pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE
CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

Application Type	**Renewal**	Application No.	**PA0023558**
Facility Type	**Sewage**	APS ID	**548745**
Major / Minor	**Major**	Authorization ID	**1157776**

NPDES PERMIT FACT SHEET ADDENDUM

Applicant and Facility Information

Applicant Name	**Ashland Borough Columbia & Schuylkill County**	Facility Name	**Ashland Borough POTW (including WWTP and collection/conveyance system)**
Applicant Address	401 S 18th Street Ashland, PA 17921-1748	Facility Address	400 Oak Street Ashland, PA 17921
Applicant Contact	Sam Snyder (Borough Manager)	Facility Contact	Dean Miller (WWTP operator)
Applicant Phone	(570) 875-2411	Facility Phone	(570) 875-1881
Client ID	59755	Site ID	257450
SIC Code	4952	Municipality	Ashland Borough
SIC Description	Trans. & Utilities - Sewerage Systems	County	Schuylkill
Date Published in PA Bulletin	April 30, 2022; 2nd Redraft TBD	EPA Waived?	No
Comment Period End Date	May 30, 2022; 2nd Redraft TBD	If No, Reason	Major facility; Significant Chesapeake Bay discharger; CSOs
Purpose of Application	Application for a renewal of an NPDES permit for discharge of treated Sewage		

Internal Review and Recommendations

This is a 2nd Redraft NPDES Permit for this 1.3 MGD Major POTW with CSOs that discharges to Mahanoy Creek (WWF; Stream Code No. 17556; **impaired for recreational usage due to Pathogens of unknown origin**; impaired for aquatic life by AMD impacts subject to the Mahanoy Creek Watershed TMDL (AMD); and subject to the Chesapeake Bay watershed TMDL (nutrients))

- The previous Redraft NPDES Permit had been issued 4/14/2022 for public comment.
- The NPDES permitting process had been on-hold due to the permittee's exploration of such options as a potential sale of the facility and a potential "voluntary Consent Order & Agreement" option to address compliance issues. The permittee initiated assorted WWTP O&M work to address previous compliance problems during this period. The Department notified the permittee that the NPDES Permit renewal process had restarted, giving them opportunity to provide any new/updated information and/or public comments. Updated Application information was received via **Public Upload# 305382 (uploaded 3/26/2025)**
- This (regenerated) Redraft NPDES Permit addresses new NPDES Permitting requirements (since the 2022 version), updated NPDES permit application information, and responses to public comments. The Department provided opportunity for the permittee to update its NPDES Permit application information, which was addressed in the Redraft NPDES permit as needed. See below for changes to the previous Redraft NPDES Permit and responses to public comments.

Changes from 4/15/2022 Redraft NPDES Permit:

Approve	Return	Deny	Signatures	Date
X			James D. Berger, P.E. / Environmental Engineer	July 15, 2025
X			Edward Dudick, P.E. / Environmental Engineer Manager	July 17, 2025
NA			NA – not needed for Redraft NPDES Permit Amy M. Bellanca, P.E. / Environmental Program Manager	

Internal Review and Recommendations

- Part A.I.A and B:
  - Deleted 4,6-dinitro-o-cresol, 3,4-Benzofluoranthene, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate due to updated Reasonable Potential Analysis.
  - The (final) Ammonia-N limits have been relocated to Part A.I.C and extended through winter at the statewide DEP BPJ (25.0 mg/l winter monthly average and 50.0 mg/l winter daily max/IMAX). 12 months of Ammonia-N EDMR data (attached to FS Addendum) indicate facility can comply with the new Ammonia-N limit upfront.
  - The Effective Dates for the new TRC and DO limits have been set at 36 months of PED as de-chlorination and post-aeration can be installed separately from any other potentially needed plant upgrades (with no other WWTP upgrade proposed at this time). The facility will have time to determine if better O&M might allow compliance with final limits during the 36-month period and/or conduct site-specific chlorine mix studies to determine if relief from final TRC limits are possible. See related Part C.II (Schedule of Compliance – DO) and new Part C.VIII (TRC) below.
- Part A.I.C (Outfall No. 001):
  - New PFAS monitoring & reporting requirement per DEP PFAS Strategy. The strategy requires Major STP monitoring and reporting, with the following Part A.I.C footnote: The permittee may discontinue monitoring for PFOA, PFOS, HFPO-DA, and PFBS if the results in 4 consecutive monitoring periods indicate non-detect results at or below Quantitation Limits of 4.0 ng/L for PFOA, 3.7 ng/L for PFOS, 3.5 ng/L for PFBS and 6.4 ng/L for HFPO-DA. When monitoring is discontinued, permittees must enter a No Discharge Indicator (NODI) Code of “GG” on DMRs.
  - BOD5/TSS Minimum monthly average reduction reporting cross-referenced to Part A.I Additional Requirements Item to clarify obligations.
  - Added Total Phosphorus (daily max) concentration reporting. No additional sampling required.
- Part A.I.D (Stormwater Outfall No. 011): Additional IW Stormwater General Permit PAG-03 Appendix J (Miscellaneous) facility monitoring parameters added for Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Total Nitrogen, and Total Phosphorus) for the Sewage Treatment Plant stormwater drainage area. pH and Oil & Grease limits based on Chapter 95.2 limit. COD and TSS limit benchmark replaced proposed permit limit.
- Part A.I.E (IMP/Outfall No. 101): In addition to previous BOD5 and TSS influent monitoring (Chapter 94 requirement):
  - Flow Monitoring (MGD): Raw Sewage influent flow M&R included due to minimum monthly average reduction requirements (BOD5 and TSS with flow proportional 24-hour composite sampling), plus new influent flow meter and CSO No. 002 issues. There is no CSO Outfall No. 002 flow meter to allow measurement of diverted flows to CSO Outfall No. 002.
  - Monitoring of CSO-related parameters: The raw sewage influent flow through an existing mining/CSO tunnel and then hits the weir directing flow into piping going to the WWTP influent sampling point. Therefore, the raw sewage influent is expected to be similar in quality to the CSO No. 002 overflow being discharged to Mahanoy Creek (except for floatables). Monitoring upon request of the following parameters:
    - AMD constituents of interest: pH, Total Aluminum, Total Iron, Dissolved Iron, Total Manganese
    - Chesapeake Bay TMDL parameters of interest: Total Nitrogen (Total Kjelhdahl Nitrogen + Nitrate-Nitrite as N measured in same sample) and Total Phosphorus upon request, to allow for determination of likely concentrations in CSO Outfall No. 002 discharge to ballpark possible CSO contributions due to stream impairment issues. This is in addition to Chapter 94 influent monitoring for BOD5 and TSS.
    - Pathogen parameters of interest: Fecal Coliforms and E Coli
- Part A.I.F (CSOs): Additional underlining added to emphasize standard NPDES permit requirements.
- Part B.I.D.4 (General Pretreatment Requirements): New PFAS industrial user listing requirement. In practical terms, any POTW must now evaluate whether their customers include the listed potential/known PFAS discharging industrial categories (40 CFR 400-471 industrial categories with Effluent Limitation Guidelines) and notify EPA/DEP of the results (including negative results). There are existing internet-available EPA SIC Code-to-ELG and NAICS Code-to-ELG crosswalk tables that can be used to identify potentially applicable 40 CFR Industrial Categories (and any applicable ELG) as needed.
- Part C.II (Schedule of Compliance – Ammonia-N, Dissolved Oxygen (DO), and TRC):
  - Change to 36-month Schedule of Compliance: Per Chapter 92a.51, the applicant shall be required in the permit to take specific steps to remedy a violation of the standards and limitations in accordance with a legally applicable schedule of compliance, in the shortest, reasonable period of time, the period to be consistent with the Federal Act. At present there is no permittee commitment (application or Voluntary

Internal Review and Recommendations

CO&A) for a concurrent Treatment Plant upgrade/replacement to serve as a rationale for extending the 36-month Schedule of Compliance.

