

ARIZONA POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (AZPDES)

This document gives pertinent information concerning the reissuance of the AZPDES permit listed below. This facility is a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) with a design capacity of 0.015 million gallons per day (mgd) and is considered to be a minor facility under the NPDES program. The effluent limitations contained in this permit will maintain the Water Quality Standards listed in Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R18-11-101 et seq. This permit is proposed to be issued for a period of 5 years.

I. PERMITTEE INFORMATION	
Permittee's Name:	Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (PCRWRD)
Permittee's Mailing Address:	2955 W. Calle Agua Nueva Tucson, Arizona 85745
Facility Name:	Mt. Lemmon Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF)
Facility Address or Location:	12633 N. Sabino Canyon Park Road Summerhaven, Arizona 85619
County:	Pima County
Contact Person(s): Phone/e-mail address	Mr. Jeff Prevatt, Treatment Division Director (520) 724-6060 / jeff.prevatt@pima.gov
AZPDES Permit Number:	AZ0022250
Inventory Number:	100345
LTF Number:	87553

II. STATUS OF PERMIT(S)	
AZPDES permit applied for:	Renewal
Date application received:	January 8, 2021
Date application was determined administratively complete:	January 25, 2021.
Previous permit number (if different):	N/A
Previous permit expiration date:	July 11, 2021

208 Consistency:

In accordance with A.A.C. R18-9-A903(6), a permit cannot be issued for any discharge inconsistent with a plan or plan amendment approved under section 208(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Based on review of the application, there are no changes to the facility that require a new determination of consistency with the Regional Water Quality Management Plan.

The Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department has the following permits issued by ADEQ applicable to the Mt. Lemmon WRF:

Type of Permit

Aquifer Protection Permit (APP)	P100345	Regulates discharges to the local aquifer
Reuse Permit	N/A	Regulates the practice of reusing treated wastewater for beneficial purposes
Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP)	N/A	Regulates stormwater discharge

III. GENERAL FACILITY INFORMATION

Type of Facility:	Publicly owned treatment works (POTW)
Facility Location Description:	Mt. Lemmon WRF is located in the town of Summerheaven, north of Tucson in the Catalina Mountains.
Permitted Design Flow:	0.015 million gallons per day (mgd)
Treatment level (WWTP):	Secondary Treatment Level
Treatment Processes:	The Mt. Lemmon WRF consists of a circular oxidation tank and aeration basin with chlorination and dechlorination providing secondary treatment of domestic sewage for the properties of Summerheaven.
Sludge Handling and Disposal:	Sludge is deposited into the Pima county collection system at Manhole 8716-03 for subsequent treatment at the Tres Rios Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) and solids conditioning and disposal at the Regional Bio-solids Facility.
Nature of facility discharge:	Domestic wastewater from residential properties in Summerheaven.
Total Number of significant industrial Users (SIUs):	None
Average flow per discharge:	As indicated in the application, there were no discharges from the facility since 2002 and the applicant does not expect any discharge to unnamed wash tributary to San Pedro River during this current permit cycle.

Service Area:	Serves the Town of Summerhaven.
Service Population:	Approximately 100 people
Reuse / irrigation or other disposal method(s):	Currently, all treated effluent from the Mt. Lemmon WRF is reused under a valid USFS Special Use Permit (SAN0139) via sprayfield irrigation on forest vegetation. The proposed AZPDES permit will authorize discharge of treated effluent to the unnamed washes, all tributary to the San Pedro River. PCRWRD has indicated that discharge to the unnamed wash will only occur during freezing or inoperable conditions of the sprayfield. Discharge flow records submitted during the existing permit term indicate the facility has not discharged since 2002. Discharges from any individual outfall lasting seven or more days and occurring more than one time each per month are prohibited.
Continuous or intermittent discharge:	Intermittent discharges.
Discharge pattern summary:	The permit restricts discharge frequencies and duration. Discharges from any individual outfall should not last seven or more days and should not occur more than one time each per month during the permit term.

IV. RECEIVING WATER

The State of Arizona has adopted water quality standards to protect the designated uses of its surface waters. Streams have been divided into segments and designated uses assigned to these segments. The water quality standards vary by designated use depending on the level of protection required to maintain that use.

