



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

September 15, 2026

Megan Higgins
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Ms. Higgins,

This letter is to inform you that the Maine Department of Environmental Protection has decided not to transfer the MEPDES PERMIT ME0000744 / WDL #W002790-5R-H-R formerly held by The Mills at Pepperell LLC to Pepperell Mill Progression LLC and intends to retire the permit.

On March 15, 2022, the Department accepted as complete for processing an application from Pepperell Mills Progression LLC for the Transfer and Renewal of combination Waste Discharge License (WDL) # W002790-5R-H-R / Maine Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MEPDES) permit #ME ME0000744 (permit hereinafter) which was issued to The Mills at Pepperell LLC by the Department on January 13, 2017, and authorized the discharge of a monthly average of 110,000 gallons per day and a daily maximum of 150,000 gallons per day of non-contact cooling water the Saco River, Class SC, in Biddeford, Maine.

The site formerly owned by WestPoint Home Inc, ceased operations and its discharge to the Saco River in 2009. On June 15, 2010, the facility was purchased by The Mills at Pepperell LLC, and the Department issued a Transfer and Renewal of MEPDES PERMIT ME0000744 / WDL #W002790-5R-G-R with the intent that the Mills at Pepperell LLC would require a waste discharge permit to continue manufacturing operations. The Mills at Pepperell LLC did not continue manufacturing operations and a discharge of non-contact cooling water never occurred.

MEPDES permits and Waste Discharge licenses issued by the Department are specific to the nature of the discharge and contain parameter limitations and monitoring frequencies that are reflective of the discharge. In some instances, the Department will transfer a license/permit when a discharger's business is sold, and the facility is occupied by a similar business requiring a similar set of parameters to regulate its wastewater discharge.

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At this time, it is the Department's understanding that the facility, formerly operating as a textile manufacturer, has been converted to individual housing units. A non-contact cooling water discharge has not occurred since 2009 and a MEPDES permit for such a discharge is no longer required. Therefore, the Department has decided to retire the permit formerly held by The Mills at Pepperell LLC.

If future conditions change and it becomes necessary to obtain a wastewater discharge permit/license, the Department of Environmental Protection will consider a General Application for a Wastewater Discharge to determine appropriate parameter limitations and monitoring frequencies that are required for the receiving water to meet water classifications of the State.

Sincerely,

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