- Relocated Ammonia-N WQBELs: There is no need to substantially upgrade the facility to address the new Ammonia-N WQBELs because the facility appears to be compliant (after O&M work) per EDMR data. The proposed Ammonia-N WQBELs have been relocated to Part A.I.C, effective on Permit Effective Date.
- Deleted Toxic Pollutant WQBELs: There is no need to upgrade the facility to meet Toxic Pollutant WQBELs because they were deleted due to the updated Reasonable Potential Analysis.
- Dissolved Oxygen (DO) WQBELs: In the absence of DO monitoring data, it is unclear if any plant upgrades are needed to meet the 4.0 mg/l Instantaneous Minimum DO Limits. Treated sewage is generally expected to have a minimum 3.0 mg/l DO concentration. However, post-aeration can be quickly designed, permitted, and installed if determined to be needed (after data collection) independently of any other plant upgrades. The revised 36-month schedule of compliance has been coordinated with the TRC and hydraulic study related requirements.
- Total Residual Chlorine (TRC) WQBELs: The TRC Schedule of Compliance has been moved to new Part C.VIII (current standard TRC condition with site-specific study options for chlorine demand and/or mixing study options during the 36-month schedule of compliance).
  - It is unclear whether the facility can meet the proposed more stringent TRC WQBELs by O&M, because EDMR shows noncompliance with the proposed WQBELs.
  - De-chlorination can be quickly designed, permitted, and installed if determined to be needed. More time has been given to allow the option of considering disinfection system upgrades/replacement in addition to the site-specific study options. No commitment to any proposed upgrades has been received.
- Hydraulic Studies and CSO-related Requirements: The Redraft NPDES Permit Part C.III LTCP Schedule of Implementation requires hydraulic studies within 12 months of Permit Effective Date (PED) due to assorted CSO-related requirements. The LTCP Schedule of Implementation will require an LTCP Update within 24 months of PED, that might trigger needs for further WWTP upgrades, but that is speculative at present. In event of a permittee commitment and/or Revised CSO LTCP demonstrated need, the Department would then entertain a longer Schedule of Compliance (meeting Chapter 92a.51 requirements) via Major NPDES permit amendment during the NPDES Permit Term. To clarify the potential future requirements:
  - The Department is requiring hydraulic studies of the old Treatment Plant due to uncertainties about its old as-built/as-operated hydraulic design capacities and the need to maximize treatment of wet weather flows to the WWTP per CSO-related permit conditions (Part C.III.B.4 Maximize flow to the POTW NMC and Dry CSO discharge prohibition NMC); Part C.III.C LTCP Goal Requirements; etc.).
  - The Department is also requiring a hydraulic study of CSS System (including the CSO No. 002/coal mine drainage/Interceptor tunnel) due to CSO discharge authorization requirements (Part A.I.F and Part C.III.A CSO Discharge Authorization requirements; etc.),.

- Part C.III.C (CSO LTCP Implementation): See Background Information below for updated CSO-related information from Annual CSO Status Reports and updated NPDES Permit Application. Changes to the previous Redraft NPDES Permit include:
  - Part C.III.A: Additional underlining added to emphasize standard NPDES permit requirements.
  - Part C.III.B.1 (Nine Minimum Controls – proper O&M): The minimum CSO regulator/outfall monitoring has been changed to weekly (from monthly) to address current weekly inspections (documented in DEP Inspection Reports) and permittee-reporting of apparent “dry weather CSO discharges” in the 2024 Annual CSO Status Report and 2025 NPDES Permit Application update.
  - Part C.III.B.3 (Nine Minimum Controls – Maximize use of collection system for storage): Language clarified to emphasize the requirement is for storage for later drainage to the WWTP for treatment, due to permittee-reporting of apparent “dry weather CSO discharges” (discharging ≥7 days after precipitation event) in the 2024 Annual CSO Status Report and 2025 NPDES Permit Application update.
  - Part C.III.C.1 (Approved LTCP) and Part C.III.C.3: The condition has been clarified to explicitly approve the October 2016 LTCP (as amended) except as superseded by NPDES Permit conditions and applicable regulations/technical guidance. Any non-superseded 2003 LTCP information/commitments are incorporated by reference into the 2016 LTCP.
  - Part C.III.C (PCCM requirements): Minimum E Coli monitoring language clarified.

Internal Review and Recommendations

- Part C.III.C (CSO LTCP Implementation): Changes:
  - Annual Reporting Requirement: LTCP Implementation Report (submitted annually with Annual CSO Status Report): Requirement clarified to identify status of compliance with permittee-chosen LTCP Goal annually. The facility will report on a tentatively chosen LTCP Goal and status of compliance (yes, no, undeterminable based upon available information and analysis).
  - Within 12 months of PED: Completion of televised inspection and any required maintenance of all CSO regulators, outfalls and CSS interceptor pipeline sections within 12 months of PED. (To address omissions noted in the 2024 Annual CSO Status Report Attachment C to identify any potential contributing factors to dry weather CSO discharges.)
  - Within 18 months of PED: Completion of any required maintenance of CSO regulators, outfalls and interceptor sections within 18 months of PED. (To address any required O&M to reduce or eliminate any dry weather CSO discharges by normal O&M, including implementation of any hydraulic evaluation report-recommended weir setting changes and removal of grit build-up).
  - Within 18 months of PED: Submittal of any required complete and technically adequate WQM permit applications for CSO-related upgrades required to eliminate dry weather CSO discharges. Dry weather CSOs are prohibited. This condition would address contingencies such as CSO structural issues resulting in dry weather CSO discharges.
  - Within 24 months of PED: LTCP Update (within 24 months of PED) now requires:
    - Reporting on status of any remaining dry weather CSOs and any further actions required to eliminate them. Actions to eliminate prohibited dry weather CSO discharges must be addressed upfront in the update's LTCP Schedule of Implementation.
    - Specifying Design conditions for POTW-chosen LTCP Goal compliance (such as compliance with Chapter 93 Water Quality Standards/TMDL during an LTCP-defined annual average year of precipitation or other).
    - Engineering methodology required for annual evaluation of compliance with chosen LTCP Goal (demonstrated goal or 85% by volume presumptive goal, 85% by mass presumptive goal, or number of CSO events/year presumptive goal).
- Part C.V (WQBELs for Toxic Pollutants): Deleted due to updated Reasonable Potential Analysis showing condition unneeded.
- Part C.VI (WQBELs below QL): Deleted due to updated Reasonable Potential Analysis showing condition was unneeded.
- Renumbered Part C.VIII (Part C.VI Stormwater): Deletion of "and other wastewater" since IW Outfall No. 001 does not discharge stormwater and (stormwater) Outfall No. 011 is not authorized to accept any wastewater. Updated stormwater requirements including new Part A.I.D parameters (COD, TN, and TP), Annual Stormwater Report submittal, and benchmark language (COD, TSS).
- Renumbered Part C.IX.E (Part C.VII.E High Flow Management Plan): Additional cross-referencing of applicable standard NPDES permit conditions added, in addition to several typo corrections.
- Renumbered Part C.IX.H (Part C.VII Operator in Charge): Operator in responsible charge notification language updated per updated template condition version.

Updated Reasonable Potential Analysis incorporating new sampling data: The 5/19/2025 Public Upload No. 305382 contained new sampling and analytical data for 4,6-dinitro-o-cresol, 3,4-Benzofluoranthene, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate (subject to the previous Redraft NPDES Permit Part C.V (WQBELs for Toxic Pollutants).

New data from 4 samples (with max value bolded): Also, POTW reports single industrial user is no longer discharging to the POTW.

Sampling date	4,6-Dinitro-o-cresol* (mg/l)	3,4-Benzofluoranthene** (mg/l)	Bis (2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate*** (mg/l)
3/5/2025	**<0.0100**	**<0.00125**	<0.00125
3/12/2025	<0.002000	<0.000250	0.000709 mg/l
3/19/2025	<0.002000	<0.000250	0.000556
3/26/2025	<0.002000	<0.000250	**0.000947**

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DEP TQL	10 ug/l (0.0010 mg/l)	2.5 ug/l (0.0025 mg/l)	5.0 ug/l (0.0050 ug/l)

*AKA 2-Methyl-4,6-dinitrophenol. Previous data was either missing or insensitive ND concentration reported.
**AKA Benzo(b)fluoranthene. Previous data was either missing or insensitive ND concentration reported.
***New sampling done with glass sampling flask to eliminate potential contamination issues (for previous sample results).

Revised TMS Output: See previous Draft and Redraft NPDES Permit Fact Sheets for further information on the Reasonable Potential Analysis for the remaining metals.

☑ ***Recommended WQBELs & Monitoring Requirements***

No. Samples/Month: 4

	Mass Limits		*Concentration Limits*						
Pollutants	AML (lbs/day)	MDL (lbs/day)	AML	MDL	IMAX	Units	Governing WQBEL	WQBEL Basis	Comments
Total Aluminum	Report	Report	Report	Report	Report	µg/L	750	AFC	Discharge Conc > 10% WQBEL (no RP)
Total Copper	Report	Report	Report	Report	Report	µg/L	68.3	CFC	Discharge Conc > 10% WQBEL (no RP)
Total Iron	16.3	19.7	1,500	1,819	3,750	µg/L	1,500	CFC	Discharge Conc ≥ 50% WQBEL (RP)
Total Manganese	10.8	14.4	1,000	1,326	2,500	µg/L	1,000	THH	Discharge Conc ≥ 50% WQBEL (RP)
Total Zinc	Report	Report	Report	Report	Report	µg/L	874	AFC	Discharge Conc > 10% WQBEL (no RP)

AshlandTMS2PDF.pdf

Public Comments on April 15, 2022 Redraft NPDES Permit: DEP responses bolded.

