally applicable requirements during the term of the permit.

E. Reopener Clause for Permits Issued to Sources in Primary Industries

If an applicable standard or limitation is promulgated under the *Clean Water Act*, as amended, *Sections 301 (b)(2) (C) and (D), 304 (B)(2), and 307(a)(2)* and that effluent standard or limitation is different from an effluent limitation in the permit or controls a pollutant not limited in the permit, the permit shall be promptly modified or revoked and reissued to conform to that effluent standard or limitation(s).

F. Toxic Pollutants

The permittee shall notify the Division of Water Resources as soon as it knows or has reason to believe:

1. That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in the discharge, on a routine or frequent basis, of any toxic pollutant (listed in *40 CFR, Part 122, Appendix D, Table II and III*) which is not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following "notification levels":

   a. One hundred micrograms per liter (100 μg/L);

b. Two hundred micrograms per liter (200 μg/L) for acrolein and acrylonitrile; five hundred micrograms per liter (500 μg/L) for 2,4-dinitrophenol and for 2-methyl-4,6-dinitrophenol; and one milligram per liter (1 mg/L) for antimony;

c. Five (5) times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application; in accordance with *122.21(g)(7)*; or

d. The level established by the Director in accordance with *122.44(f)*.

2. That any activity has occurred or will occur which would result in any discharge, on a non-routine or infrequent basis, of a toxic pollutant which is not limited in the permit, if that discharge will exceed the highest of the following "notification levels":

a. Five hundred micrograms per liter (500 μg/L);

b. One milligram per liter (1 mg/L) for antimony;

c. Ten (10) times the maximum concentration value reported for that pollutant in the permit application in accordance with *122.21(g)(7)*; or

d. The level established by the Director in accordance with *122.44(f)*.

3. They have begun or expect to begin to use or manufacture as an intermediate or final product or byproduct any toxic pollutant which was not reported in the permit application under *122.21(g)(9)*.

G. Antidegradation Statement

Pursuant to the *Rules of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Chapter 1200-4-3-.06*, titled "Tennessee Antidegradation Statement," and in consideration of the Department's directive in attaining the greatest degree of effluent reduction achievable in municipal, industrial, and other wastes, the permittee shall further be required, pursuant to the terms and conditions of this permit, to comply with the effluent limitations and schedules of compliance required to implement applicable water quality standards, to comply with a State Water Quality Plan or other state or federal laws or regulations, or where practicable, to comply with a standard permitting no discharge of pollutants.

H. Definitions

1. *"Access Road/Haul Road"* is any road constructed, maintained, or used by the operator of a mining facility primarily for the purpose of transporting raw materials, equipment, manufactured products, waste material, or by-products, and is located within the affected area.

2. *"Batch Discharge"* for the purpose of this permit means the controlled release

through a pipe (valve) of a known quantity and quality of treated wastewater that has been pumped to a treatment structure after such water has undergone physical and/or chemical treatment to meet permit limits.

3. *"Best Management Practices (BMPs)"* means a practice or a combination or series of practices designed to prevent or minimize the amount of pollution generated by non-point sources, such as haulroads, access roads, spoil storage and stockpile areas, site preparation, installation of culverts, and other related activities.

4. *"Bypass"* means the intentional diversion of wastes from any portion of a treatment facility.

5. *"Calendar Day"* is defined as any 24-hour period.

6. *"Clean Water Act" or "Act"* means *The Federal Clean Water Act* (formerly referred to as *The Federal Water Pollution Control Act* or *The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972*), as amended.

7. *"Commissioner"* means the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

8. *"Director"* means the Regional Administrator or the State Director, as the context requires or an authorized representative.

9. *"Discharge Limitation"* means any restriction, established by Federal or State law and regulation, or developed as the result of the Best Professional Judgment of the Division, on the constituents which are discharged into waters of the state or adjacent to waters of the state.

