

ATTACHMENT 3



Nonylphenol Notice

Nonylphenol (NP), the starting material and breakdown product of a widely used surfactant, nonylphenol ethoxylate (NPE), is nearly ubiquitous in the environment. The surfactant, NPE, is typically used in commercial and industrial laundry detergents, cleaners and soaps; textile processing; leather processing; pulp and paper manufacturing; paints; and as a dispersing agent in pesticides and herbicides.

As a result of extensive studies and research, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) determined NP to be extremely toxic to aquatic organisms and their environment and, as such, established water quality standards for NP at the national level. Colorado's Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) has adopted EPA's water quality standard for NP of 6.6 parts per billion, with an effective date of January 1, 2011.

Businesses or establishments that use products containing NP or NPE may have the potential to violate requirements of Metro Water Recovery's *Rules and Regulations*. Specifically, Section 6.14.20, of the *Rules and Regulations* prohibits the discharge of any substance which may cause Metro to violate its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit or the receiving water quality standards.

Metro recognizes the need for surfactants in the formulation of many products. However, there are alternative chemicals that can be used in formulations other than NP and NPE. Metro is asking businesses to check their chemical inventories or contact their chemical manufacturer to determine whether or not chemicals utilized at their facility contain NP or NPE (chemical list attached). Businesses that use NP or NPE containing products are asked to select alternative products for use at their facility.

Unless users reduce or eliminate the discharge of these compounds, it will be necessary for Metro to implement a limit for the amount allowed to be discharged to the sanitary sewers or prohibit the discharge entirely. Each user would be required to demonstrate compliance with the limit or prohibition.

Metro is the wastewater treatment facility for most of the Denver metropolitan area and it administers a metro area program for the control of industrial waste discharges to the sanitary sewer system, known as the Pretreatment Program. All businesses, including industrial, commercial, and governmental establishments, are subject to the requirements of the Pretreatment Program. We are dedicated to protecting our environment and complying with all applicable regulations; therefore, we ask for the cooperation of businesses and establishments to assist in the elimination of these compounds in sanitary sewer discharges to enable us to comply with the adoption of this water quality standard.

Contact Chip Padilla (303-286-3394), Metro Industrial Pretreatment Program Supervisor, for additional information.