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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

LOW RISK DISCHARGE GUIDANCE:

DISCHARGES FROM SWIMMING POOLS, HOT TUBS, DECORATIVE FOUNTAINS AND OTHER SIMILAR TYPE FACILITIES

JUNE 2008

This discharge guidance has been developed in accordance with WQP-27, Low Risk Discharges. The Division has not developed a general permit for this category of discharges, and is instead managing the discharge through the development of guidance. When the provisions of this guidance are met, the Division will not actively pursue permitting or enforcement for the discharge from swimming pools, hot tubs, decorative fountains or other similar facilities, unless on a case-by-case basis the Division finds that a discharge has resulted in an adverse impact to the quality of any state waters receiving the discharge.

Discharges from swimming pools and other similar facilities are a type of industrial activity with short term infrequent discharges that with proper management are not expected to contain pollutants in concentrations that are toxic or in concentrations that would cause or contribute to a violation of a water quality standard. Typical pollutants of concern are total residual chlorine or bromine, coliforms, total suspended solids, and oil and grease. These pollutants can be handled using dechlorination techniques, filters, oil booms, and other best management practices (BMPs). There are a large number of these types of facilities including individual residences, apartment or condominium complexes, hotels, health clubs, schools, community swimming pools, and other public or private facilities. These types of discharges may occur at all times of the year, and require a resource intensive effort to permit, without resulting in a clear general benefit to environmental quality

The following items must be followed by anyone discharging swimming pool or other similar type wastewater:

- During cleaning operations, the discharge of cleaning materials or chemicals is strictly prohibited, and should be sent to the sanitary sewer, with permission of the local wastewater treatment facility, or otherwise collected and disposed of.
- All discharges must comply with the lawful requirements of federal agencies, municipalities, counties, drainage districts, and other local agencies regarding any discharges to storm drain systems, conveyances, or other water courses under their jurisdiction. In addition, if the discharge is to a storm sewer, prior to discharge the owner/operator must notify the owner of the conveyance system of the date, approximate time, location, and duration of the discharge(s). The guidance included in this document in no way reduces the existing authority of the owner of a storm sewer, or other local agency, from prohibiting or placing additional conditions on the discharge.
- The discharge shall not result in flooding of neighboring property, streets, gutters or storm sewers.

- The discharge must be diverted from building foundations or other areas that may be damaged from ground settling or swelling.
- The discharge must be visibly clear and not contain floating or solid materials.
- A visible sheen must not be evident in the discharge.
- The discharge must not contain any residual chlorine.

BMPs should be implemented as necessary to meet the conditions above, by anyone discharging swimming pool wastewater or other similar type water. These BMPs have been developed by the Division to help ensure that the discharge will not negatively affect water quality.

- Discharge to the ground should be through the soil or a rock pit. Drainage should be a minimum of 100 feet from drinking water wells or other human contact areas. Filter backwash areas may need to be fenced from human or animal contact.
- If discharge is to the sanitary sewer or a storm sewer, be sure to **contact the local wastewater treatment** facility or owner of the storm sewer prior to discharge. This must be done to ensure that the facility is able to accept the discharge. Not all facilities are able to accept such discharges. Note that additional restrictions or local guidelines may apply.
- Remove any solid chlorine or bromine tablets or pucks from the filtration system and disconnect
 automatic disinfecting devices well in advance of draining a pool, hot tub or other similar facility. Allow
 water to stand uncovered until no chlorine or bromine residual is detected. Pay particular attention when
 handling super-chlorinated waters. A longer time is needed to dissipate chlorine from super-chlorinated
 waters.
- A filter bag or similar filtration device should be used to remove suspended solids, hair or other debris. This device should be used and maintained in accordance with the manufacturers specifications.
- An absorbent oil pad, boom or similar device should be used to eliminate any oil from the discharge water.
- When discharging, allow the water to drain <u>slowly</u> so that it soaks into the ground with minimal ponding and without running off of the property, or causing flooding issues.
- The discharge and associated runoff should be routed so that it does not cause any erosion.
- All pool and hot tub treatment, maintenance and cleaning chemicals should be stored in a secure area
 where spills are contained and cannot enter the drainage or the sanitary sewer system. Old cleaning,
 maintenance and treatment chemicals may require special disposal. Follow the manufacturer's directions
 for disposal of these products. For further disposal information, contact the Colorado Department of
 Public Health and Environment's Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division at 303-6923320.

Contact Information:

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