Receiving Water:	<p>San Pedro River (U.S. / Mexico Border to Redington)</p> <p>The discharge flows from the facility through an unnamed tributary to Alder Wash, which are continuous channelized conveyances, approximately 18 miles to San Pedro River (U.S. / Mexico Border to Redington), a Water of the U.S. (WOTUS). ADEQ determined that reach of San Pedro River segment to be a WOTUS by tracing tributaries to the Gila River known to be a Traditionally Navigable Water (TNW). All tributaries that flow either intermittently or perennially without an ephemeral break to that TNW are WOTUS under the Navigable Waters Protection Rule. Thus, the facility's discharge via the channelized conveyance of unnamed tributary, Alder Wash to a perennial reach of San Pedro River determined to be a WOTUS is a point source discharge requiring an AZPDES permit.</p>
River Basin:	San Pedro – Willcox Playa - Rio Yaqui River Basin
Outfall Location(s):	<p>Outfall 001: Township 11 S, Range 16 W, Section 30 Latitude 32° 26' 55" N, Longitude 110° 45' 09" W</p> <p>Outfall 002: Township 11 S, Range 16 W, Section 30 Latitude 32° 26' 51" N, Longitude 110° 45' 08" W</p>

	<p>Outfall 003: Township 11 S, Range 16 W, Section 30 Latitude 32° 26' 49" N, Longitude 110° 45' 07" W</p>
<p>Designated uses for the receiving water listed above:</p>	<p>Aquatic and Wildlife effluent dependent water (A&Wedw) Partial Body Contact (PBC)</p> <p>The proposed permit takes into consideration Designated Uses (DUs) and associated SWQS set for Unnamed Wash, a non-jurisdictional water, though the water of the US that is the receiving water in this permit is San Pedro River. Unnamed Wash was jurisdictional before the promulgation of the Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWRP) by the US Army Corps and EPA, but subsequent to that rule the waterbody, an unnamed wash, is no longer jurisdictional. The 2016 DUs for the now non-jurisdictional unnamed Wash have gone through public comment, were promulgated into rule in A.A.C 18-11, and were approved by EPA as protective of both unnamed wash and the downstream San Pedro River, the ultimate receiving water for this permit. Federal and State law require that DUs for Wagner Wash provide for the attainment and maintenance of the water quality standards of downstream surface waters like the jurisdictional San Pedro. See 40 CFR 131.10(b) and AAC 18-11-104(F). Therefore, use of the DUs for an Unnamed Wash is protective of the downstream San Pedro's River DUs.</p>
<p>Is the receiving water on the 303(d) list?</p>	<p>No, and there are no TMDL issues associated.</p>
<p>Given the uses stated above, the applicable narrative water quality standards are described in A.A.C. R18-11-108, and the applicable numeric water quality standards are listed in A.A.C. R18-11-109 and in Appendix A thereof. There are two standards for the Aquatic and Wildlife uses, acute and chronic. In developing AZPDES permits, the standards for all applicable designated uses are compared and limits that will protect for all applicable designated uses are developed based on the standards. Due to the infrequent nature of the discharges, PCRWRD has requested that only acute standards be applied. ADEQ agreed, subject to discharge duration and frequency restrictions.</p>	

<p>V. DESCRIPTION OF DISCHARGE</p>		
<p>The following is the effluent quality based on the treatment processes designed, as outlined in the Mt. Lemmon WRF application dated January 8, 2021.</p>		
<p>Parameters</p>	<p>Units</p>	<p>Maximum Daily Discharge Concentration</p>
<p>Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)</p>	<p>mg/L</p>	<p>18.8</p>
<p>Total Suspended Solids (TSS)</p>	<p>mg/L</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN)</p>	<p>mg/L</p>	<p>2.63</p>
<p><i>E. coli</i></p>	<p>cfu / 100 mL</p>	<p>236</p>
<p>Facility design removal rates:</p>		<p>BOD 85 % TSS 85 %</p>

VI. STATUS OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE EXISTING AZPDES PERMIT	
Date of most recent inspection:	04/11/2019; no potential violations were noted as a result of this inspection.
DMR files reviewed:	08/2016 through 01/2021
Lab reports reviewed:	01/2018 through 01/2021
DMR Exceedances:	None
NOVs issued:	None
NOVs closed:	N/A
Compliance orders:	None

VII. PROPOSED PERMIT CHANGES			
The following table lists the major changes from the previous permit in this draft permit.			
Parameter	Existing Permit	Proposed permit	Reason for change
Reporting Location	Mail in hard copies of DMRs and other attachments	DMRs and other reports to be submitted electronically through myDEQ portal	Language added to support the NPDES electronic DMR reporting rule that became effective on December 21, 2015.
Cyanide	Effluent characterization	Limited	Data submitted indicated reasonable potential (RP) for an exceedance of a standard.
Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Acute Testing: Pimephales promelas and Ceriodaphnia dubia	Action Level	Limited	Data submitted indicated the survival test failed.
Table 1 - Effluent Limitations and Monitoring Requirements: Monthly Average limits for Copper and Zinc	Limited	Limit removed	Only acute standards apply.
Table 2 – Assessment Level Monitoring: Monthly Average Assessment level for Ammonia and Oil & grease	Limited	Limit removed	Only acute standards apply.
Anti-backsliding considerations – “Anti-backsliding” refers to statutory (Section 402(o) of the Clean Water Act) and regulatory (40 CFR 122.44(l)) requirements that prohibit the renewal, reissuance, or modification of an existing NPDES permit that contains effluent limits, permit conditions, or standards that are less stringent than those established in the previous permit. The rules and statutes do identify exceptions to these circumstances where backsliding is acceptable. This permit has been reviewed and drafted with consideration of anti-backsliding concerns.			