5/10/2022 EPA Comment: In EPA's previous comments, EPA noted that the CSO performance standard would need to be revised. PADEP removed the reference to the standard applying during dry weather conditions, but EPA meant for that entire sentence to be removed. Please revise the sentence at Part C.III.C.2. of the permit as recommended below. The CSO performance standard applies during the design conditions on which the CSO controls are based. Stating that it applies during wet weather conditions could imply that the standard has to be met during all wet weather events, which is not the expectation. The updated LCTP should define the design conditions for the chosen performance standard, so that the design conditions can be clearly stated in the subsequent permit reissuance.

- The permittee shall comply with the following performance standards that apply during wet weather conditions design conditions: The permittee shall comply with the following performance standards that apply during ~~wet weather conditions~~ design conditions: **The recommended change has been made. The Department forwarded the EPA comment to the permittee on 5/10/2022 for informational purposes. The Design Conditions will have to be defined in the next LTCP Update (compliance with Chapter 93/TMDL water quality standards during annual average year of precipitation or other) with the chosen LTCP Goal.**

5/27/2022 Ashland Borough (Robert Kerns, ENTECH E-mail) Public Comments:

- Request additional time to resample for 4,6-dinitro-o-cresol, 3,4-Benzofluoranthene, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl) Phthalate by lab that can meet QLs, and removal of analytes from permit if results are non-detect. **Additional time was granted per Communications Log. See updated Reasonable Potential Analysis above that allowed for deletion of the proposed permit limits.**
- Request additional time to complete hydraulic study to confirm hydraulic design capacity used to determine effluent limitations for Outfall 001. **The Department understood this request as a request to modify proposed NPDES Permit limits as well as an extension of the 12-month interim compliance milestone for the hydraulic studies. The Department could not grant this request.**

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- **In practical terms, the result of the hydraulic study will <u>not</u> allow for any modification of the Outfall No. 001 permit effluent limits which are based at critical design conditions (NPDES Permit basis flow; Q7-10 low flow conditions; etc.) as set forth in the NPDES regulations, not hydraulic design capacity per se. Please note that <u>reduced</u> as-built/as-operated hydraulic capacities might trigger Chapter 94 "overload" regulatory requirements in event of existing/projected hydraulic and/or organic overloading.**
- **No alternative time-frame for the hydraulic study and its submittal (12 months after Permit Effective Date) was proposed. No explanation was provided for why more time is needed (in addition to the extra time during the long-term permitting hold):**
  - **Extending or eliminating this 12-month interim compliance milestone (by itself) would violate Chapter 92a.51 (Schedule of Compliance) requirements (no interim compliance milestones more than 12 months apart).**
  - **In practical terms, the hydraulic study is needed upfront for the Part C.II and C.III Schedules of Compliance because it might mandate substantial treatment plant upgrades, rehabilitation, or replacement, etc.**

- Request change to Schedule of Compliance Ammonia-N, DO, TRC to TBD pending completion of Engineering Report if WWTP/CSS System upgrades required (54 months from PED per redraft permit). As the required hydraulic study and the WWTP/CSS engineering report is completed, it is possible additional WWTP upgrades will be needed. The Borough thinks it will be safer and more efficient to make WWTP upgrades, including those related to complying with Ammonia-N, DO, and TRC, at the same time as part of one possible upgrade project.
  - **The Department could not grant this request. Chapter 92a.51 does not allow for "TBD" interim or final compliance milestones, and spells out regulatory schedule of compliance requirements.**
  - **Per Chapter 92a.51, the schedule of compliance specified in the permit must require compliance with final enforceable effluent limitations as soon as practicable, but in no case longer than 5 years, unless a court of competent jurisdiction issues an order allowing a longer time for compliance. Compliance schedules granted to CSO dischargers may exceed 5 years but may not exceed the period of implementation specified in an approved long-term control plan (LTCP). As discussed above, the deletion of Ammonia-N and WQBELs for Toxic Pollutant schedules of compliance resulted in reduction to a 36-month schedule in accordance with the regulation.**
    - **In practical terms, disinfection upgrades and post-aeration can be designed, permitted, and constructed quickly and separately from any speculative Treatment Plant upgrade or replacement project.**
    - **The permittee has provided no commitment/schedule for any other WWTP upgrades to go beyond a simple de-chlorination system and simple post-aeration system.**

<u>June 9, 2022</u>: Ashland Borough (Don Cuff, Entech) E-mail notified the Department that the Borough had authorized discussions of entering into a voluntary CO&A with the PADEP. **Negotiations commenced, but nothing materialized during the long-term permitting hold. The Borough can continue to pursue this option concurrently with Final NPDES permitting and/or afterward to address any compliance issues.**

<u>March 26, 2025: Ashland Borough (David Kuperage) Letter and NPDES Permit Application Update Attachments Public Comments</u>:

- <u>Letter Item 1 (Updated General Information Form)</u>: Updated contact information provided. **Noted**.
- <u>Letter Item 2 (Major NPDES Permit Application Form)</u>:
  - No changes to the site have been made. **Noted.**
  - 2024 Annual CSO Status Report and October 2016 LTCP Update attached. **Noted. The 2024 CSO-related information was addressed the Background Information Section below for informational purposes. The October 2016 LTCP was previously submitted, with no updating identified.**
  - A hydraulic engineering analysis has not been completed. **Noted.**
  - The Grit Screw Press remains out of service, but assorted emergency plant repairs and additional maintenance has been completed. The Borough continues to work with its operator, contractors, and professional consultants to address additional repairs in a timely fashion while also anticipating more substantial and long-term improvements in the near future. **Noted. However, the term "near future" was not defined in terms of any undefined substantial and/or long-term improvements and/or O&M schedule to restore this unit to service. Grit build-up is major O&M issue for any WWTP receiving Combined Sewage System flows, with existing NPDES/WQM O&M conditions applicable.**

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- The Borough has chosen the Presumptive LTCP goal. **Noted. However, no specific LTCP Presumptive Goal was identified. Moreover, the stream is known to be pathogen-impacted, placing the burden of proving the applicability of any presumptive LTCP Goal on the permittee in the next CSO Long Term Control Plan Update. The use of old coal tunnels in the CSS System also raises the potential for contributions to the existing AMD-caused stream impairment. Therefore, the Redraft NPDES Permit retains a Demonstrative LTCP Goal option.**
- The referenced Industrial User (IU) has since ceased operations. The WWTP no longer receives any industrial waste. **Noted**.
- The option of providing four (4) samples (meeting DEP Target Quantitation Limits) for 4,6-dinitro-o-cresol, 3,4-Benzofluoranthene, Bis (2- Ethylhexyl) Phthalate was chosen (results pending): **See updated Reasonable Potential Analysis above.**
- No site-specific data is available to aid the Departments Reasonable Potential Analysis due to the lone industrial connection ceasing operations. We feel the data collected would not prove useful there is not a significant user on the collection system. **Noted. See updated Reasonable Potential Analysis above**.

May 30, 2025: Ashland (Eric Moore, Entech) E-mail response to 4/22/2025 & 5/21/2025 DEP E-mails.

- New Consultant Contact: Eric Moore (Entech) is now engineering consultant project contact. **Noted**.
- Sampling: Entech is not able to provide a clear source of potential contamination in the Bis (2-Ethylhexyl Phthalate) sampling process. We ensured that a glass sample collection vessel was provided, but we did not observe any steps taken after delivery of that vessel to the WWTP. We understand that as a result, Bis (2-Ethylhexyl Phthalate) may be added to the NPDES permit. **Noted**. **See updated Reasonable Potential Analysis.**
- Chosen method for the CSO Long Term Control Plan (LTCP): While we understand the Department's (and EPA's) desire to have the LTCP wrangled prior to issuing an updated NPDES permit, we are concerned that the level of effort needed to do so is beyond Ashland's current capacity and resources. The data available to Entech is not, in the engineering consultant's opinion, sufficient to clearly define the most effective method for Ashland to achieve and demonstrate compliance. Substantial additional monitoring and testing will be necessary to establish a better understanding of the system behavior and hydraulic performance. Over the past three years the limited resources available to Ashland were directed to the emergency repairs of the WWTP and limited progress was made with the collection system. As you may be aware, there was also significant change in personnel for both Ashland and Entech during that time with the death of the previous Borough manager and Bob Kerns' departure from Entech, which further stretched the available resources. **Noted. However, no alternate LTCP Schedule of Implementation was proposed for Department consideration. The Redraft NPDES Permit will allow the permittee to definitively choose the LTCP Goal in the next LTCP Update (after hydraulic studies and other information is available), with any progress to achieving such a goal (even tentative goal) in the Annual CSO Status Report.**
- Prohibited dry weather discharges: If the dividing line between wet weather and dry weather discharges is 48 hours following the end of a precipitation event, then Ashland does appear to have dry weather discharges. We will encourage Ashland to discuss this issue directly with Pat Musinski of the Department. We concur that a significant increase in O&M effort will be required to reduce overflows, ensure maximization of collection system storage and complete documentation of the CSO activity. **Noted. To clarify the requirements:**
  - NPDES Permit Part C.III.A: The permittee is authorized to discharge from the combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls identified in Part A of this permit when flows in combined sewer systems (CSSs) exceed the design capacity of the conveyance or treatment facilities of the system during or immediately after wet weather periods, provided that the discharge complies with paragraphs B and C of this section. Overflows that occur without an accompanying precipitation event or snow-melt are termed "dry weather overflows" and are prohibited.
  - **The 2024 Annual CSO Status Report indicated there are CSO discharges ≥7 days after the precipitation events. Any CSO discharge within 48 hours of the triggering precipitation event (including snow melt) would be considered "immediately after wet weather periods" (except under unusual circumstances), but the burden falls on the permittee to show that longer duration CSO discharge events (and/or any event without a precipitation event (including snow melts)) comply with the NPDES permit requirements in the CSO LTCP (with explanation in the DMR/EDMR comment section and Annual CSO Status Reports reporting the actual event). The Department also recommends that the facility verify that it is accurately detecting and measuring/reporting**

