

The Confluence



The newsletter of the Colorado Utility Council

Back-to-School Issue

August 23, 2010

Nonylphenol Standards to Become Effective in 2011



Nonylphenol is often an ingredient found in detergents and household cleaners.

By Amy Woodis

At the June 2010 rulemaking hearing for Regulation #31 (the Basic Standards), the Colorado Wastewater

Utility Council proposed to extend the delayed effective date for nonylphenol until January 1, 2017. Nonylphenol is a surfactant chemical and is widely available. However, it is a known en-

docrine disruptor than can have negative impacts on aquatic life.

We felt this extension was necessary because there is still significant uncertainty primarily with respect to approved analytical methods to determine compliance with the aquatic life-based nonylphenol water quality standards and the ability of publicly owned treatment works to control industrial sources through pretreatment program activities. It is suspected that commercial laundries are a large source of nonylphenol; however, it has also been found wastewater from

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Regulatory Update—Nutrient Criteria

Work on establishing state nutrient criteria is moving forward. A nutrient Criteria Workgroup meeting was held on August 10th to discuss mechanisms for nutrient influences on aquatic life. The meeting was well-attended by a variety of

stakeholders including municipalities, industries, special districts and other members of the environmental community.

The meeting began with feedback and discussion of the WQCD's nutrient criteria concept paper. This pa-

per as well as comments and papers from the EPA, Metro Wastewater, City of Aurora, and Colorado Nutrient Coalition can be found at www.cwqf.org under the nutrient workgroup page.

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Spotlight on Wastewater Utility Council Member

Monument Sanitation District — Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility

Monument Sanitation District is a valuable member of the Colorado Wastewater Utility Council. MSD's representatives are Mike Wicklund, Monument Dis-

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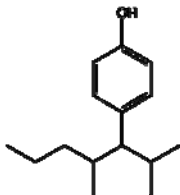
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The Confluence



Studies confirm that children who eat breakfast perform better in school.

“The Textile Rental Service Association has committed to voluntarily phase out the use of NP-related compounds in industrial liquid detergents



Nonylphenol is a family of organic compounds, a subset of the alkylphenols

New Slate of Officers to be Voted on in Keystone

The Colorado Wastewater Utility Council will hold a business breakfast meeting at the RMSAWWA/RMWEA Conference in Keystone this year. The meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, September 14th, 2010 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

One major piece of business that will be conducted at the meeting is the Board of Director election. The Slate for 2011 Board of Directors posi-

tions is as follows:

Chair—Dennis Stowe
(Littleton-Englewood)

Vice Chair—Amy Woodis
(Metro Wastewater)

Secretary—Bob Anastasov
(Aurora)

Treasurer—Tim Grotheer
(Centennial)

Director—Nancy Keller
(Pueblo)

Director—Ginny Johnson
(Colorado Springs)

Email ballots will be sent out for members who will not be attending the event in Keystone. Those members wishing to attend the breakfast meeting should be sure and include it on their conference registration form. In addition to the election, there will be a summary of regulatory issues and recap of the Council's activities. *

Nonylphenol Standard Will Require Monitoring

(Continued from Nonylphenol pg. 1)

many other commercial entities such as car washes and manufacturers. In fact, in the recent Gulf of Mexico oil spill, EPA headquarters launched an investigation into the dispersants used because several of them potentially contained significant levels of nonylphenol.

The Colorado Water Quality Control Commission did not agree with the Council's position on this issue. As a result, the water quality standards for nonylphenol (28 ug/L – acute and 6.6 ug/L – chronic) will

become effective January 1, 2011 throughout the state. However, because of the concerns raised by the Council, the Commission indicated that nonylphenol effluent limits would not be imposed during the initial round of permit renewals. Instead, monitoring would be required as a first step.

There is currently no Practical Quantitation Limitation for nonylphenol. To address this issue, several Council members, including Centennial W&S, Metro Wastewater, Westminster, Boulder, Aurora, and Littleton/Englewood have recently volunteered to work with the Water Qual-

ity Control Division to develop a PQL for nonylphenol.

Since the hearing, EPA headquarters has announced that it may issue new rules for nonylphenol or may consider a nationwide ban on the chemical and its precursors. In addition, a national trade organization, the Textile Rental Service Association, has committed to voluntarily phase out the use of NP-related compounds in industrial liquid detergents by December 31, 2013 and industrial powder detergents by the end of 2014. *

Back-to-School Issue

State Encourages Participation in DEA –Sponsored Drug Take-back

By Greg Fabisiak

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is sponsoring a National Pharmaceutical Take-Back Day on September 25, 2010. A nation-wide event will provide a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction.

This one day effort will bring national focus to the issue of pharmaceutical substance abuse, while providing a secure and environmentally-friendly outlet for disposal that will protect our water resources.

Applications have been received by the DEA and your local law enforcement agency may be planning to participate. If you are interested

in helping, please contact your local law enforcement agency to see if they are participating and how you or your facility might be of assistance in this important effort. *



The Colorado Medication Take-Back Pilot Project provides a network of secure boxes for the collection of unused and unwanted household medications. Since December 2009, more than 4,000 pounds of medications have been deposited at ten convenient locations. For more information visit: www.coloradomedtakeback.info.



Phosphorus was first isolated in 1669 by German alchemist Hennig Brand. Brand made his discovery while heating and purify-

“True terror is to wake up one morning and discover that your high school class is running the country.”

- Kurt Vonnegut Jr.

Nutrient Workgroup Meeting Includes Presentations

(Continued from Nutrients pg. 1)

The meeting continued with presentations about perspectives on mechanisms for nutrient influences on aquatic life. The first presentation was given by the State and included a breakdown of the complicated web of effects of nutrient and other stressors on a streams aquatic macroinvertebrate community and resultant MMI score.

The next presentation was put on by the Colorado Nutrient Coalition. This group is a recently formed coalition of municipalities, sanitation districts, water districts, and other water and wastewater associations including the CWWUC. Its purpose is to develop expert insights and comments upon the nutrients strategies and proposals of the Colorado Water Quality

Control Division.

The CNC's presentation included disagreement with the need for a nitrogen standard without further study and questioned whether the MMI-based quantile regression approach was enough to determine nutrient standards or impairments without evaluation of other factors. *

“The CNC's presentation included disagreement with the need for a nitrogen standard without further study”



Serving Colorado's Water Quality and Treatment Needs

The newsletter of the Colorado Wastewater Utility Council

The Colorado Wastewater Utility Council's mission is to “professionally and responsibly promote environmental protection by supporting legislation and regulations which achieve well-defined environmental benefits while maintaining local flexibility.”

The Confluence is a quarterly publication of the Colorado Wastewater Utility Council. For newsletter questions, suggestions, article submissions, etc. please contact: Blair Corning— bcorning@sacwud.org— 720-206-0463

Other questions or input concerning the CWWUC may be emailed to: admin@cwwuc.org or a Board member below.

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Tri Lakes One of First Activated Sludge Facilities

(Continued from Spotlight—pg. 1)



The activated sludge process uses suspended microorganisms to digest the organic material in wastewater.

district Manager and Jim Kendrick, Operations.

Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility is jointly owned in equal shares by three special districts: Monument Sanitation District, Palmer Lake Sanitation District, Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District.

Tri-Lakes is one of the first activated sludge facilities in the country with three aeration basins and clarifiers and a lagoon that produces sludge that can be directly land applied after de-watering.

Currently only about 23 percent of plant capacity is used, with Woodmoor providing about three times the volume of wastewater of Monument and Palmer Lake.

The value of the plant is about \$6 million to serve about 5,000 residences and a small percentage of commercial and a few industrial constituents; most of the latter are in

Monument. One of the big issues for Monument Sanitation District and the Tri-Lakes plant is the amount of copper in the effluent is often higher than the proposed permit limits of 8 and 11.7 ppb now that Monument Creek has been re-designated from effluent dominated to antidegradation status. Monthly test samples in the past year have been 5-12 ppb. RO tertiary treatment will cost \$30M to \$50M to construct. *