No limits have been removed from the permit. Limits are retained in the draft permit for parameters where reasonable potential (RP) for an exceedance of a standard continues to exist or is indeterminate. In these cases, limits will be recalculated using the most current Arizona Water Quality Standards (WQS). If less stringent limits result due to a change in the WQS then backsliding is allowed in accordance with 303(d)(4) if the new limits are consistent with antidegradation requirements and the receiving water is in attainment of the new standard; see Section XII for information regarding antidegradation requirements.

No limits are less stringent due to a change in the WQS in this permit.

VIII. DETERMINATION OF EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS and ASSESSMENT LEVELS

When determining what parameters need monitoring and/or limits included in the draft permit, both technology-based and water quality-based criteria were compared and the more stringent criteria applied.

Technology-based Limitations: As outlined in 40 CFR Part 133:

The regulations found at 40 CFR §133 require that POTWs achieve specified treatment standards for BOD, TSS, and pH based on the type of treatment technology available. Therefore, technology-based effluent limitations (TBELs) have been established in the permit for these parameters. Additionally, oil & grease will be monitored with an assessment level based on best professional judgment (BPJ). The daily maximum of 15 mg/L are commonly accepted values that can be achieved by properly operated and maintained WWTPs. This level is also considered protective of the narrative standard at A.A.C. R18-11-108(B).

Numeric Water Quality Standards: As outlined in A.A.C. R18-11-109 and Appendix A:

Per 40 CFR 122.44(d)(1)(ii), (iii) and (iv), discharge limits must be included in the permit for parameters with “reasonable potential” (RP), that is, those known to be or expected to be present in the effluent at a level that could potentially cause any applicable numeric water quality standard to be exceeded. RP refers to the possibility, based on the statistical calculations using the data submitted, or consideration of other factors to determine whether the discharge may exceed the Water Quality Standards. The procedures used to determine RP are outlined in the Technical Support Document for Water Quality-based Toxics Control (TSD) (EPA/505/2-90-001). In most cases, the highest reported value for a parameter is multiplied by a factor (determined from the variability of the data and number of samples) to determine a “highest estimated value”. This value is then compared to the lowest applicable Water Quality Standard for the receiving water. If the value is greater than the standard, RP exists and a water quality-based effluent limitation (WQBEL) is required in the permit for that parameter. RP may also be determined from BPJ based on knowledge of the treatment facilities and other factors. The basis for the RP determination for each parameter with a WQBEL is shown in the table below.

It is assumed that RP exists for exceedance of water quality criteria for the pollutants E. coli and, if chlorine or bromine is used in the treatment process, total residual chlorine (TRC). These parameters have been shown through extensive monitoring of WWTPs to fluctuate greatly and thus are not conducive to exclusion from limitation due to a lack of RP. Therefore, the draft permit contains WQBELs for E. coli and TRC.

The proposed permit has WQBELs based on Designated Uses (DUs) and associated SWQS set for unnamed tributary, a non-jurisdictional water, though the WOTUS that is the receiving water in this permit is a downstream San Pedro River. Unnamed tributary and Alder Wash were jurisdictional before the promulgation of the Navigable Waters Protection Act (NWRP) by the US Army Corps and EPA, but subsequent to that rule the waterbody, an unnamed tributary and Alder Wash, are no longer jurisdictional. The 2016 DUs for the now non-jurisdictional unnamed tributary have gone through public comment, were promulgated into rule in AAC 18-11, and were approved by EPA as protective of both unnamed tributary and the downstream San Pedro River, the ultimate receiving water for this permit. Federal and State law require that DUs for Unnamed tributary provide for the attainment and maintenance of

the water quality standards of downstream surface waters like the jurisdictional San Pedro River. See 40 CFR 131.10(b) and A.A.C. 18-11-104(F). Therefore, use of the DUs for unnamed tributary is protective of the downstream San Pedro River DUs.

The proposed permit limits were established using a methodology developed by EPA. Long Term Averages (LTA) were calculated for each designated use and the lowest LTA was used to calculate the average monthly limit (AML) and maximum daily limit (MDL) necessary to protect all uses. This methodology takes into account criteria, effluent variability, and the number of observations taken to determine compliance with the limit and is described in Chapter 5 of the TSD. Limits based on A&W criteria were developed using the “two-value steady state wasteload allocation” described on page 99 of the TSD. When the limit is based on human health criteria, the monthly average was set at the level of the applicable standard and a daily maximum limit was determined as specified in Section 5.4.4 of the TSD.

