

(e) The Department shall assess a civil administrative penalty for violations of whole effluent toxicity limitations expressed as No Measurable Acute Toxicity (NMAT) based on the extent of the violator's exceedance of the whole effluent toxicity limitation at the midpoint of the following ranges except as adjusted pursuant to (f) below:

1. For any violation of a NMAT limit with greater than or equal to 50% mortality in any test concentration, including 100 percent effluent, the civil administrative penalty shall be in an amount up to \$50,000;
2. For any other violation of a NMAT limit the civil administrative penalty shall be in an amount up to \$40,000.

(f) The Department may, in its discretion, adjust the amount determined pursuant to (d) or (e) above to assess a civil administrative penalty in an amount no greater than the maximum amount nor less than the minimum amount in the range on the basis of the following factors:

1. The compliance history of the violator;
2. The number, frequency and severity of the violation(s);
3. The measures taken by the violator to mitigate the effects of the current violation or to prevent future violations;
4. The deterrent effect of the penalty;
5. The cooperation of the violator in correcting the violation, remedying the damage caused by the violation and ensuring that the violation does not reoccur;
6. Any unusual or extraordinary costs or impacts directly or indirectly imposed on the public or the environment as a result of the violation;
7. Any impacts on the receiving water, including stress upon the aquatic biota, or impairment of receiving water uses, such as for recreational or drinking water supply, resulting from the violation; and
8. Other specific circumstances of the violator or violation.

New Rule, R.1991 d.378, effective August 5, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 1089(a), 23 N.J.R. 2366(a).

Old section 8.12 Civil administrative penalty for economic benefit recodified to 8.13.

#### Case Notes

Penalty assessment for exceedances of effluent limitations were reduced for remedial efforts and "upset" from sewer blockage. Department of Environmental Protection v. Harding Woods, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (EPE) 195.

#### 7:14-8.13 Civil administrative penalty for economic benefit

(a) When the Department determines that the violator has gained an economic benefit from a violation, the De-

partment shall, in addition to any other civil administrative penalty assessed pursuant to this subchapter, include as part of a civil administrative penalty the economic benefit (in dollars) which the violator has realized as a result of not complying, or by delaying compliance, with the requirements of the Water Pollution Control Act, the New Jersey Underground Storage of Hazardous Substances Act or any rule, water quality standard, effluent limitation, administrative order or permit issued pursuant thereto.

(b) Economic benefit shall include:

1. The amount of savings realized from avoided capital or noncapital costs resulting from the violation;
2. The return earned or that may be earned on the amount of the avoided costs;
3. Any benefits accruing to the violator as a result of a competitive market advantage enjoyed by reason of the violation; and
4. Any other benefits resulting from the violation.

(c) The Department shall consider the following factors in determining economic benefit:

1. The amount of capital investments required, and whether they are one-time or recurring;
2. The amount of one-time nondepreciable expenditures;
3. The amount of annual expenses;
4. The useful life of capital;
5. Applicable tax, inflation and discount rates;
6. The amount of low interest financing, the low interest rate, and the corporate debt rate; and
7. Any other factors relevant to economic benefit.

(d) If the total economic benefit was derived from more than one violation, the total economic benefit amount may be apportioned among the violations from which it was derived so as to increase each civil administrative penalty assessment to an amount no greater than \$50,000 per violation.

Amended by R.1991 d.378, effective August 5, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 1089(a), 23 N.J.R. 2366(a).

Section recodified from 8.12.

In (a), added "When the Department . . . , the Department shall"; deleted "If the total economic benefit . . . per violation".

Added (b), (c), and (d).

#### 7:14-8.14 Civil administrative penalty for failing to comply with an information request or administrative subpoena, and the destruction of records

(a) The Department may assess a civil administrative penalty pursuant to this section against each violator who fails to completely respond to an information request or

administrative subpoena, or destroys records relating to a discharge to surface water within five years of the discharge, or to a discharge to ground water at any time without the prior written permission of the Department.

(b) Each day that the violator does not fully respond to any item in an information request or administrative subpoena and each item in an information request or administrative subpoena that is not fully responded to shall be an additional, separate and distinct violation.