Internal Review and Recommendations

precipitation events and CSO discharges (by simple visual aid) in case it is simply a matter of bad data reporting.

- Privatization Option: Ashland has not ruled out purchase of the system by a private sewer company and has recently held a discussion with one to hear what the private company could bring to the table. While this was just a preliminary discussion and Ashland has not committed to the concept of selling the system, the sale of the system could address much of the personnel capacity limitations that have made it difficult for Ashland to satisfy the Department's past requests. Therefore, Entech believes this is an option worthy of further exploration and are considering how it might impact the current effort to renew the NPDES permit. **In the absence of any proposed sale and sales schedule, the Department will proceed with Final NPDES Permit action. The permittee and any potential future buyer can always pursue a sale and any required NPDES/WQM permit transfers at a future date.**
- Compliance Meeting: We appreciate the patience and assistance that the Department has provided while Ashland wrestles with this overwhelming issue. I do not believe another round of back and forth correspondence will be productive in moving Ashland closer to compliance; I would like to meet with the Department to discuss the path forward in the hope of developing an achievable scope of work that can result in the issuance of the new NPDES permit and resumption of the Consent Order and Agreement discussions. Ashland will be reaching out to the Department to follow up. **The path forward: The Department has issued this Redraft NPDES Permit for public comment and to allow for productive meeting (if still desired by the permittee).**
    - **The NPDES Permit public comment period is not an open-ended process, with Department anticipating final permit action after the public comment period ends. A voluntary CO&A can be pursued concurrently or separately.**
    - **The NPDES Permit's schedules of compliance (Parts C.II, C.III) set forth assorted required actions (with interim/final compliance milestones) that would be the skeleton for any "scope of work" discussion. See Chapter 92a.51 (Schedules of Compliance) requirements in terms of allowable interim and final compliance milestone dates.**
    - **To allow for scheduling of a productive meeting, provide a list of proposed participants (name, title, and affiliation); detailed meeting agenda (including tentative permittee-proposed Scope of Work as an attachment); and tentative dates within the public comment period.**

Background Information Comments: To help provide context for permitting:

- This is a 1.3 MGD POTW (with CSOs) that discharges to Mahanoy Creek (WWF; Stream Code No. 17556; **impaired for recreational usage due to Pathogens of unknown origin; impaired for aquatic life by AMD impacts subject to the Mahanoy Creek TMDL (AMD); impaired and subject to the Chesapeake Bay watershed TMDL (nutrients – Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus)**). There are AMD discharges immediately upstream of WWTP Outfall. AMD impairments include pH, Aluminum, Total Iron, Manganese, and can sometimes include other metals' (Copper, Zinc, etc.) loadings.
    - See the 6/11/2021 Draft NPDES Permit Fact Sheet and the 4/14/2022 Redraft NPDES Permit Fact Sheet Addendum for more background information.
    - The facility is proposing to meet one of the CSO Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) "Presumption Goals" as an enforceable narrative Technology-Based Effluent Limit. **The exact choice was not identified.** Please note that the Presumption Goal options presume that there is no evidence of contribution exceedance of the applicable Water Quality Standards (Chapter 93 and/or TMDL), with the existing CSO discharges known to contribute to existing stream impairment (pathogens from CSS discharges; AMD metals in stormwater I&I in the partly old mining tunnel collection/conveyance system; TN/TP loadings now covered by a statewide Chesapeake Bay TMDL CSO allowance if the site-specific loadings are not excessive).
    - The facility was originally permitted in 1968 for 0.7 MGD flow and subsequently rerated to 1.3 MGD. The Fluidized Bed Reactor (nutrient treatment system) was permitted circa 2009, but it is not being operated per the application. The WWTP underwent substantial O&M work in 2022 and 2024, but it is unclear what is the as-built/as-operated WWTP's hydraulic/organic/solids design capacities.
    - Ashland Foundry & Machine Works LLC (NPDES PAG-03 PAR112204) is an active industrial facility discharging IW Stormwater. The POTW indicates it has stopped discharging to the POTW.
    - The CSOs are along the Interceptor, with CSO Outfall No. 002 (Coal Mine drainage Tunnel Discharge) being the discharge for CSS flows not being diverted into the 1.3 MGD WWTP by the Type 1 Brown and Brown regulator (10-feet wide, 16-inch high dam wall diverting flow to 14-inch diameter pipeline to regulator No. 002 and WWTP wet well). Other regulators are Type II. CSO Outfall Nos. 004 and 005 are inactive, but not

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permanently blocked off. CSO Outfall No. 003 is being reported as "no discharge" in the Annual CSO Status Reports, but it is unclear if it is being adequately monitored to detect discharges when not under visual observation.

- **Updated Application Information (Public Upload# 305382)**: The Department sent 1/27/2025 Letter for restart of NPDES Permitting and allowing them to update NPDES Permit Application and to allow for any additional public comments on the previous draft NPDES Permit. The March 26, 2025 Ashland Response Letter information included.
  - Contact Information: Updated.
  - Site Changes: No changes to the site have been made. Listed O&M work included:
    - 2022: Installed flow meter, rebuilt influent pumps, rebuilt aeration system, repaired clarifier drives, repaired sludge pumps, repaired standby generators, and maintenance to the auto-dialer and chorine system.
    - 2024: Rebuilt aeration basin #2 motors, rebuilt sludge collector mechanisms for clarifiers, replaced aerobic digester blower, rebuilt raw sewage pump, and refurbished emergency generator.
    - Future: The Borough works with it technical consultants to address additional repairs in a timely fashion "while also anticipating more substantial and long-term improvements in the near future" (undefined).
  - Stormwater BMPs: The Borough operates a regular street sweeping program and inlet/catch basin as described in the CSO LTCP Section 2.1.6. An SOP will be developed to provide routine inlet and catch basin cleaning more often and in advance of forecasted weather events.
  - WWTP Hydraulic Capacity: A hydraulic engineering analysis has not been completed. Previous engineer's pump calculations show that two (2) influent pumps running simultaneously are capable of 1,460 GPM or 2.1 MGD. This flow rate is the limiting factor of the WWTP. The letter noted that the CSO weirs do not overflow until reaching flow rates of 4 MGD, but source of information was not identified. As noted in the 2016 CSO LTCP Section 1.2, there were originally nine (9) combined sewer regulators and an activated sludge wastewater treatment plant with an annual average flow of approximately 1.30 MGD. In a (now very old and potentially obsolete) internal rerate, a WWTP maximum peak flow rate of 2.10 MGD was established. **NOTE**: The existing facility has no secondary treatment bypass provisions/authorization for peak wet weather CSS flows.
  - Treatment Plant Process Information Section: The Grit Screw Press remains out of service, with price estimate received for replacement in kind, but no schedule for replacement identified. The 4/18/2023 Inspection Report noted that the permittee had a contractor pumping out the grit chamber every 4 – 6 months. Existing NPDES/WQM permit O&M conditions apply, with potential grit impacts on WWTP units/equipment in addition to grit build-up noted by permittee at the CSO structures.
  - Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs): Electronic Copy of the 2024 Annual CSO Status Report (missing the DEP Annual CSO Status Report Form found with the 2024 Chapter 94 Report submittal) found in Attachment B. October 2016 CSO LTCP (missing assorted Appendixes information) included Appendix E. Highlights of new information:
    - **Dry Weather CSO discharges identified (with CSOs discharging for 7- 10 days after (undefined) "significant rain event"**: Current standard template Part C.III.A language states: The permittee is authorized to discharge from the combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls identified in Part A of this permit when flows in combined sewer systems (CSSs) exceed the design capacity of the conveyance or treatment facilities of the system during or immediately after wet weather periods.
      - 2024 DEP Annual CSO Status Report Form Section Annual Monitoring, Inspection and Maintenance Activities Section Item 2: Omitted the required summarization of dry weather and wet weather discharge information.
      - 2024 DEP Annual CSO Status Report Form Section Annual Monitoring, Inspection and Maintenance Activities Section Item 5: In 2024, regular inspections occurred as close as possible to rain events. Prolonged discharges were observed during regular inspections following rain events. In effort to limit the prolonged discharges, system cleanings are scheduled to remove grit/solids from the CSO chambers and the main sanitary sewer interceptor. The Borough will continue to conduct CSO inspections, remove debris and obstructions within CSO regulators, and work to assess system and plant hydraulics and collection system and CSO regulator conditions to minimize prolonged discharges following rain events. **NOTE**: No weir adjustments were made in 2024 or proposed to further maximize sewer system storage prior to direction to the WWTP (NMC) and/or to comply with any LTCP Presumptive Goal or Demonstrated Goal. The 2016 CSO LTCP narrative did not

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include any CSO method of detecting unobserved dry weather discharges via normal methods (bottle on string, etc.) other than weekly inspections of the three "key" regulators (Outfall Nos. 002, 006, and 010). Copies of the Borough's internal Inspection & Maintenance Records were not included in the Annual CSO Status Report submittals.

- 2024 Chapter 94 Report Annual CSO Status Report narrative Section 2.3 (Dry Weather Overflows) indicated: Extended discharge times were observed in the system; however, no flows were observed without a corresponding rain event. No flows were observed without a corresponding rain event, but following significant precipitation events (with no apparent plan to adjust weirs to redirect flows to WWTP after peak wet weather flows subside). **See summarization of CSO Outfall information below for when specific CSOs were indicated to have extended discharges (7 -10 day after significant rain event).**
- **Relevant Standard CSO Conditions in Redraft NPDES Permit**:
    - Part A.I.E: This permit only authorizes "combined sewer overflows **necessitated by storm water entering the sewer system and exceeding the hydraulic capacity of the sewers and/or the treatment plant** and are permitted to discharge only for this reason. Dry weather discharges from these outfalls are prohibited. Each discharge shall be monitored for cause, frequency, duration, and quantity of flow. The data must be recorded on the CSO Supplemental Reports (3800-FM-BCW0441 and 0442) and shall be reported monthly as an attachment to the Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) or as otherwise authorized in the permit".
    - Part C.III.A: The permittee is authorized to discharge from the combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls identified in Part A of this permit when flows in combined sewer systems (CSSs) **exceed the design capacity of the conveyance or treatment facilities of the system during or immediately after wet weather periods**, provided that the discharge complies with paragraphs B and C of this section. Overflows that occur without an accompanying precipitation event or snow-melt are termed "dry weather overflows" and are prohibited.
    - Part C.III.B.1, 2 and 4: The Nine Minimum Controls (NMCs) require maximizing storage in the collection system to discharge **to the WWTP** (after peak wet weather flows subside), not discharge to the stream. The NMCs also require maximizing wet weather flows **to the WWTP**, in addition to proper CSS/CSO Operation & Maintenance (O&M).
    - Part C.III.B.5: Dry weather overflows from CSO outfalls are prohibited. **All dry weather overflows must be reported to DEP in accordance with Part A III.C.4.a** of this permit. When the permittee detects a dry weather overflow, the permittee shall begin corrective action immediately. The permittee shall inspect the dry weather overflow each subsequent day until the overflow has been eliminated.
    - Part C.III.D.1.b: **If dry weather overflows are detected, the permittee shall, in addition to providing immediate notification to DEP in accordance with Part A III.C.4.a of this permit, provide a plan and implementation schedule to correct the overflows with the DMR Supplemental Reports for CSOs.**

- Televising: The sewer mains and CSOs were both televised in October 2023 per 2024 Annual CSO Status Report Attachment C. CSO cleaning was completed, **with additional maintenance items identified during routine CSO inspection such as adjusting/resealing the weir plates and additional grit removal "are slated to be completed by the Borough"**. No schedule for addressing the listed O&M problems (or additional required televising of inaccessible CSO structure chambers, etc.) was included. The Report indicated CSO cleaning, but unclear if grit/debris was removed. No schedule for sewer system O&M/repairs or other follow-up included. **NOTE**: It is unclear if the language covers the issues noted during the October 2023 Televising as requiring O&M or other Borough follow-up. **The 2024 Annual CSO Status Report Narrative section 2.1 notes that grit build-up is likely impacting the timing of discharges but did not note any grit removal or cleaning work done in 2024**.
- LTCP Goal: The permittee has chosen an LTCP Presumptive Goal per 2025 Letter, **but did not identify the specific chosen Presumptive Goal in this submittal, and did not update the October 2016 LTCP (Attachment E) narrative which indicated the Demonstrated Goal had been chosen**. **NOTE**: The receiving stream is pathogen impaired with 2016 sampling data

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indicating CSO contribution, i.e. presumptive goal option may not be available (in addition to AMD impairment and Chesapeake Bay TMDL). No methodology for determining compliance with any Presumptive Goals or applicable Water Quality Standards was included.

- 2024 Chapter 94 Report submittal included DEP Annual CSO Status Report Form: The 2024 Chapter 94 Report-attached Annual CSO Status Report included the DEP Annual CSO Status Report form but did not properly complete it. The Report Form did not identify all outstanding tasks and milestones for the Report-referenced LTCP and/or the referenced "previously approved LTCP" (presumably the 2003 LTCP version); did not identify any anticipated modifications of the NMC or LTCP implementation plans for 2025; did not describe CSO Outfall locations; did not summarize dry weather and wet weather CSO inspections as required; did not identify all maintenance and remedial activities completed in 2024 as required; **indicated "dry weather discharges"**; did not identify locations where flows in the CSO interceptor can be controlled as required; and attached assorted CSO Supplemental Reporting forms that did not include completion of discharge volume or duration, precipitation (inches) unless there was an inspection that date or inspection-identified problems (with or without completed corrective actions) found in the Annual CSO Status Report Attachment D tables. **There were months when the Monthly Inspection Report indicated a CSO was discharging, but no discharge information was found in the CSO-specific reporting form. There was no additional inspection or discharge information after a discharge was noted during a reported inspection**.
- WWTP Cleaning: Grit was removed from WWTP "Grit Pit" (420 cubic feet) and wet well (363 cubic feet). **The facility's grit removal unit is inoperable without any schedule for replacement included. Reported volume of grit removed shows need for this unit. Grit must be expected to be enter the downstream WWTP units.**
- CSO Status: See previous Draft NPDES Permit Fact Sheet and Redraft Fact Sheet Addendum for previous informational summary. In terms of 2024 information:
  - General:
    - **Dry weather CSO discharges reported. Previous grit buildup within the CSO chambers and effluent pipelines were suspected of impacting timing of CSO discharges. However, no estimate of grit removal volumes from the CSOs were provided to verify removal and/or reduction in CSO discharges.**
    - **CSO Signs (reportedly stolen at CSO Outfall Nos. 002, 004, and 005) to be installed by end of 2025. 6/28/2022 CSO Inspection Report Information indicated signs should be placed at outfalls 002, 003, 004, and 005 to notify the public of their location and potential health affects when discharging**.
    - No adjustments were made to CSO weir elevations in 2024.
    - **CSO Nos. 007, 008, and 009 were not completely inspected per Attachment C televising. Require further inspection and possibly O&M.**
    - The Borough has no current plan to meter the CSO outfalls and believes the high costs of the multiple meters render it not feasible while pursuing WWTP repairs/upgrades (to be determined). No WWTP Upgrades identified in the submittal. The Borough has not presented a methodology for estimating CSO discharges in the 2016 CSO LTCP and the minimum CSO inspection/monitoring plan frequencies are unclear.
    - No new CSO/stream sampling data is available. **NOTE**: The October 2016 LTCP included CSO Nos. 002 & 006 discharge data (BOD5, Fecal Coliform, pH, TDS, and TSS) and dry/wet sampling downstream of CSO Outfall No. 002 (showing 38,000/100 ml Fecal Coliforms during active CSO Outfall 002 discharge). No information on other known stream impairments (AMD metals, Chesapeake Bay TN/TP, or E Coli) included.
    - The POTW no longer receives industrial wastes (a previously referenced "lone" Industrial User has ceased operations).
  - CSO Outfall No. 002 (Plant site/tunnel regulator prior to WWTP Wet Well): **Can discharge up to 7 days after "significant rain event".**
    - Per 2016 CSO LTCP Section 1.2, the "final diversion regulator", located in the coal mine drainage tunnel and immediately before the final connection to the WWTP, is a diversion wall, The diversion wall is approximately 16 inches in height and spans the

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entire width of the coal mine drainage tunnel (9 feet 9 inches wide). The flow to the WWTP is conveyed through a 14-inch diameter line that leads to regulator #002 and then to the WWTP wet well. The CSO LTCP identifies this outfall as a "key CSO regulator", inspected monthly and used to estimate potential for discharge from remaining regulators. See figure below with the WWTP on left side of CSO 002.
    - Per 6/28/2022 DEP CSO Inspection Report, CSO 002 is located along the WWTP driveway and the outfall is adjacent to the tunnel discharge. **NOTE**: The Tunnel discharge is CSO Outfall No. 002 discharge to the stream per LTCP figures. See figure below.
- CSO Outfall No. 003 (West Hoffman Blvd under SR61 bridge, downstream of MH 3B): Can discharge for up to several days after "significant rain event".
    - No reported discharges in 2024, but is not blocked. It is unclear if the CSO has the means to detect discharges outside of inspection visits. 2016 CSO LTCP Figure indicated CSO Outfall No. 003 was eliminated, but no request to delete that CSO Outfall has been received to date. No information regarding whether it has been plugged or otherwise blocked off.
    - Per 6/28/2022 DEP CSO Inspection Report, CSO 003 diversion structure is located on the sidewalk along Hoffman Street near the entrance to the WWTP. Outfall 003 discharges under the Mahanoy Creek bridge on Hoffman Street. The diversion structure is an overflow weir.
- CSO Outfall No. 004 (East Hoffman Blvd, downstream of MH 4A): Temporarily blocked (by cement plugs) to prevent stream backwashing and are being considered for permanent abandonment. Per 6/28/2022 DEP CSO Inspection Report, CSO 004 is located in the parking lot across Hoffman Street from the WWTP entrance. The diversion structure was an overflow weir. The CSO outfall pipe within the diversion chamber was blocked over. The outfall along Mahanoy Creek could not be located.
- CSO Outfall No. 005 (Second Street, downstream of MH 5A): Temporarily blocked (by cement plugs) to prevent stream backwashing and are being considered for permanent abandonment. Televising indicates only **partially blocked** (allowing backflow during high stream conditions. Per 6/28/2022 DEP CSO Inspection Report, CSO 005 is located behind the building located across Hoffman Street from the WWTP entrance. The diversion structure was an overflow weir. The CSO outfall pipe within the diversion chamber was blocked over. The outfall along Mahanoy Creek could not be located.
- CSO Outfall No. 006 (First Street, downstream of MH 6A): **Can discharge up to 7 days after "significant rain event".**
    - The CSO LTCP identifies this outfall as a "key CSO regulator", inspected monthly and used to estimate potential for discharge from remaining regulators.
    - Per 6/28/2022 DEP CSO Inspection Report, CSO 006 is one of two main discharging CSO's and is located at the end of South First Street. CSO 006 was identified with a sign at the outfall which was observed nearby along Mahanoy Creek. The diversion structure is a weir plate. There is a rope and plastic bottle setup to identify discharges.
- CSO Outfall No. 007 (Walnut Street, a chamber not located during sewer inspection): **Can discharge up to 7 days after "significant rain event**". Per 6/28/2022 DEP CSO Inspection Report, CSO 007 is one of two main discharging CSO's and is located at Front and Walnut Street. CSO 007 was identified with a sign at the outfall which was observed nearby along Mahanoy Creek. The diversion structure is a weir plate.
- CSO Outfall No. 008 (Middle Street, a chamber not located during sewer inspection): **Can discharge up to 7 days after "significant rain event".** Per 6/28/2022 DEP CSO Inspection Report, CSO 008 is located at Mahanoy Street and East Middle Street. CSO 008 was identified with a sign at the outfall which was observed nearby along Mahanoy Creek. The diversion structure is a weir plate. There is a rope and plastic bottle setup to identify discharges.
- CSO Outfall No. 009 (Route 54/Centre Street, a chamber not located during sewer inspection): **Can discharge up to 10 days after "significant rain event"**. Per 6/28/2022 DEP CSO Inspection Report, CSO 009 is located at the Mahanoy Creek bridge on East

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Centre Street. CSO 009 was identified with a sign at the outfall which was observed nearby along Mahanoy Creek. The diversion structure is a weir plate. This outfall receives flow from the Oakland Avenue section of town.

- CSO Outfall No. 010 (Oakland Avenue, downstream of 10A): Discharges into a tunnel and then Mahanoy Creek for several days after "significant rain event". The CSO LTCP identifies this outfall as a "key CSO regulator", inspected monthly and used to estimate potential for discharge from remaining regulators. Per 6/28/2022 DEP CSO Inspection Report, CSO 010 is located slightly upstream of the Mahanoy Creek bridge on East Centre Street. CSO 010 was identified with a sign at the outfall which was observed nearby along Mahanoy Creek from the bridge. The diversion structure is a weir plate. This outfall receives flow from the Oakland Avenue section of town and is influenced by mountain/mine runoff water.

▪ 2016 LTCP Plan Figure excerpt showing CSO Outfall No. 002 in relation to WWTP, CSO Outfalls 003 & 004:

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Table 2: Summary of CSO Activity

	Outfall						
	002	003	006	007	008	009	010
January	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
February	0	0	2	2	2	2	2
March	4	0	4	4	4	4	4
April	2	0	2	2	2	4	2
May	4	0	4	4	4	5	4
June	1	0	1	1	1	4	1
July	4	0	4	4	4	4	4
August	2	0	2	2	2	4	2
September	2	0	2	2	2	4	1
October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
November	2	0	2	2	2	2	2
December							
Total Discharges Per Outfall	21	0	23	23	23	33	23
Total Discharges System Wide							146

Note that the above table omitted any December 2024 information. There were assorted December CSO discharges. Also, the methodology for determining CSO discharges was not identified.

2023 Chapter 94 Report (Public Upload# 221415) and 2024 Chapter 94 Report (Public Upload# 302946) Information:
Highlights relevant to permitting.

- General Description Information:
  - Nine (9) permitted CSO structures. ~15 mile of sewer mains including 1.3 miles of interceptor sewers. Collection system is pre-1900 construction with precise locations, type, and sizes of sewers uncertain.
- Items 1, 2, 3, and 9 (Overload) & Attachments A and B: No existing or projected overloading. Item 9 was left blank.
  - Hydraulic Design Capacity:
    - 1.3 MGD as permitted. Max 3-month average of 1.247 MGD in 2024. No projected overload but one month was 1.323 MGD, but with steady increase over previous 5-years and with current questions on as-built/as-operated old WWTP hydraulic capacities (see previous Fact Sheet). There are also no estimates of CSO discharge volumes to determine if CSS flows (requiring capture per CSO LTCP requirements) might trigger hydraulic overloading issues in the future.
    - 0.985 MGD Annual Average Flow reported for 2024. The existing 1,267 EDUs (at 250 GPD/EDU standard default) would be expected to generate 0.31675 MGD dry weather flow. At 3.5 persons per

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EDU, the dry weather flow would be estimated at 0.44345 MGD (at 100 GPCD default). The annual average flows have been increasing (without new EDUs in the last 5 years and including reduction from 1311 EDUS in 2021) indicating expected I&I contribution over time in the absence of an effective implemented sewer system O&M Plan.

- Flow/EDU: The 2024-estimated flow/capita of 777.4 GPD is greater than the DEP DWFM default of 250 GPD, indicating high I&I component in WWTP influent flows
- Flow/Capita: The 2024-estimated flow/capita of 222.1 GPCD is greater than the DEP DWFM default of 100 GPCD, indicating high I&I component in WWTP influent flows.

  - Organic Design Capacity: 1,400 lbs BOD5/day as permitted. 373 lbs BOD5/day max month in 2024. At 2.5 persons/capita for 1,267 EDUs, the facility would be expected to receive ~538 lb BOD5/day (at 0.17 lb BOD5/capita DWFM default).

