



Department of Health and Environmental Sciences  
STATE OF MONTANA HELENA, MONTANA 59601

DEC 20 1976

John S. Anderson M.D.  
DIRECTOR

December 3, 1976

TO: Persons and organizations interested in the Johns-Manville Sales Corporation discharge to the West Fork Stillwater River, Montana

In July, 1976, the Water Quality Bureau of the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, issued a tentative MPDES waste discharge permit to the J-M Corp. (Johns-Manville Sales Corporation). On August 24, 1976, a public hearing was held in Columbus, Montana to provide public input to the proposed discharge permit and to the PER (preliminary environmental review) that was prepared by the Water Quality Bureau relative to the Johns-Manville discharge. Based on comments obtained from this public hearing, a number of changes were made in the permit. The most significant changes incorporated into the final permit were:

1. A continuous bioassay in the waste effluent from the J-M Corp. will be required rather than a periodic bioassay.
2. A change in pH of 0.2 units will be allowable in the river as a result of the J-M Corp. discharge.
3. The technique for calculating safety coefficients was clarified and slightly revised to make it more understandable and more enforceable.

In addition to these changes, there were numerous minor changes to better clarify or more accurately describe permit conditions.

On October 27, 1976, a final MPDES permit was issued to the J-M Corp. for their discharge. This permit shall become effective on the date of the Department's approval of an acceptable chemical and biological testing program and the Department's approval of and the permittee's installation of facilities for a water-tight seal of the adit and a plan for sealing the adit. To date, the J-M Corp. has not submitted these documents for Department approval, but is expected to do so soon. Upon receipt of these documents from the J-M Corp., a notice will be sent to all individuals and organizations interested in this problem to solicit their review and comment. Upon approval of these procedures by the Water Quality Bureau, the J-M Corp. permit will become effective.

Copies of the final J-M permit and the PER prepared by the Bureau are available upon request from the Water Quality Bureau at a nominal cost.

Yours truly,

M. K. Botz, P.E.  
Water Quality Bureau  
Environmental Sciences Division

MKB:vlf