Discharge limitations: The designated uses in the permit are proposed to be PBC and A&Wedw acute only. These uses are considered protective of the Unnamed tributary because the permit restricts discharge frequencies and duration. Discharges lasting seven or more days and occurring more frequently than one time per month are prohibited.

Mixing Zone

Arizona water quality rules require that water quality standards be achieved without mixing zones unless the permittee applies and is approved for a mixing zone. Since the receiving stream for this discharge is ephemeral prior to the discharge, no water is available for a mixing zone and all water quality criteria are applied at end-of pipe. This means that the effluent concentration must meet stream standards.

Assessment Levels (ALs)

ALs are listed in Part I.B of the permit. An AL differs from a discharge limit in that an exceedance of an AL is not a permit violation. Instead, ALs serve as triggers, alerting the permitting authority when there is cause for re-evaluation of RP for exceeding a water quality standard, which may result in new permit limitations. The AL numeric values also serve to advise the permittee of the analytical sensitivity needed for meaningful data collection. Trace substance monitoring is required when there is uncertain RP (based on non-detect values or limited datasets) or a need to collect additional data or monitor treatment efficacy on some minimal basis. A reopener clause is included in the draft permit should future monitoring data indicate water quality standards are being exceeded.

The requirement to monitor for these parameters is included in the draft permit according to A.A.C. R18-11-104(C) and Appendix A. Except for oil and grease, ALs listed for each parameter were calculated in the same manner that a limit would have been calculated (see Numeric Water Quality Standards Section above). The ALs for oil and grease were determined based on BPJ as described above.

Ammonia water quality criteria vary based on the effluent pH and temperature at the time of effluent sampling. As a result, no single ammonia concentration can be included as a permit limit. To overcome this, an Ammonia Impact Ratio (AIR) of 1 for the maximum daily limits has been established as the permit limits for ammonia. The AIR is calculated by dividing the ammonia concentration in the effluent by the applicable ammonia standard based on the effluent pH and temperature at the time of sampling. AIR values will be reported on DMRs and on the Ammonia Data Log which is included as Appendix B in the permit.

The following trace substances were not included as limits or assessment levels in the draft permit due to a lack of RP based on best professional judgment (BPJ): barium, boron, nitrates, nitrites, and manganese. The numeric standards for these pollutants are well above what would be expected from a WWTP discharge.

Hardness

The permittee is required to sample hardness as CaCO_3 at the same time the trace metals are sampled because the water quality standards for some metals are calculated using the water hardness values. The hardness value of 115mg/L (the average hardness of the effluent as supplied in the application) was used to calculate the applicable water quality standards and any assessment levels or limits for the hardness dependent metals (cadmium, copper, lead, nickel, silver and zinc).

Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET)

WET testing is required in the draft permit (Parts I.C and IV) to evaluate the discharge according to the narrative toxic standard in A.A.C. R18-11-108(A)(5), as well as whether the discharge has RP for WET per 40 CFR 122.44(d)(iv). At a minimum, the results reported on an AZPDES application must include the results from all test performed during the 4.5 years prior to the application.

WET testing for acute toxicity is required. The requirement to conduct chronic toxicity testing is contingent upon the frequency or duration of discharges. Since completion of the chronic WET test requires a minimum of three samples be taken for renewals, the chronic WET test is not required during any given monitoring period in which the discharge does not occur over seven consecutive calendar days and is not repeated more frequently than every thirty days.

WET testing for acute toxicity shall be conducted using the following two surrogate species:

- *Ceriodaphnia dubia* (water flea) – for evaluating toxicity to invertebrates
- *Pimephales promelas* (fathead minnow) – for evaluating toxicity to vertebrates

ADEQ does not have a numeric standard for Whole Effluent Toxicity. However, ADEQ adopted the EPA recommended chronic toxicity benchmark of 1.0 TUc for a four day exposure period. Using this benchmark, the limitations and/or action levels for WET included in the draft permit were calculated in accordance with the methods specified in the TSD. The species chosen for WET testing are as recommended in the TSD and in *Regions 9 & 10 Guidance for Implementing Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Programs*.

An exceedance of a limit will trigger follow-up testing to determine if effluent toxicity is persistent. If toxicity above a limit or action level is found in a follow-up test, the permittee will be required to conduct a Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) and possibly a Toxicity Identification Evaluation (TIE) to identify the source of toxicity and reduce toxicity. These conditions are required to ensure that toxicants are not discharged in amounts that are toxic to organisms [A.A.C. R18-11-108(A)(5)]. A reopener clause is included in accordance with 40 CFR Parts 122 and 124 and AAC R18-9-B906.

The draft permit requires 8-hour composite samples be collected for WET testing. An 8-hour composite sample type was chosen over the suggested 24-hour composite for WET testing in order to have consistency with the type of sample required for other parameters requiring monitoring in this permit. WET sampling must coincide with testing for all the parameters in Parts I.A and B of the draft permit, when testing of those parameters is required, to aid in the determination of the cause of toxicity if toxicity is detected. Additional procedural requirements for the WET test are included in the proposed permit.