- Item 4 (Sewer Extensions) & Attachment C: No sewer extensions in 2023 or 2024.
- Item 5 (Sewer System monitoring & Maintenance) & Attachment D: Assorted WWTP and sewer system maintenance noted:
  - WWTP: Assorted O&M actions listed. 2022 emergency repairs were noted for WWTP flow meter, influent pumps, aeration system, sludge pumps, standby generator, auto-dialer, and chlorine system. Plans for other improvements noted but without details, and referencing a voluntary CO&A documents "still under review".
  - Collection system work: Anticipated, but not described. Besides inspection of CSOs, there was no listed sewer investigation or corrective action. See above for 2024 Annual CSO Status Report-identified O&M activities.
    - **The 2022 Report Attachment D noted the sewage collection system (tunnel) might be receiving water main leaks**. Most of the collection system existed before the construction of the WWTP and the Borough reports it to be in satisfactory condition (without explanation of basis for that determination).
    - Per 2024 Chapter 94 Report, the Borough anticipates long-term improvements to the collection system will likely be needed once the collection system, CSOs, and WWTP are hydraulically evaluated, operating conditions better assessed, long-term improvements identified, and funding obtained to implement anticipated improvements. The Report noted that WWTP improvements will likely be needed in the next 5 – 10 year period once more detailed engineering studies are completed and funding is secured.
- Item 6 (Capacity-related bypassing SSOs or surcharging: Nothing reported except CSOs.
- Item 7 (Pump Station) & Attachment F: One pump station serves 13 homes. An emergency generator was installed at this pump station in 2024.
- Item 8 (IW): Form item left blank. The 2024 CSO Annual Status Report information indicates one Industrial User has ceased discharge to the POTW.
- Item 10 (Sewage Sludge Management Inventory): Form item was left blank. Not required by existing permit but Redraft NPDES Permit will require an annual sewage sludge management inventory (meeting EPA methodology requirements) and onsite records about sludge drying bed utilized/available capacity. Attachment I indicated 154.56 dry tons (2023) removed from sludge drying beds and hauled to CES landfill. Zero sludge was reported as hauled offsite in 2024. Sludge is normally also sent to GHJSA per Attachment I.
- Item 11 (2023 Annual CSO Report) & Attachments E and G: 2023 Highlights: See above for 2024 Annual CSO Status Report highlights above.
  - DEP Annual CSO Status Report form: See above comments regarding prohibited dry weather CSO discharges and failure to complete form Items. Simply referencing a year's worth of DMR supplemental forms is not an adequate response to most items. Nor is referencing "inspection forms located at WWTP".
  - LTCP and NMCs: The Report Attachment G indicates that the Borough is implementing the "currently approved LTCP and NMCs" but indicated that updated LTCP/NMCs were submitted in October 2016 and believed to be still under DEP review. The 2003 LTCP may have been referenced.
  - CSO Nos. 004 and 005: Temporarily closed.
  - Provided Table of CSO Discharges: See below. No CSO flow estimates provided. They did not attempt to show that they met any LTCP Goal.
  - "Prolonged discharges were observed during regular inspections following events.
    - The CSO chambers are filled with large volumes of grit/solids which affects the amount of rainfall it takes for CSO discharges. In an effort to limit the prolonged discharges, system cleaning is scheduled to remove grit/solids from the CSO chambers and the main sanitary sewer interceptor.

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- By contrast, the 2022 CSO Report indicated some discharges occurred when precipitation was between 0 – 0.2 inches, but in most cases these events were preceded by a larger rainfall event. **The Borough has indicated it has been experiencing significant water main leaks which could be affecting CSO discharges. AMD from mining works could also affect CSO discharges**. Elsewhere, it was noted grit was removed from wet well and tunnel on 11/2/2022. The narrative noted the Borough anticipated "more substantial and long-term improvements at the WWTP will likely be needed in the next 5 – 10 year period once more detailed engineering studies are completed and funding is secured. The Report noted the voluntary CO&A would include compliance schedule milestone as they relate to the Borough's wastewater treatment plant, collection system, and CSOs. "Once that document is in place, updates on the scope and schedule for required work will be included in future annual reports" (2022 Chapter 94 Report Attachment D). (Other 2022 Report issues are like the 2023 Report issues.)

- No stream or CSO sampling data provided. 2023 CSO Summary Table provided below (but unclear what methodology was used to identify CSO-specific discharges):

	Outfall						
	002	003	006	007	008	009	010
January	4	0	4	4	4	4	4
February	4	0	4	4	4	4	4
March	4	0	4	4	4	4	4
April	4	0	4	4	4	4	4
May	4	0	4	4	4	4	4
June	4	0	4	4	4	4	4
July	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
August	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
September	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
October	0	0	3	1	0	0	0
November	1	0	1	1	1	4	1
December	1	0	1	1	1	1	1
Total Discharges Per Outfall	37	11	40	38	37	40	37
Total Discharges System Wide							240

- Item 12 (Calibration Reports): Influent flow meter was calibrated. No report on effluent flow meter calibration in 2023 or 2024.

Annual Rainfall Amounts from Available Chapter 94 Report Spreadsheets: Assuming spreadsheet numbers were accurate for the specific site:

- **2016**: 33.12 inches
- **2017**: 43.54 inches
- **2018**: 68.09 inches
- **2019**: 68.19 inches

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- **2020**: 49.44 inches
- **2021**: 32.73 inches
- **2022**: 40.71 inches
- **2023**: 53.14 inches
- **2024**: 48.46 inches

Compliance History:

See above for CSO-related Issues and out-of-service grit removal system (with no schedule for return-to-service). See attached 12 months of EDMR data also.

Two (2) open violations per 7/15/2025 WMS query (open violations by client#):

INSP PROGRAM	INSP ID	VIOLATION ID	VIOLATION DATE	VIOLATION CODE	VIOLATION
WPC NPDES	3341607	950076	03/30/2022	302.1202	Operator Certification - Owner failed to comply with Act or Chapter 302 regulations
WPC NPDES	3385568	960440	06/28/2022	CSO-NMC8	NPDES CSO - 92A.47(B)NMC8 Failure to implemer required NMC #8 (Public notification)

Effluent Violations for Outfall 001, from: January 1, 2024 To: May 31, 2025):

Parameter	Date	SBC	DMR Value	Units	Limit Value	Units
TSS	08/31/24	Wkly Avg	637	lbs/day	488	lbs/day
TSS	08/31/24	Avg Mo	31	mg/L	30	mg/L
TSS	05/31/24	Wkly Avg	50	mg/L	45	mg/L
TSS	08/31/24	Wkly Avg	99	mg/L	45	mg/L
Fecal Coliform	11/30/24	IMAX	> 2420	CFU/100 ml	10000	CFU/100 ml
Fecal Coliform	05/31/24	IMAX	2420	CFU/100 ml	1000	CFU/100 ml
Fecal Coliform	01/31/25	IMAX	> 2420	CFU/100 ml	10000	CFU/100 ml
Fecal Coliform	05/31/25	Geo Mean	> 7	CFU/100 ml	200	CFU/100 ml
Fecal Coliform	05/31/25	IMAX	> 2420	CFU/100 ml	1000	CFU/100 ml

Summary of Inspections: 1/1/2022 – 3/31/2024

FACILITY NAME	INSP ID	INSPECTED DATE	INSP TYPE	INSPECTION RESULT DESC	# OF VIOLATIONS
ASHLAND BOROUGH WWTP	3474354	04/18/2023	Chesapeake Bay Cap Load Compliance Eval	No Violations Noted	0
ASHLAND BOROUGH WWTP	3385568	03/16/2023	Combined Sewer Overflow-Non-Sampling	Violation(s) Noted	1

Internal Review and Recommendations

ASHLAND BOROUGH WWTP	3342971	12/16/2022	Follow-up Inspection	No Violations Noted	0
ASHLAND BOROUGH WWTP	3541682	06/28/2022	Compliance Evaluation	No Violations Noted	0
ASHLAND BOROUGH WWTP	3520723	04/05/2022	Follow-up Inspection	No Violations Noted	0
ASHLAND BOROUGH WWTP	3341607	03/30/2022	Compliance Evaluation	Violation(s) Noted	3

Communications Log: This log does not address any separate CO&A negotiation communications, but includes some inspection information to provide permitting context:

4/14/2022: Redraft NPDES Permit issued
5/10/2022: EPA public comments on Redraft NPDES Permit
5/27/2022: Ashland (Bob Kerns, Entech) public comments on Redraft NPDES Permit.
6/9/2022: Ashland (Dan Cuff, Entech) E-mail that it was pursuing the voluntary CO&A option.
6/28/2022: DEP Inspection Report noting: 25 Pa. Code 92a.47(b): NPDES CSO - 92A.47(B)NMC8 Failure to implement required NMC #8 (Public notification). Signs should be placed at outfalls 002, 003, 004, and 005 to notify the public of their location and potential health effects when discharging. CSO outfalls 004 and 005 could not be located along the stream.
4/18/2023: DEP Inspection Report noted that the CSOs are checked for discharges on weekly basis. The Report recommended cleaning and disposal of sludge in drying beds; investigation of source of dye discharge to collection system and install safety rails around clarifiers.