10. *"Discharge of a Pollutant"* means: "(a) Any addition of any 'pollutant' or combination of pollutants to 'waters of the United States' from any 'point source,'... This definition includes additions of pollutants into waters of the United States from: surface runoff which is collected or channeled by man ..."(see *40 CFR 122.2*)

11. *"Division"* means the Division of Water Resources.

12. *"Grab Sample"* means an individual sample of at least 100 milliliters collected at a randomly selected time over a period not exceeding fifteen (15) minutes.

13. *"Industrial Waste"* means any liquid, solid, gaseous substance, or combination thereof, or form of energy including heat, resulting from any process of industry, manufacture, trade, or business or from the development of any natural resource.

14. *"Maximum for any 1 day"* means a limitation of the total concentration by weight in milligrams per liter (mg/L) of any pollutant in the discharge during any time of a calendar day or (for clay only) during any time of the discharge cycle.

15. *"Mine"* shall mean an area of land, surface or underground, which is used for the development of a natural resource. Such areas include any adjacent land, the uses of which are incidental to any such mining activities including excavations, workings, impoundments, dams, dumps, stockpiles, overburden piles, holes or depressions, repair areas, storage areas, and other areas upon which are sited structures, or other property or materials on the surface, resulting from or incidental to such activities. The term "mine" also includes all lands affected by the construction of new roads or the improvement or use of existing roads, except maintained public roads, to gain access to the site of such activities and for haulage.

16. *"Mine Dewatering"* is any water that is impounded or that collects in the mine or quarry that is pumped, drained, or otherwise removed from the mine through the efforts of the mine operator. The term also includes wet pit overflows caused solely by direct rainfall, groundwater seepage, or surface runoff entering the mine area.

17. *"Monthly Average Concentration"* is a limitation on the discharge concentration in milligrams per liter, as the arithmetic mean of all daily concentrations determined in a one-month period.

18. *"National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)"* means the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) national program for issuing, modifying, revoking and reissuing, terminating, monitoring, and enforcing water quality permits. The term includes an "approved state program."

19 *"Other Storm Water Discharge"* means a discharge composed entirely of storm water that is not treated or monitored in the approved mine wastewater treatment system.

20. *"Per Discharge"* as used in this permit refers to the duration of treated mine wastewater discharge. Any single continuous discharge lasting more than seventy-two hours (72) represents a new discharge cycle and must be sampled each additional day beyond the seventy-two (72) hours.

21. *"Pollutant"* for the purpose of this permit means industrial waste.

22. *"Processing Facility"* is all or any part of the process involved in treating a mineral or raw material to improve properties and/or remove impurities. Processing may include any or all of the following activities: sizing, screening, crushing, separating, and washing.

23. *"Process Generated Wastewater"* is any wastewater used in the slurry transport of mined material, air emissions control, or processing exclusive of mining. The term also includes any other water which becomes commingled with such wastewater in a pit, pond, lagoon, mine, or other facility used for treatment of such wastewater.

24. *"Regional Administrator"* means the Administrator for the Environmental Protection

Agency or his authorized representative.

25. *"Sediment Control Structure"* means a designed device, constructed or manufactured, used in controlling the subsidence and deposition process of suspended matter, carried by water, wastewater, or other liquids. The structure reduces the velocity of the liquid below the point at which it can transport the suspended materials (sand, silt, gravel, clay, etc.) to allow settling. These structures may be called settling lagoons, silt ponds, detention basins, holding ponds, or settling ponds/basins.

26. *"Storm Water Application Rule"* is the EPA Regulation promulgated on November 16, 1990, and amended March 21, 1991, November 5, 1991, and April 2, 1992, requiring that application be made for an NPDES permit for storm water discharges associated with industrial activity.

27. *"Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activity"* means the discharge from any conveyance which is used for collecting and conveying storm water and which is directly related to manufacturing, processing, or raw materials storage areas at industrial plants. The term includes storm water discharges from immediate access roads and haulroads.

28. *"Storm Water"* means storm water runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage.