The required WET monitoring frequency for this facility is consistent with the WET testing frequency required for facilities with a similar design flow. The draft permit requires WET test results to be reported on discharge monitoring reports and submittal of the full WET lab report to ADEQ.

Effluent Characterization (EC)

In addition to monitoring for parameters assigned either a limit or an AL, sampling is required to assess the presence of pollutants in the discharge at certain minimum frequencies for additional suites of parameters, whether the facility is discharging or not. This monitoring is specified in Tables 4.a. through 4.b., *Effluent Characterization Testing*, as follows:

- Table 4.a. – General Chemistry and Microbiology: ammonia, BOD-5, *E. coli*, total residual chlorine (TRC), dissolved oxygen, total Kjeldahl nitrogen (TKN), nitrate/nitrite, oil and grease, pH, phosphorus, temperature, total dissolved solids (TDS), and total suspended solids (TSS)
- Table 4.b. – Selected Metals, Hardness, Cyanide, and Trace Substances

NOTE: Some parameters listed in Tables 4.a. and 4.b. are also listed in Tables 1 or 2. In this case, the data from monitoring under Tables 1 or 2 may be used to satisfy the requirements of Tables 4.a. and / or 4.b., provided the specified sample types are the same. In the event the facility does not discharge to a water of the U.S. during the life of the permit, EC monitoring of representative samples of the effluent is still required.

The purpose of EC monitoring is to characterize the effluent and determine if the parameters of concern are present in the discharge and at what levels. This monitoring will be used to assess RP per 40 CFR 122.44(d)(1)(iii)). EC monitoring is required in accordance with 40 CFR 122.43(a), 40 CFR 122.44(i), and 40 CFR 122.48(b) as well as A.R.S. §49-203(A)(7). If pollutants are noted at levels of concern during the permit term, this permit may also be reopened to add related limits or conditions.

Permit Limitations and Monitoring Requirements

The table that follows summarizes the parameters that are limited in the permit and the rationale for that decision. Also included are the parameters that require monitoring without any limitations or that have not been included in the permit at all and the basis for those decisions. The corresponding monitoring requirements are shown for each parameter. In general, the regulatory basis for monitoring requirements is per 40 CFR §122.44(i) *Monitoring requirements*, and 40 CFR §122.48(b), *Required monitoring*; all of which have been adopted by reference in A.A.C. R18-9-A905, *AZPDES Program Standards*.

Parameter	Lowest Standard / Designated Use	Maximum Reported Daily Value	No. of Samples	Estimated Maximum Value	RP Determination	Proposed Monitoring Requirement/ Rationale (1)
Flow	---	---	---	---	---	Discharge flow is to be monitored on a continual basis using a flow meter.
Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	30 mg/L 30-day average 45 mg/L 7-day average/ Technology-based limits 40 CFR 133.102	BOD: 18.8 mg/L TSS: 12 mg/L	BOD: 6 TSS: 6	N/A	TBELs for BOD and TSS are always applicable to WWTPs.	Monitoring for influent and effluent BOD and TSS to be conducted using composite samples of the influent and the effluent. The sample type required was chosen to be representative of the discharge. The requirement to monitor influent BOD and suspended solids is included to assess compliance with the 85% removal requirement in this permit. At least one sample must coincide with WET testing to aid in the determination of the cause of toxicity, if toxicity is detected.
Chlorine, Total Residual (TRC)	19 µg/L/ A&Wedw acute	< 6 µg/L	5	N/A	RP always expected when chlorine or bromine is used for disinfection.	TRC is to be monitored as a discrete sample and a WQBEL remains in the permit. 40 CFR Part 136 specifies that discrete samples must be collected for chlorine. At least one sample per month must coincide with WET testing to aid in the determination of the cause of toxicity, if toxicity is detected.
<i>E. coli</i>	30-day geometric mean: 126 cfu /100 mL (4 sample minimum) Single sample maximum: 575 cfu /100 mL/ PBC	236 MPN/100 mL	6	N/A	RP always expected for WWTPs. See explanation above.	<i>E. coli</i> is to be monitored as a discrete sample and a WQBEL remains in the permit.
pH	Minimum: 6.5 Maximum: 9.0 A&Wedw and PBC A.A.C. R18-11-109(B) Minimum: 6.0 Maximum: 9.0 Technology-based limits 40 CFR 133.102	6.7 to 7.6 pH units	6	N/A	WQBEL or TBEL is always applicable to WWTPs.	pH is to be monitored using a discrete sample of the effluent and a WQBEL is set. 40 CFR Part 136 specifies that grab samples must be collected for pH. At least one sample must coincide with WET testing to aid in the determination of the cause of toxicity if toxicity is detected. pH sampling must also coincide with ammonia sampling when required.
Temperature	R18-11-109C the discharge shall not cause an increase in the ambient water temperature. A&Wedw: no more than 3.0°C	17.3 °C to 18.3 °C	4	N/A	N/A	Effluent temperature is to be monitored for effluent characterization by discrete sample. 40 CFR Part 136 specifies that discrete samples must be collected for temperature. Temperature sampling must also coincide with ammonia sampling when required.

