Guidelines for the Drawdown of Lagoons to Saltwater Receiving Waters

NOVA SCOTIA

Environment and Labour

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PURPOSE:
The following steps serve as a guide for staff when assessing a request to discharge a portion of the contents of a sewage treatment plant lagoon into a body of saltwater.

1. Drawdowns of lagoons to saltwater receiving waters are only authorized from October to April inclusive.

2. All materials and approvals required to modify existing piping such that individual cells can be isolated, are to be on site prior to any drawdown of lagoons.

3. The applicant is to advise the public a minimum of one week prior to any drawdown, by advertisement (size 75 mm x 100 mm) in the local newspaper.

4. Discharges from lagoons are only authorized during falling tides.

5. Discharges from lagoons are to be from the final cell of the lagoon system only.

6. Prior to any discharge, a sample of the final cell lagoon contents is to be analysed for total ammonia, pH, dissolved oxygen and total suspended solids.

7. During discharge, daily composite samples of the lagoon effluent are to be analysed for total ammonia, dissolved oxygen, pH and total suspended solids. In addition, a total chlorine residual is required for the lagoon effluent.

8. Total ammonia concentration in the lagoon effluent is not to exceed 2.5 mg/l during discharge.

9. A total chlorine residual of less than 0.5 mg/l is to be maintained in the lagoon effluent during discharge.

10. The pH of the effluent is to be in the range of 6.5 - 8.5 during the discharge.

11. The total suspended solids in the lagoon effluent is not to exceed 80 mg/l during discharge.

12. The minimum dissolved oxygen concentration in the effluent during discharge is 2.0 mg/l.

13. Following drawdown of the lagoons, the walls of the lagoons are to be washed down and limed to prevent odours.

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original approved by:
Nova Scotia Department of Environment

Originating Division: Division under former Nova Scotia Department of Environment
Scope: Guideline under the Environment Act
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