29. *"Tennessee Water Quality Control Act of 1977,"* as amended, *TCA 69-3-101* et seq., is the act that sets forth the guidelines and procedures for the abatement and prevention of pollution to the waters of the state. The act enables the state of Tennessee to qualify for full participation in the NPDES permit program.

30. The term *"10 year, 24 hour precipitation event"* means the maximum 24-hour precipitation event with a probable recurrence interval of once in ten (10) years as defined by the National Weather Service and Technical Paper No. 40, "Rainfall Frequency Atlas of the U.S.," May 1961, and subsequent amendments or equivalent regional or rainfall probability information developed therefrom.

31. The term *"closed and stabilized"* means the approved measures, procedures, and activities implemented to assure that any and all discharges from a facility that has completed mining and processing operations meet state water quality standards before NPDES permit termination. These activities include, but are not limited to, revegetation, removal of wastewater treatment structures, regrading, dismantling and removal of processing facilities and structures, equipment, machinery, and transport vehicles.

32. The term with *"asphalt plant"* means a mining facility whose treatment system receives surface runoff and/or drainage from an asphalt concrete plant located within the boundaries of the NPDES permit.

33. *"Upset"* means an exceptional incident in which there is unintentional and temporary non-compliance with technology-based effluent limitations because of factors beyond the reasonable control of the permittee. An upset does not include non-compliance to the extent caused by operational error, improperly designed treatment facilities, inadequate treatment facilities, lack of preventive maintenance, or careless or improper operation.

34. *"Waters"* means any and all water, public or private, on or beneath the surface of the ground, that are contained within, flow through, or border upon Tennessee or any portion thereof, except those bodies of water confined to and retained within the limits of private property in single ownership that do not combine or effect a junction with natural surface or underground waters;

RATIONALE

Limestone Quarry and Processing Facility with an Asphalt Plant

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AGGREGATES USA (WATAUGA), LLC
WATAUGA QUARRY
NPDES PERMIT TN0001775 (Renewal)
Carter and Washington Counties, Tennessee

September 19, 2012

Permit Writer: Bryan Epperson

I. DISCHARGER

Aggregates USA (Watauga), LLC
P.O. Box 15005
Knoxville, TN 37901

Contact: Walter L. Hillis, Environment, Safety & Health Manager

Facility Location: 350 West Fourth Avenue
Watauga, TN 37694

Nature of Business: Crushed and Broken Limestone Mining

SIC Code: 1422

Industrial Classification: Crushed and Broken Limestone

Discharger Rating: Minor

II. PERMIT STATUS

NPDES Permit TN0001775 issued February 27, 2008

NPDES Permit TN0001775 expires February 26, 2013

Application for Renewal received July 25, 2012

III. FACILITY DISCHARGES AND RECEIVING WATERS

This facility discharges treated wastewater and storm water from Outfall 001 into the Watauga River at mile 17.2 in Washington County, Tennessee. The classified uses for this stream at the point of discharge are domestic water supply, industrial water supply, recreation, irrigation and livestock and watering. See *Rules of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Chapter 1200-4-4.*

IV APPLICATION TYPE AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This application is for an NPDES permit renewal based on current approved plans for the discharge of treated wastewater and storm water generated from this facility. The operator certifies that the approved plans are representative of the current operation at the facility and will continue to be so until the permit is renewed, modified or terminated.

The total permitted area is 166 acres. A site inspection and corresponding Affidavit of Inspection was completed on June 28, 2012, by Consulting Geologist Travis Paris, in the company of the quarry manager, Joel Bishop, Jr. The sumps were inspected, and it was noted that a pump had been left off the previous permit. According to Mr. Bishop, the presence of the pump will not change the discharge point or rates. Mr. Paris found no changes in the operation since the previous permit renewal.

V. APPLICABLE EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS GUIDELINES

Background

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has adopted effluent limitations guidelines for point source discharges at facilities engaged in mineral mining and processing. These guidelines were adopted in pursuance of the *Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, Public Law 92-500.* Permits for discharges will contain limitations and standards in accordance with these guidelines, when such are in effect.

EPA promulgated effluent limitations guidelines for the crushed and broken stone industry in 1977. The regulations established effluent limitations for Total Suspended Solids and pH. The rule also included a precipitation event exemption. However, in 1979 the effluent limitations for TSS were invalidated and remanded to EPA as a result of federal court action. Subsequently, EPA amended the final rule and invalidated the remanded limitations for TSS. The promulgated limits for pH and precipitation event exemption were not invalidated or remanded.

A. Total Suspended Solids (TSS)

Effluent limitations guidelines for this parameter are based upon Best Professional Judgment (BPJ) of the Division. BPJ based effluent limitations are established

where promulgated guidelines are not available or where a particular pollutant is not regulated. The regulations authorizing the use of BPJ in developing effluent guidelines include *Section 402(a)(1)* of the *Federal Clean Water Act (CWA),* the NPDES regulations in *40 CFR 125.3* and applicable state regulations contained in *Rule 1200-4-5-.09(1)(b)(2)* of the *Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.*

BPJ effluent guidelines are developed and established by permit writers using reasonably available and relevant data and information. In establishing BPJ limits for TSS, the Division used data and information from the following sources:

- Effluent data and information from crushed and broken stone mining and processing facilities with sedimentation ponds or equivalent technology,
- EPA documents including the "Development Document for Effluent Limitations Guidelines and New Source Performance Standards for the Mineral Mining and Processing Point Source Category, July, 1979",
- State rules and regulations including *Chapter 1200-4-5, Permit Effluent Limitations and Standards; Chapter 1200-4-3, General Water Quality Criteria; and Chapter 1200-4-4, Use Classifications for Surface Waters,*
- Stream survey data and information obtained from field studies conducted in accordance with the *Tennessee Antidegradation Statement* found in *Chapter 1200-4-3,*
- Review and analysis of monitoring data and information submitted with NPDES Permit applications,
- Data obtained in field investigations, inspection reports, and historical monitoring,
- Technical journals, books, and other relevant literature.

In the exercise of BPJ, the Division has determined that the following effluent limitations for TSS provide the Best Conventional Technology (BCT) treatment for this industry:

Monthly Average Concentration	N/A
Maximum for Any 1 Day Concentration	40.0 mg/l

The historical record of NPDES permitting for this industry indicates that the 40 mg/L limitation is achievable by the industry and protective of water quality.

B. pH

Federally promulgated effluent limitations guidelines for pH are in effect for the crushed and broken stone industry (See *40 CFR 436 Subpart B*). The Division has determined that the Federal guidelines for pH adequately protect the classified uses of the receiving stream. The following effluent limitations guidelines are established for pH:

pH 6.0 - 9.0 Standard Units*

NOTE: *Rules of Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation,* Chapter *1200-4-3-.03, General Water Quality Criteria* establishes criteria for uses of state waters. To protect and maintain the classified use of the receiving stream for fish and aquatic life, the pH value shall not fluctuate more than 1.0 unit over a period of 24 hours and shall not be outside the following ranges: 6.0 – in wadeable streams and 6.5 – 9.0 in larger rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and wetlands.

C. General Water Quality Criteria

This NPDES permit includes the following provisions:

1) There shall be no visible floating scum, oil, or other materials contained in the wastewater discharge. The wastewater discharge must not cause an objectionable color contrast.

2) The wastewater discharge shall result in no other materials in concentrations sufficient to be hazardous or otherwise detrimental to humans, livestock, wildlife, plant life, or fish and aquatic life in the receiving stream.

These provisions are based on Tennessee water quality standards contained in *Rules of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, Chapter 1200-4-3, General Water Quality Criteria.*

D. Oil and Grease

A monitoring requirement for Oil and Grease is established for discharges associated with asphalt concrete plants. Federal effluent limitations guidelines prohibit the discharge of process wastewater pollutants to navigable waters from asphalt concrete plants. *40 CFR 443*. The federal guidelines do not cover surface drainage from concrete asphalt plant yard areas.

Monitoring for Oil and Grease is required where surface runoff from an asphalt concrete facility drains into the mine wastewater treatment system or commingles with mine water that enters the mine wastewater treatment system.

The Division is establishing the following effluent limitations guidelines for Oil and Grease:

Oil and Grease None Visible

This BPJ effluent limitation is based on historical experience, monitoring data, site inspections, state regulations, stream surveys, observance and oversight of permittee measures to properly operate and maintain wastewater treatment systems, and the regulatory requirement to protect water quality standards by prohibiting visible floating scum, oil, or other materials in the wastewater discharge. See Section C above regarding *General Water Quality Criteria.*

VI. PREVIOUS PERMIT LIMITS AND MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

Monitoring Point (001)

Wastewater Characteristics	Discharge Limitations	Monitoring Requirements	
	Maximum for any 1 Day	Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Total Suspended Solids	40.0 mg/L	Two per Month	Grab
Oil and Grease	None Visible	Daily	Observe
Flow (GPM)	Report	Two per Month	Estimate
pH	6.0 to 9.0 Standard Units	Two per Month	Grab

VII. NEW PERMIT LIMITS

Permit effluent limitations are the same as listed in VI above.

VIII. PRECIPITATION EVENTS

The discharge from outfall 001 does not qualify for the precipitation event exemption in *40 CFR 436.20.* EPA regulations do not apply the precipitation event to wastewater treatment facilities that include drainage associated with asphalt concrete plants. See *40 CFR 443.*

IX. MONITORING REQUIREMENTS FOR WASTEWATER DISCHARGES

EPA regulations require that monitoring and sampling frequencies be sufficient to yield data that are representative of the monitored activity including, if appropriate, continuous monitoring. See *40 CFR 122.48.* A measurement schedule of twice per month for Total Suspended Solids, Flow, and pH will be established for discharges at this facility.

The nature and effect of the discharge and its impact on the receiving waters will be the basis for any change or modification in monitoring frequency. Impacts on the receiving waters will include the impairment of the stream use classifications. These classifications are specified under *Rules of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Chapter 1200-4-3, Criteria for Water Uses (3) Fish and Aquatic Life.*

X. STORM WATER DISCHARGES

Access Roads and Haul Roads and Other Areas or Sources for Storm Water

Limitations on Coverage

Most storm water runoff at mining facilities enters the mine treatment system (i.e., sediment control ponds). The combined runoff is considered mine wastewater/process wastewater and must meet the applicable effluent limitations for the discharge of treated mine wastewater. Applicable effluent limitations guidelines also cover runoff associated with access roads and haul roads that are constructed of mine waste materials and/or where mine wastewater is used for dust suppression.

The storm water provision applies only to discharges composed entirely of storm water runoff that is not directed to and/or controlled by existing or proposed treatment structures/systems for mine wastewater. Sufficient documentation (i.e., application plans, maps, addendums, etc.) of such treatment must be provided to the Division before the exemption is valid. Storm water is defined as storm water runoff, snow melt runoff, and surface runoff and drainage. *40 CFR 122.26.*

Background

In the *Water Quality Control Act of 1987*, Congress established controls on storm water discharges and authorized EPA to promulgate NPDES permit application rules for storm-water discharges associated with industrial activities. These rules cover active and inactive mining operations within the meaning of storm water discharges associated with industrial activities. *40 CFR 122.26.*

The definition of storm water discharges associated with industrial activities also covers access roads and haul roads. These areas are likely sources for pollutants associated with raw materials, intermediate products, and finished products that are transported to and from the facility. These roads will also be sources for pollutants such as oil and grease from vehicles and machinery using these roads. *55 FR 48065, November 16, 1990.* These provisions also cover other areas or sources on the NPDES permit boundary that include discharges composed entirely of storm water. *40 CFR 122.26.*

In accordance with EPA and state regulations, the Division has added these provisions to the NPDES to cover monitoring and reporting requirements for storm water discharges associated with access roads and haul roads and other areas or sources on the permit that include discharges composed entirely of storm water. These requirements are as follows:

Parameter	Reporting Level	Monitoring Requirements	
		Measurement Frequency	Sample Type
Total Suspended Solids	150 mg/L*	Annually	Grab
Oil & Grease	15 mg/L	Annually	Grab
pH	5.0 to 9.0 Standard Units	Annually	Grab

** If the storm water discharge is from an area not associated with an access road and haul road or is not a source for vehicular traffic monitoring for Oil and Grease is not required.*

The permittee shall monitor at least once a year the designated storm water outfalls (or demonstrated representative outfalls) associated with access roads and haul roads and/or any other area requiring storm water coverage. The sample shall be collected during any period (quarter) of the calendar year, as long as the samples are representative of the quantity and quality of the storm water runoff being discharged from the facility. The once per year monitoring requirement is based on *40 CFR 122.44, TNR050000, Sector AD, 5.1.1* and Best Professional Judgment (BPJ) of the Division.

Sources for the parameter reporting levels for storm water discharges include *Sector AD of the Tennessee Stormwater Multi-Sector General Permit (TMSP), TNR050000* and Best Professional Judgment (BPJ) of the Division. The *TMSP* was reissued on May 15, 2009, and became effective on June 1, 2009. Sector AD includes reporting levels for pH, Oil and Grease, and Total Suspended Solids, the pollutants of primary concern relating to mine access roads and mine haul roads.

Total Suspended Solids (TSS) reporting level is based on Best Professional Judgment (BPJ) after evaluating available monitoring data. The importance of the TSS reporting parameter is expressed as follows: "TSS is a reasonable screen or indicator of storm water discharge quality since many storm water pollutants are themselves suspended solids, or enter receiving waters attached to solids." *TMSP TNR050000, Rationale, page R-15*

XI. MONITORING, INSPECTION, AND COMPLIANCE INFORMATION

The NPDES permit file indicates that this facility was last inspected on July 16, 2009. The previous complete inspections were conducted on September 19, 2007, and February 16, 2006. The inspections noted that all drainage was well-controlled, and the pit sumps were doing a good job of containing sediment. The file does not indicate that any Notices of Violation have been issued during the previous permit term, beginning in 2008. Discharge monitoring reports have been submitted as required, and the results were within the effluent limits established in the permit.

XII. STATE OF TENNESSEE ANTIDEGRADATION POLICY

Tennessee's Antidegradation Statement is found in *Chapter 1200-4-3-.06* of the *Rules of the Department of Environment and Conservation.* The primary purpose of the antidegradation policy is to establish a greater level of protection for those waters that are identified to be of high quality.

Generally, there are two types of high quality waters. Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW's) are specifically designated by the Water Resources Board and are afforded the greatest level of protection. No new discharges or expansion of existing discharges are allowed that will result in measurable degradation of the existing water quality. See *1200-4-3-.06 (5)*. Other high quality waters are identified by the Department as Exceptional Tennessee Waters and are also protected against degradation. Some degradation may be allowed only if the Water Resources Board deems it economically and socially necessary. See *1200-4-3-.06 (4)*.

"Available conditions" occur where water quality is better than the applicable criterion for a specific parameter. In available conditions, new or additional degradation for that parameter will only be allowed if the applicant has demonstrated to the department that reasonable alternatives to degradation are not feasible. See *1200-4-3-.06 (3)*.

"Unavailable conditions" exist where water quality is at, or fails to meet, the criterion for one or more parameters. In unavailable conditions, new or increased discharges of a substance that would cause or contribute to impairment will not be allowed. See *1200-4-3-.06 (2)*.

XIII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

Applicant and Permittee Responsibilities

Applicants for new NPDES permits to discharge and existing permittees who wish to modify permits by expanding discharges shall notify the public of the application by posting a sign near the point of entrance to the facility and within view of a public road. Expanded discharges include new treatment and monitoring points, additional acreage, and major changes to the treatment system affecting the volume and quantity of the discharge.