Parameter	Lowest Standard / Designated Use	Maximum Reported Daily Value	No. of Samples	Estimated Maximum Value	RP Determination	Proposed Monitoring Requirement/ Rationale (1)
Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)	No applicable standard	808 mg/L	4	N/A	N/A	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Ammonia	Standard varies with temperature and pH	5.31 mg/L	6	N/A	RP Indeterminate (2)	Ammonia is to be monitored by discrete sample and a WQBEL in the form of an ammonia impact ratio (AIR) of 1 is set in the permit (3). An ammonia data log with concurrent pH and temperature monitoring is also required. One sample must coincide with WET sampling to aid in the determination of the cause of toxicity, if toxicity is detected.
Nutrients (Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus)	No applicable standards	N – 78.4 mg/L P – 7.46 mg/L	N – 5 P - 5	N/A	N/A	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Oil & Grease	BPJ Technology-Based Level of 10 mg/L monthly average and 15 mg/L daily maximum	3.90 mg/L	6	N/A	RP Indeterminate (2)	Monitoring required and an assessment level remains in the permit.
Antimony	747 µg/L/ PBC	0.36 µg/L	4	1.69 µg/L	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Arsenic	280 µg/L/ PBC	0.2 µg/L	4	0.94 µg/L	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Beryllium	1867 µg/L/ PBC	< 0.33 µg/L	4	N/A	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Cadmium (4)	4.96 µg/L/ A&Wedw acute	< 0.41 µg/L	4	N/A	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Chromium (Total)	No applicable standard	1.97 µg/L	4	9.26 µg/L	N/A	Monitoring required as an indicator parameter for Chromium VI.
Chromium VI	16 µg/L/ A&Wedw acute	1.87 µg/L	4	8.8 µg/L	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization
Copper (4)	15 µg/L/ A&Wedw acute	34 µg/L	6	129 µg/L	RP Exists	Monitoring required and a WQBEL remains in the permit.

Parameter	Lowest Standard / Designated Use	Maximum Reported Daily Value	No. of Samples	Estimated Maximum Value	RP Determination	Proposed Monitoring Requirement/ Rationale (1)
Cyanide	41 µg/L/ A&Wedw acute	15 µg/L	4	71 µg/L	RP Exists	Monitoring is required and a WQBEL is set.
Hardness	No applicable standard. Hardness is used to determine standards for specific metal parameters.	141 mg/L	6	N/A	N/A	A&W standards for cadmium, chromium III, copper, lead, nickel, silver and zinc used for RP determinations were based on the average effluent hardness value of 115 mg/L. Monitoring for hardness is required whenever monitoring for hardness dependent metals is required.
Hydrogen Sulfide	No Applicable Standard	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	There is no acute standard for hydrogen sulfide for A&W uses.
Iron	No applicable standard	123 µg/L	3	N/A	N/A	There is no PBC and acute standard for Iron for A&W uses. Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Lead (4)	15 µg/L / PBC	0.23 µg/L	4	1.1 µg/L	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Mercury	2.4 µg/L/ A&Wedw acute	< 0.19 µg/L	4	N/A	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Nickel (4)	527 µg/L/ A&Wedw chronic	4.72 µg/L	4	22.2 µg/L	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Selenium	4667 µg/L/ PBC	0.53 µg/L	4	2.491 µg/L	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Silver (4)	4 µg/L/ A&Wedw acute	< 0.52 µg/L	4	N/A	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Sulfides	No applicable standard	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Sulfides standard removed for A&Wedw in 2009.
Thallium	75 µg/L/ PBC	< 0.23 µg/L	4	N/A	No RP	Monitoring required for effluent characterization.
Zinc (4)	132 µg/L/ A&Wedw acute	177 µg/L	4	673 µg/L	RP Exists	Monitoring required and a WQBEL remains in the permit.

Parameter	Lowest Standard / Designated Use		Maximum Reported Daily Value	No. of Samples	Estimated Maximum Value	RP Determination	Proposed Monitoring Requirement/ Rationale (1)
Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET)	No toxicity (A.A.C. R18-11-108(A)(6))	<i>Pimephales promelas</i>	Failed	1	N/A	RP Exists (2)	Monitoring required and a WQBEL is set.
		<i>Ceriodaphnia dubia</i>	Failed	1	N/A	RP Exists (2)	Monitoring required and a WQBEL is set.

Footnotes:

- (1) The monitoring frequencies are as specified in the permit.
- (2) Monitoring with ALs or Action Levels always required for WWTPs for these parameters unless RP exists and limits are set.
- (3) An AIR will be calculated by dividing effluent ammonia concentration by the applicable standard using the effluent pH.
- (4) Hardness-dependent metal - the standard for this parameter is based on the average hardness value of the effluent as indicated above.

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VIII. NARRATIVE WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

All narrative limitations in A.A.C. R18-11-108 that are applicable to the receiving water are included in Part I, Sections E of the draft permit.

IX. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS (Part II of Permit)

Section 308 of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR Part 122.44(i) require that monitoring be included in permits to determine compliance with effluent limitations. Additionally, monitoring may be required to gather data for future effluent limitations or to monitor effluent impacts on receiving water quality.

Monitoring frequencies are based on the nature and effect of the pollutant, as well as a determination of the minimum sampling necessary to adequately monitor the facility's performance. Monitoring frequencies for some parameters may be reduced in subsequent permits if all monitoring requirements have been met and the limits or ALs for those parameters have not been exceeded during the first permit term.

For the purposes of this permit, an "8-hour composite" sample has been defined as a flow-proportioned mixture of two or more discrete samples (aliquots) obtained at equal time intervals over an 8-hour period (if only two samples are collected, they should be taken approximately 8 hours apart). The volume of each aliquot shall be directly proportional to the discharge flow rate at the time of sampling.

These criteria for composite sampling are included in order to obtain samples that are representative of the discharge given the potential variability in the duration, frequency and magnitude of discharges from this facility. Information in the application indicates that the facility has not discharged since 2002.

Discrete (i.e., grab) samples are specified in the permit for parameters that for varying reasons are not amenable to compositing.

Monitoring locations are specified in the permit (Part I.A and Part II.A) in order to ensure that representative samples of the influent and effluent are consistently obtained.

The requirements in the permit pertaining to Part II, Monitoring and Reporting, are included to ensure that the monitoring data submitted under this permit is accurate in accordance with 40 CFR 122.41(e). The permittee has the responsibility to determine that all data collected for purposes of this permit meet the requirements specified in this permit and is collected, analyzed, and properly reported to ADEQ.

The permit (Part II.A.3) requires the permittee to keep a Quality Assurance (QA) manual at the facility, describing sample collection and analysis processes; the required elements of the QA manual are outlined.

Reporting requirements for monitoring results are detailed in Part II, Section B of the permit, including completion and submittal of Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs), Ammonia Data Logs, and AZPDES Flow Record forms. The permittee is responsible for conducting all required monitoring and reporting the results to ADEQ on DMRs or as otherwise specified in the permit.

Electronic reporting

The US EPA has published a final regulation that requires electronic reporting and sharing of Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program information instead of the current paper-based reporting (Federal Register, Vol. 80, No. 204, October 22, 2015). Beginning December 21, 2016 (one year after the effective date of the regulation), the Federal rule required permittees to make electronic submittals of any monitoring reports and

forms called for in their permits. ADEQ has created an online portal called myDEQ that allows users to submit their discharge monitoring reports and other applicable reports required in the permit.

The permit also requires annual submittal of an Ammonia Data Log that records the results for temperature, pH, and ammonia samples and date of sampling (Part II.B.3). Because the ammonia standards in 18 A.A.C. 11, Article 1, Appendix A are contingent upon the pH and temperature at the time of sampling for ammonia, the permittee must determine the applicable ammonia standard using the ammonia criteria table(s) and calculate the Ammonia Impact Ratio for that ammonia sample result. The AIR is recorded on the DMR.

Requirements for retention of monitoring records are detailed in Part II.C.3 of the permit.

X. BIOSOLIDS REQUIREMENTS (Part III in Permit)

Standard requirements for the monitoring, reporting, record keeping, and handling of biosolids, as well as minimum treatment requirements for biosolids according to 40 CFR Part 503 are incorporated in the draft permit.

XI. SPECIAL CONDITIONS (Part V in Permit)

Operation

This permit condition requires the permittee to ensure that the WWTP has an operator who is certified at the appropriate level for the facility, in accordance with A.A.C. R18-5-104 through -114. The required certification level for the WWTP operator is based on the class (Wastewater Treatment Plant) and grade of the facility, which is determined by population served, level of treatment, and other factors.

Permit Reopener

This permit may be modified based on newly available information; to add conditions or limits to address demonstrated effluent toxicity; to implement any EPA-approved new Arizona water quality standard; or to re-evaluate reasonable potential (RP), if assessment levels in this permit are exceeded [A.A.C. R18-9-B906 and 40 CFR Part 122.62 (a) and (b)].

XII. ANTIDegradation

Antidegradation rules have been established under A.A.C. R18-11-107 to ensure that existing surface water quality is maintained and protected.

