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June 6, 2019

Daniel Halpert  
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-2010-0242, Draft Risk Assessment, Chlorine Gas**

Dear Mr. Halpert:

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Draft Risk Assessment for chlorine gas (84 *Fed. Reg.* 13915), which is used as an antimicrobial in swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs. NACWA represents the interests of over 300 publicly owned wastewater treatment agencies nationwide, serving the majority of the sewered population in the US. 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. Discharges to MS4s typically flow without treatment directly to creeks, and very little dilution may be available in dry weather for some creeks. 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 US.

NACWA supports EPA's finding in the Draft Risk Assessment that local authorities should be consulted prior to the discharge of pool water containing chlorine. Since different wastewater and stormwater agencies have different regulations regarding pool drainage, this consultation prior to drainage will help prevent adverse impacts on aquatic life and excess flows into sewer collection systems. NACWA recommends that EPA provide consistent label language across pool, spa, and hot tub chemicals by updating the chlorine gas label language to match the language for copper products:

“Before draining a treated [pool,] [spa,] [hot tub,] or [fountain,] 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, storm drain, or natural water body unless discharge is allowed by state and local authorities.”

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.

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 black ink that reads "Cynthia A. Finley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

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