



COLORADO WATER QUALITY FORUM ANNUAL RETREAT

Are you “in the know?” About water quality regulations and guidance, that is. Join us July 10 and 11 for the annual retreat of the Colorado Water Quality Forum. This two-day event is one resource for learning about the numerous work groups, proposed regulations and guidances, upcoming concerns in Colorado and all the stakeholders.

The Annual Retreat provides an overview of the stakeholder work which has been accomplished up to now, and sets goals for the upcoming year.

This year’s agenda includes:

- Issues Scan – *Review and clarify issues*
- EPA Headquarters: *Trends and Hot Issues*-- Ephraim King, Director, Office of Science and Technology
- Panel Context and Overview– Paul Frohardt, WQCC
- Drinking Water
- Emerging Issues and Trends—Regulatory Issues and Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Issues
- Individual Disposal Sewage Systems—panel discussion
- Water Quality Management & Drinking Water Protection Handbook – Carl Norbeck, WQCD
- Expanding Water Supply Challenges—panel discussion
- WQF Work Plan for 2006 – 2007

Join us for one day or both days at the *The Lodge and Spa at Breckenridge*. It will be worth your time. The Water Quality Forum Conference package rates cover the costs of all of the conference expenses. Package rates (including tax and gratuity) are:

Single occupancy \$211.00/person
Double occupancy \$164.00/person

Not staying the night, but plan to be at the meetings during the day? The package rate is \$115.00/person for both days.

Should the cost of the retreat be prohibitive for your organization, there are a few scholarships available. For details, call Lisa Carlson at 303.352.3802.

Even though the retreat is right around the corner it is not too late to sign up!

Don't Forget

July 31 is the deadline to submit suggested names for our newsletter.

Put on your creative thinking caps.
You can suggest more than one name.

What have you got to lose!!
If your suggestion is selected you will receive a \$10 gift certificate card to Starbucks®.



Please email your suggestions to Mary Gardner at mgardner@englewoodgov.org

JULY MEETING – CDPH&E BIOSOLIDS

July 12, Wesley Carr, Environmental Protection Specialist WQCD, will update us on proposed changes to Biosolids Regulation #64.

A joint WQCD/RMWEA Biosolids Committee workgroup has been drafting proposed regulatory changes to the regulation as part of the triennial review process. The draft proposal is due to the Water Quality Control Commission in September and the rulemaking is scheduled for February.

Regulatory changes contemplated include:

- Establishing a consistent method for determining agronomic rates of application
- Establishing buffer zones between land-application sites and residences
- Implementing a “generator certification” mechanism to certify facility treatment methods and resulting biosolids quality meet 40 CFR Part 503 and Regulation 64 requirements for use and distribution (main focus on LOI streamlining and annual report review)
- Streamlining and clarifying the letter of intent and annual report process
- Incorporating site closure/site deactivation requirements for better housekeeping practices
- Application site notification requirements to better inform LHDs and WQCD of biosolids application sites at any given time
- Other minor global changes and SOBP clarification language

Take advantage of this opportunity to review the proposed changes and provide feedback directly to WQCD!

Contact Wesley Carr: wes.carr@state.co.us, phone 303.692.3613, fax 303.782.0390.

CWWUC CALENDAR

The CWWUC meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Littleton/Englewood WWTP, located at 2900 S. Platte River Drive, Englewood, CO. Please visit our website for a map and driving directions.

July 12	Biosolids - Wesley Carr, CDPHE
August 9	Mary Smith – Mutual Aid Dave Akers - SSO
Sept 13	Annual Meeting at RMWEA/AWWA Conference - Vail, Colorado
Oct 11	Jerry Raisch – Temperature
Nov 8	Water Quality Control Division Activities & Policies, Steve Gunderson
Dec 13	CWQCC 2007 Activities/Water Quality Forum, Paul Frohardt

MISS A RECENT CWWUC MEETING?

You can access the minutes of our recent meetings via our website. Just type in this URL: <http://www.cwwuc.org/>

CONTACT US:

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The newsletter of Colorado Wastewater Utility Council is published four times a year in January, April, July, & October.

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NORM AND TENORM

What is NORM and TENORM? NORM is *naturally occurring radioactive material*. TENORM is *technologically-enhanced naturally occurring radioactive material*. OK, so what's the fuss, you ask? Our drinking water plants have this material in the treatment residual sludge and like all other waste products it needs to find a final resting place.

EPA Perspective

First, let's take a look at it from EPA's perspective. Why is EPA concerned about TENORM? Many of the materials that are technically TENORM have only trace amounts of radiation and are part of our everyday landscape. However, some TENORM has higher concentrations of radionuclides (radium, uranium, thorium and its decay products – "progeny" – and potassium) that can result in elevated exposures to radiation, and may cross regulatory thresholds requiring expenditure of administrative and economic resources.

EPA is concerned about TENORM for these reasons.