All discharges from Mt. Lemmon Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WRF) are into unnamed tributary and Alder Wash that flows to the San Pedro River, a Water of the U.S. (WOTUS). Discharges from the Mt. Lemmon WRF through the AZPDES permitted Outfall 001, 002 and 003 will reach the receiving water, the San Pedro River, as described in Section IV. RECEIVING WATER, only during major storm events or during very wet seasons. Discharges during these conditions would be subject to an unknown amount of dilution in the receiving water. Reasonable potential to exceed surface water quality standards in the receiving water could exist if discharges occurred from the Mt. Lemmon WRF during dry weather when dilution is not available but such dry weather discharges are not likely to occur because of discharge volume (0.015 mgd) and distance of approximately 18 miles through the unnamed tributary and Alder Wash to the receiving water. Determining reasonable potential to exceed standards during wet weather cannot be accomplished unless the in-stream flow rate is known and the dilution factor can be determined.

As described in this document, the permit establishes effluent limits and monitoring requirements to ensure that all applicable water quality standards are met. The permit does not include a mixing zone, therefore these limits will apply at the end of pipe without consideration of dilution in the receiving water. Considering the discharge volume

and the distance of receiving water body, the likelihood of a discharge is not great. If such a discharge were to occur, it would be in response to a large precipitation event, resulting in large volume and limited duration. Therefore, the discharge is not expected to significantly affect receiving water body or result in any degradation of water quality.

Effluent quality limitations and monitoring requirements have been established under the proposed permit to ensure that the discharge will meet the applicable water quality standards. As long as the permittee maintains consistent compliance with these provisions, the designated uses of the receiving water will be presumed protected, and the facility will be deemed to meet currently applicable antidegradation requirements under A.A.C. R18-11-107.

XIII. STANDARD CONDITIONS

Conditions applicable to all NPDES permits in accordance with 40 CFR, Part 122 are attached as an appendix to this permit.

XIV. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Public Notice (A.A.C. R18-9-A907)

The public notice is the vehicle for informing all interested parties and members of the general public of the contents of a draft AZPDES permit or other significant action with respect to an AZPDES permit or application. The basic intent of this requirement is to ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to comment on significant actions of the permitting agency with respect to a permit application or permit. This permit will be public noticed in a local newspaper after a pre-notice review by the applicant and other affected agencies.

Public Comment Period (A.A.C. R18-9-A908)

Rules require that permits be public noticed in a newspaper of general circulation within the area affected by the facility or activity and provide a minimum of 30 calendar days for interested parties to respond in writing to ADEQ. After the closing of the public comment period, ADEQ is required to respond to all significant comments at the time a final permit decision is reached or at the same time a final permit is actually issued.

Public Hearing (A.A.C. R18-9-A908(B))

A public hearing may be requested in writing by any interested party. The request should state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised during the hearing. A public hearing will be held if the Director determines there is a significant amount of interest expressed during the 30-day public comment period, or if significant new issues arise that were not considered during the permitting process.

EPA Review (A.A.C. R18-9-A908(C))

A copy of this draft permit and any revisions made to this draft as a result of public comments received will be sent to EPA Region 9 for review. If EPA objects to a provision of the draft, ADEQ will not issue the permit until the objection is resolved.

XV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information relating to this proposed permit may be obtained from:

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division – Surface Water Permits Unit
Attn: Swathi Kasanneni
1110 West Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Or by contacting Swathi Kasanneni at (602) 771 – 4577 or by e-mail at kasanneni.swathi@azdeq.gov.

XVI. INFORMATION SOURCES

While developing effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and special conditions for the draft permit, the following information sources were used:

1. AZPDES Permit Application Form(s) 2A and 2S (or insert other forms submitted), received January 8, 2021, along with supporting data, facility diagram, and maps submitted by the applicant with the application forms.
2. ADEQ files Mt. Lemmon WRF.
3. ADEQ Geographic Information System (GIS) Web site
4. Arizona Administrative Code (AAC) Title 18, Chapter 11, Article 1, *Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters*, adopted December 31, 2016.
5. A.A.C. Title 18, Chapter 9, Article 9. *Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System* rules.
6. Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 40:
 - Part 122, *EPA Administered Permit Programs: The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.*
 - Part 124, *Procedures for Decision Making.*
 - Part 133. *Secondary Treatment Regulation.*
 - Part 503. *Standards for the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge.*
7. EPA Technical Support Document for Water Quality-based Toxics Control dated March 1991.
8. *Regions 9 & 10 Guidance for Implementing Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Programs*, US EPA, May 31, 1996.
9. *Short-term Methods for Estimating the Chronic Toxicity of Effluents and Receiving Waters to Freshwater Organisms* (EPA /821-R-02-013).
10. U.S. EPA NPDES Permit Writers' Manual, September 2010.