- Grit chamber is pumped out every 4-6 months by Kline Services.
- Pump station is checked daily and hours are recorded.
- CSO's are checked for discharges on a weekly basis
- Inspection Report noted an “emergency repair project” (started in September 2022). Notable repairs include a new effluent composite sampler, aerator repairs in both aeration tanks, mechanical repairs to secondary clarifier #2, mechanical repairs to both sludge holding tanks, mechanical repairs to the raw sewage pumps, new influent flow meter, repairs to the emergency generator and repairs/upgrades for the autodialer alarm system. The grit removal system was inoperable, with grit being vacuumed out semi-annually. The Fluidized bed reactor (nutrient removal) was not on-line.

1/27/2025: DEP Letter for restart of NPDES permitting and updating the NPDES Permit Application as needed. Provided option for additional sampling (4 samples).
1/27/2025: Ashland (Entech) E-mail indicating previous client contact deceased. New client contact is Sam Snyder, Borough Manager. Project contacts changed to Dan Cuff and Eric Moore of Entech.
2/4/2025: Ashland (Cuff, Entech) E-mail requesting confirmation that the response to the 1/27/2025 Letter was due 3/27/2025.
2/4/2025: DEP (Berger) E-mail confirming response due date of 3/27/2025.
3/26/2025: Ashland Response Letter (application updates) indicated additional sampling & analysis data would be forthcoming. Public Upload# **305382.**
4/22/2025: DEP (Berger) E-mail requiring any new sampling & analysis data to be submitted by 5/31/2025, and requested clarification in regard to CSO questions (reported dry weather CSO discharges, chosen LTCP Presumptive Goal) with that resubmittal.
5/19/2025: Ashland (David Kuperavage, Entech) E-mail response to 4/22/2025 DEP E-mail. The four (4) additional sample results have been uploaded to the DEP Public Upload portal for your review. These samples indicate elevated levels of bis(2-Ethylhexyl) phthalate, exceeding the reporting limit of 0.000250. We believe sampling error may have contributed to these elevated results. If acceptable, we would like to conduct additional sampling to confirm the presence and concentration of bis(2-Ethylhexyl) phthalate. Regarding the remaining items requiring clarification, we are currently awaiting input from our client. We will provide a comprehensive response as soon as their feedback is received.
5/21/2025: DEP (Berger) E-mail inquiring as to cause of indicated Bis-2-Ethylhexyl)Pthlalate issue.
5/30/2025: Ashland (Eric Moore, Entech) E-mail response to 4/22/2025 & 5/21/2025 DEP E-mails. He is the new project contact at Entech. Written responses to DEP questions in the E-mail.

Internal Review and Recommendations

EDMR Information:

Compliance History

DMR Data for Outfall 001 (from March 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025)

Parameter	FEB-25	JAN-25	DEC-24	NOV-24	OCT-24	SEP-24	AUG-24	JUL-24	JUN-24	MAY-24	APR-24	MAR-24
Flow (MGD) Average Monthly	0.9834	0.9286	0.9493	0.7718	0.6524	0.6955	0.8297	0.8768	0.9012	1.0991	1.3229	1.2768
Flow (MGD) Daily Maximum	1.8893	1.4974	1.6908	1.1762	0.7503	1.2871	1.497	1.4261	1.2234	1.4503	1.8726	1.7006
pH (S.U.) Minimum	7.07	7.26	6.35	6.25	6.75	6.59	7.03	6.85	6.11	6.27	6.34	6.88
pH (S.U.) Maximum	7.89	8.44	8.68	8.44	8.28	7.88	7.60	7.97	7.7	7.19	7.65	7.81
TRC (mg/L) Average Monthly	0.8	0.91	0.86	0.77	0.38	0.92	0.78	0.73	0.74	0.64	0.7	0.65
TRC (mg/L) Instantaneous Maximum	1.48	1.63	1.08	1.42	1.07	1.17	1.04	1.16	1.18	0.91	1.04	1.16
CBOD5 (lbs/day) Average Monthly	83	< 37	< 26	< 39	< 18	< 17	< 20	< 24	< 25	< 46	< 36	< 32
CBOD5 (lbs/day) Weekly Average	215	49	< 36	91	< 19	< 18	< 20	46	< 30	< 82	< 44	< 36
CBOD5 (mg/L) Average Monthly	10	< 5	< 3	< 5	< 3	< 3.0	< 3	< 3	< 3	< 5	< 3.0	< 3
CBOD5 (mg/L) Weekly Average	26	7	< 3	12	< 4	< 3.0	< 3	6	< 3	< 10	< 3.0	< 3
TSS (lbs/day) Average Monthly	114	90	99	74	72	85	196	85	101	244	< 91	78
TSS (lbs/day) Weekly Average	206	125	145	159	118	113	637	141	148	453	125	168
TSS (mg/L) Average Monthly	14	12	11	10	13	15	31	12	13	27	< 9	7
TSS (mg/L) Weekly Average	26	17	13	21	20	20	99	19	15	50	14	14
Fecal Coliform (CFU/100 ml) Geometric Mean	67	61	< 7	17	< 368	3	3	4	< 3	< 21	< 8	7
Fecal Coliform (CFU/100 ml) Instantaneous Maximum	1120	> **2420**	31	> **2420**	2420	8	7	8	56	2420	109	99

Nitrate-Nitrite (mg/L) Average Monthly	4.37	3.98	8.97	9.02	8.54	10.02	6.49	8.27	9.35	8.56	7.09	4.96
Nitrate-Nitrite (lbs) Total Monthly	1002	944	2402	1803	1456	1725	1260	1890	2299	2386	2323	1531
Total Nitrogen (mg/L) Average Monthly	10.54	< 9.96	< 10.22	11.57	< 9.95	< 11.15	7.75	9.61	< 11.18	11.03	< 8.25	< 7.74
Total Nitrogen (lbs) Effluent Net Total Monthly	2435	< 2374	< 2738	2355	< 1697	< 1918	1516	2197	< 2766	3065	< 2722	< 2514
Total Nitrogen (lbs) Total Monthly	2435	< 2374	< 2738	2355	< 1697	< 1918	1516	2197	< 2766	3065	< 2722	< 2514
Total Nitrogen (lbs) Effluent Net Total Annual						< 23743						
Total Nitrogen (lbs) Total Annual						< 29336						
Ammonia (mg/L) Average Monthly	< 4.11	< 4.62	< 0.1	< 1.2	< 0.17	< 0.1	< 0.3	< 0.24	< 0.12	< 0.3	< 0.1	< 1.64
Ammonia (lbs) Total Monthly	< 957	< 1104	< 27	< 273	< 28	< 17	< 64	< 56	< 29	< 59	< 35	< 597
Ammonia (lbs) Total Annual						< 7319						
TKN (mg/L) Average Monthly	6.16	< 5.98	< 1.25	2.55	< 1.41	< 1.13	< 1.26	1.34	< 1.83	2.48	< 1.16	< 2.78
TKN (lbs) Total Monthly	1433	< 1429	< 336	552	< 240	< 192	< 256	307	< 467	680	< 399	< 983
Total Phosphorus (mg/L) Average Monthly	0.38	0.44	0.37	0.41	0.51	0.64	0.54	1.15	0.75	1.14	0.51	0.35
Total Phosphorus (lbs) Effluent Net Total Monthly	88	106	98	89	89	109	108	245	185	326	172	116
Total Phosphorus (lbs) Total Monthly	88	106	98	89	89	109	108	245	185	326	172	116
Total Phosphorus (lbs) Effluent Net Total Annual						2405						
Total Phosphorus (lbs) Total Annual						2405						
Total Aluminum (mg/L) Average			< 0.1			< 0.1			< 0.1			0.22
Total Iron (mg/L) Average			0.78			0.31			0.13			**1.94**

DMR Data for Outfall 011 (from March 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025)

Parameter	FEB-25	JAN-25	DEC-24	NOV-24	OCT-24	SEP-24	AUG-24	JUL-24	JUN-24	MAY-24	APR-24	MAR-24
TSS (mg/L) Daily Maximum			E									
TKN (mg/L) Daily Maximum			E									
Total Iron (mg/L) Daily Maximum			E									

Compliance History

Effluent Violations for Outfall 001, from: April 1, 2024 To: February 28, 2025

Parameter	Date	SBC	DMR Value	Units	Limit Value	Units
TSS	08/31/24	Wkly Avg	637	lbs/day	488	lbs/day
TSS	08/31/24	Avg Mo	31	mg/L	30	mg/L
TSS	08/31/24	Wkly Avg	99	mg/L	45	mg/L
TSS	05/31/24	Wkly Avg	50	mg/L	45	mg/L
Fecal Coliform	05/31/24	IMAX	2420	CFU/100 ml	1000	CFU/100 ml
Fecal Coliform	11/30/24	IMAX	> 2420	CFU/100 ml	10000	CFU/100 ml
Fecal Coliform	01/31/25	IMAX	> 2420	CFU/100 ml	10000	CFU/100 ml