- It has the potential to cause elevated exposure to radiation.
- People may not be aware of TENORM materials and need information about them.
- Industries generating these materials may need additional guidance to help manage and dispose of them in ways that protect people and the environment and are economically and legally sound.
- We still do not understand fully all of the potential radiation exposure risks it presents to humans and the environment.

State of Colorado Concerns

Why is the State of Colorado concerned about TENORM, and what is being done here in our back yard about regulating disposal of it? In the past, handling of drinking water treatment residuals was on a case-by-case basis. However, due to new Federal and State regulations limiting radioactivity in drinking water, Colorado has been working with stakeholders via a workgroup to provide a more

efficient means for the disposal of water treatment residuals containing TENORM by taking a multi-disciplinary approach.

It's a slow process, but here's what's been going on so far. The comment period for a guidance document prepared by CDPH&E, "*Policy and Implementing Guidance for Control and Disposition of Drinking Water Treatment Residuals Containing Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material (TENORM)*," ended on May 1, 2006. A "Response to Comments" document is being created and will be posted on the CDPH&E website. Additional stakeholder meetings should begin in July 2006. (Keep an eye out for updates on this because there is more to come on this topic).

Colorado Springs, Denver, Canyon City and Englewood have been meeting with CDPH&E and the Rocky Mountain Low Level Waste Compact Board (an independent federal entity that has jurisdiction over disposal of low level radioactive waste within the states of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming) to lobby against having only one designated TENORM disposal facility in the Rocky Mountain region. Currently, they have been successful in getting any disposal-related decisions temporarily postponed.

In a recent move, the Compact Board put a nine month moratorium on any TENORM enforcement and violation activities. This allows the disposal of drinking water treatment plant residuals in the same manner as they have been up to now, without consequences. Also, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) recently issued a directive to its staff to prepare a rulemaking for a new general license related to removal of uranium from drinking water. The NRC has directed its staff to issue the final rule by 12/31/2007.

If you are interested in more information on this topic, please contact Glenn Bodnar, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, at 303.692.3548 or glenn.bodnar@state.co.us or for a more "global" view of the topic you may want to join the Norm-Tenorm discussion groups at: www.yahogroups.com.

CHANGED AMMONIA WATER QUALITY STANDARDS TO AFFECT MANY COLORADO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS

Recent and impending revisions to the water quality standards for ammonia, as adopted by the Colorado Water Quality Control Commission, will impact many communities that own and/or operate wastewater (sewage) treatment plants. These changes, which implement revisions of the U.S. EPA's water quality criteria for ammonia, could result in the need for capital improvements to wastewater treatment facilities.

By March 2007, the Commission will adopt the new ammonia standards for all streams, rivers and lakes in the state. Soon thereafter, the standards will become part of discharge permits issued to wastewater facilities. Although facilities may have several years after the issuance of the next discharge permit to meet these new standards, communities need to act soon to evaluate the facilities and, if applicable, plan for the design, financing, and construction of facility upgrades.

Will your community's wastewater facility need capital improvements? That depends upon information specific to the water-body to which the facility discharges its treated wastewater, and the treatment capabilities of the facility. The new ammonia standards depend on water chemistry, fish species in the water, flow, and other characteristics of the stream where the wastewater facility discharges. More stringent ammonia requirements will be imposed on wastewater facilities discharging to plains and lower valley warm-water streams. Consequently, many facilities may need to reduce the amount of ammonia discharged to the streams, and remove more ammonia during treatment.

Lagoon-based treatment facilities will probably require the greatest amount of investment. Roughly estimated, changes to facilities could cost about \$2/gallon of treatment capacity to more than \$6/gallon. Thus a facility serving a community of 10,000 people (1 million gallons/day) could be subject to \$2 million or more in capital improvements. Note that these are generalized costs; actual costs will depend on the nature of the facility, improvements needed, timeframe of upgrades, and engineering and construction costs.



control Division (Division) is committed to helping facilities prepare for and comply with the new ammonia standards and stands ready to provide regulatory and technical guidance. The owners of the facility can work in cooperation with the Division to establish a schedule for improvements to the facility. Funding for such improvements could be obtained from one or more of the following sources: Water Pollution Control Revolving Loan, changes in customer rates and charges, or grants. For additional information, the owners and operators of wastewater treatment facilities should contact the Division and/or the Colorado Wastewater Utility Council, as noted below.

Recommended actions:

- Forward a copy of this note to the manager of your community's wastewater treatment plant.
- Obtain more information at:
www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/wqcc/wqcchom.asp
www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/wqhom.asp .
- Contact the Colorado Water Quality Control Division and/or the Colorado Wastewater Utility Council:

Water Quality Control Division

Lynn Kimble 303.692.3615 Lynn.Kimble@state.co.us

Eric Oppelt 303.692.3608 Eric.Oppelt@state.co.us

Wastewater Utility Council

Paul Ferraro 303.904.2177 pferraro@ix.netcom.com

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- Urge staff to initiate the process of evaluating the treatment facility and, if necessary, start planning for treatment plant upgrades.