The sign shall be of such size that is legible from the public road. The sign must be maintained for at least (3) days following submittal of the application to the Division. The sign posting for new and expanded discharges is a requirement of *Rule 1200-4-5-.06 of the Department of Environment and Conservation.*

How to Comment

Comments may be submitted to the address below until the expiration date listed on the Division's public notice announcing the proposed permit activity.

State of Tennessee
Department of Environment and Conservation
Division of Water Resources
Mining Section
3711 Middlebrook Pike
Knoxville, Tennessee 37921-6538
Telephone (865) 594-6035 Fax (865) 594-6105
Attn: Public Notice Coordinator
E-Mail: Gary.Mullins@tn.gov

Comments must be received by the end of the comment period.

How to Request a Public Hearing

Interested persons may request in writing that the Director of the Division of Water Resources hold a public hearing on this application. The request must be filed within the comment period and must indicate the interest of the party filing it and the reasons for a hearing. When there is significant public interest for a hearing, a hearing will be conducted according to *Chapter 1200-4-5-.06 (12) of the Department of Environment and Conservation.*

How the Department will Proceed

The Director of the Division of Water Resources will determine the final permit action after considering comments submitted during the comment period, the hearing record, if any, and the requirements of the Federal and State acts and regulations.

To obtain Application Details and Additional Information

Copies of this application, draft permit, and supporting documentation are in the permit files maintained at the Mining Section's office at the above address. This file is available for public inspection during normal visiting hours by contacting Kara.Blevins@tn.gov or calling (865) 594-5460.

XIV. PERMIT DURATION

The proposed limitations meet the requirements of *Section 301(b)(2)(A), (C), (D), (E), and (F)* of *The Federal Clean Water Act of 1987.* This permit will be issued for a five (5) year term.

303(d) Permitting Checklist

1. Indicate the status of this discharge. ☒ Existing ☐ New ☐ Recommencing

2. Indicate the NPDES permit number, if assigned. TN0001775

3. List the receiving stream and discharge point(s) in stream miles. Watauga River 001 (at mile 17.2)

4. List the HUC and watershed name. TN06010103, Watauga River watershed

5. Is the receiving stream on the State of Tennessee's 303(d) list? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If the answer to 5 above is "no", then stop. Sign and date the bottom of the form. Route to the NPDES permit file and/or the Planning limits file.

6. List the known causes of impairment. Causes unknown-Believed to be from upstream impoundments, such as NRCS structures, and discharges from Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4's)

7. Does this discharge represent an increase in pollutants that have caused the stream to be included in the 303(d) list? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If the answer to 7 above is "no", complete 8 and 9 below. Sign and date the form. Route to the NPDES permit file. If the answer to 7 above is "yes", go on to number 10 below.

8. Explain why the proposed discharge is not expected to cause an increase in the pollutants listed in the 303(d) report or known causes of impairment listed in (6).

This is a permit renewal that does not increase the quantity or qualiity of the discharge from the facility.

9. Identify the source of the information in 8 above (i.e. permit file, application, literature).

Permit file and application

10. If oxygen-demanding substances are involved, does D.O. modeling indicate further degradation?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A Attach modeling results, if applicable.

11. If nutrients are involved, is effluent data available? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A Attach data, if applicable.

If effluent nutrient data is not available, indicate the expected effluent concentrations and the source of that information (i.e. data from similar facilities, literature).

12. If metals or toxics are involved, does the WLA calculation indicate a measurable instream increase? (Use the RDLs from the Water Quality Standards to determine)
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A Attach the WLA calculation,if applicable.

13. For each parameter identified in 10 and/or 13, indicate and justify the permit condition(limit, compliance schedule, monitoring, TMDL, etc.) selected. Use additional sheets as necessary

PARAMETER	PERMIT CONDITION	RATIONALE

14. Signature of person completing this form: Bryan Spencer Date: 9/19/12

15. Signature of reviewer: [illegible] Date: 9/19/12