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Adam Krantz

September 30, 2019

Michael McCarroll
Office of Pesticide Programs
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20460
Submitted via www.regulations.gov

**Re: Docket ID EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0011, Registration Review Proposed
Interim Decision for Zinc and Zinc Salts**

Dear Mr. McCarroll:

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Interim Decision for Zinc and Zinc Salts (84 *Fed. Reg.* 37274), which are used as antimicrobials 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.

NACWA supports the findings in the Proposed Interim Decision regarding the need to consult with local authorities before discharging water containing zinc or zinc salt products from swimming pools, spas, hot tubs, or fountains (collectively referred to as “pools” in this letter). NACWA recommends that the Registration Review decision follow the precedent for pool products that was established for chemicals such as lithium hypochlorite and copper. The label language for these products helps prevent adverse aquatic impacts and excess flows into sewer collection systems from the drainage of pools. In addition to the comments below, NACWA supports the more detailed comments and information submitted by the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA).

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.

Since different wastewater and stormwater agencies have different regulations regarding drainage of pools, NACWA supports EPA's proposed label language for all commercial and residential zinc and zinc salt products:

“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, 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. NACWA supports EPA requiring this label language on all antimicrobial and conventional pesticides used in pools.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please contact me at 202-533-1836 or 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, stylized initial 'C'.

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