(c) The Department shall assess a civil administrative penalty for each failure to completely respond to an information request or administrative subpoena in an amount up to \$50,000 based on the following factors:

1. The substantive responsiveness of the violator's response to the information request or administrative subpoena;
2. Number of items in the information request or administrative subpoena which the violator attempted to respond to;
3. Number of items in the information request or administrative subpoena which the violator did not respond to;
4. The timeliness of the violator's response; and
5. Any other relevant factors.

(d) The Department shall assess a civil administrative penalty for the destruction of records in violation of P.L. 1990, c. 28, section 15, based on the conduct of the violator at the midpoint of the following ranges:

1. For each intentional, deliberate, purposeful, knowing or willful act or omission by the violator, the civil administrative penalty shall be in an amount up to \$50,000; and
2. For each other violation not identified pursuant to (d)1 above the civil administrative penalty shall be in the amount up to \$30,000.

New Rule, R.1991 d.378, effective August 5, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 1089(a), 23 N.J.R. 2366(a).

Old section 8.14 Severability, recodified to 8.16.

#### Case Notes

Penalty found appropriate for failure to provide self-monitoring reports, failure to construct treatment works and continued excessive discharge of pollutants. *Lentine Aggregates v. Dept. of Environmental Protection*, 4 N.J.A.R. 117 (1981), affirmed per curiam Dkt. No. A-3424-80 (App.Div.1982).

#### 7:14-8.15 (Reserved)

Amended by R.1989 d.282, effective June 5, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 373(a), 21 N.J.R. 1530(a).

(d) and (e) deleted, (f) and (g) recodified as (d) and (e).

Amended by R.1991 d.378, effective August 5, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 1089(a), 23 N.J.R. 2366(a).

Section recodified from 8.13.

In (b), added "the Water Supply and Wastewater Operators' Licensing Act and the Water Supply Management Act, or"; added "adopted or issued pursuant thereto,".

Added (f).

Amended by R.1995 d.162, effective March 20, 1995.

See: 26 N.J.R. 4912(a), 27 N.J.R. 1265(a).

Repealed by R.1997 d.48, effective February 3, 1997.

See: 28 N.J.R. 4300(a), 29 N.J.R. 480(c).

Section was "Water Supply and Wastewater Operators' Licensing Act civil administrative penalties".

#### 7:14-8.16 Civil administrative penalty determination for indirect dischargers

(a) The Department may assess a civil administrative penalty against any indirect discharger of not more than \$50,000, for each violation of each provision of the Water Pollution Control Act and for each violation of any rule, pretreatment standard, effluent limitation, administrative order or permit issued pursuant thereto. The Department shall assess a minimum mandatory civil administrative penalty in an amount:

1. Not less than \$1,000 for each serious violation as defined under N.J.A.C. 7:14-8.2; and
2. Not less than \$5,000 for each violation that causes a violator to be, or continue to be, a significant noncomplier as defined under N.J.A.C. 7:14-8.2.

(b) Each violation of any provision of the Water Pollution Control Act or any rule, pretreatment standard, effluent limitation, administrative order or permit issued by the Department, shall constitute an additional, separate and distinct violation. In addition, the unpermitted discharge of each separate pollutant shall constitute an additional, separate and distinct violation.

(c) Each day during which a violation as set forth in (b) above continues shall constitute an additional, separate and distinct violation.

(d) Unless the Department assesses a civil administrative penalty as set forth in N.J.A.C. 7:14-8.6 through 7:14-8.12, the Department may assess a civil administrative penalty for violations described in this section as described in (e) below.

(e) To assess a civil administrative penalty pursuant to this section, the Department shall:

1. Identify the penalty range within the matrix in (f) below by:
  - i. Determining the seriousness of the violation pursuant to (g) below; and
  - ii. Determining the conduct of the violator pursuant to (h) below; and
2. Assess the penalty at the midpoint of the range within the matrix in (f) below, unless adjusted pursuant to (i) below.

(f) The matrix of ranges of penalties is as follows: