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July 24, 2017

**Sandra O'Neill**  
Pesticide Re-evaluation Division  
Office of Pesticide Programs  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20460  
Submitted via [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

**Re: Docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0306, Boric Acid/Sodium Salts Registration Review**

Dear Ms. O'Neill:

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Proposed Interim Decision for boric acid/sodium salts, which are used in swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs. NACWA represents the interests of nearly 300 publicly owned wastewater treatment agencies nationwide, serving the majority of the sewered population in the U.S. Many NACWA members also provide stormwater services for their communities.

Swimming pools may be periodically drained to municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s), to sanitary sewers leading to publicly owned treatment works (POTWs), or to surrounding landscaped areas. MS4s and POTWs are not specifically designed to treat pesticides, and some antimicrobials could potentially interfere with the biological processes used to treat wastewater. While MS4s and POTWs may have the ability to work with public and commercial swimming pool operators to control pool drainage practices, it is difficult for MS4s and POTWs to regulate the frequency, volume, and constituents of discharges from the millions of residential pools in the U.S.

NACWA previously commented on EPA's Proposed Interim Decision for lithium hypochlorite, another pool, spa, and fountain chemical and supports the practical label language developed by EPA, including the following instructions:

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“Before draining a treated pool, spa, or hot tub, contact your local sanitary sewer and storm drain authorities and follow their discharge instructions. Do not discharge treated pool or spa water to any location that flows to a gutter or storm drain or natural water body unless discharge is allowed by state and local authorities.”

The proposed language for boric acid/sodium salts does not include the second sentence in these instructions, and NACWA requests that EPA add it to the final label language. Since the label may be the only instructions seen by users of the products regarding drainage, this language will inform the user of the need to find out and follow the appropriate procedures for their locality.

In addition, NACWA supports the comments and information submitted by the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA) and agrees with the recommendation made by BACWA that the “Environmental Hazards” label section be clarified so that it is consistent with the end use of the product, as it was for lithium hypochlorite.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please contact me at 202-533-1836 or [cfinley@nacwa.org](mailto:cfinley@nacwa.org) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia A. Finley".

Cynthia A. Finley, Ph.D.  
Director, Regulatory Affairs