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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT & COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE
WATER PERMITTING AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
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Environmental Permitting Fact Sheet

**2009 Modifications to the General Permit for the Discharge of Swimming
Pool Wastewater**

The *General Permit for the Discharge of Swimming Pool Wastewater* contains various requirements for discharges of acid cleaning, filter backwash, pressure washing and pool draining wastewaters to sanitary sewer, surface water, and ground water and makes a distinction in the definitions between public pools and private pools. A *general permit* is a single permit issued to cover a specific category of wastewater discharge that many dischargers may then register under. In contrast, an *individual permit* is a specially crafted permit used for large or complex wastewater discharges that do not fit within a general permit category.

General Permit for the Discharge of Swimming Pool Wastewater - Summary of Proposed Changes (all section references below relate directly to sections in the general permit)

Section 2. Definitions

The definition of “Spas”, “Whirlpools”, or “Hot Tubs” as a subdivision of the definition of a “public pool” was modified to exempt from regulation under this permit single occupant hydrotherapy tubs whose water is discharged to sanitary sewer after each use.

The definition of “Special purpose pools” as a subdivision of the definition of a “public pool” was modified by adding the words “recreational water parks” to clarify that these are included under the public pool definition, also.

The definitions of “permittee”, “registrant”, “registration”, and “watercourse” were either modified or added to make this general permit consistent with other general permits.

The definition of “SP-1 and SP-2” was added because Sections 3(b)(1)(B) and 4(c)(3)(B) of the general permit reference the requirement of the SP-1 license number for any pool contractor registering under this general permit.

The definitions of “swimming pool acid cleaning wastewaters” and “swimming pool pressure wash wastewaters” were combined along with other maintenance activities into a single definition of “swimming pool maintenance wastewaters.”

Section 3. Authorization Under This General Permit

Discharges greater than 5000 gallons per day requiring approval from the POTW receiving them must now be documented on a form provided by the Commissioner. (Section 3(b)(5))

Section 4. Registration Requirements

Paragraphs of Section 4(a)(1) through 4(a)(3) were modified to indicate that those who must register their discharges under this general permit including public pools and pool contractors who are in the business of cleaning, draining, or maintaining multiple public or private residential pools must reregister within 60 days following the notice of reissuance of this permit. All previous registrants under this general permit will have reregistration materials sent to them concurrently with the reissuance of this general permit.

Section 4(c)(1) was modified to update the registration fee to \$500 for any person and \$250 for any municipality as established by Section 22a-6f of the General Statutes.

Discharges from private residential swimming pools do not require registration under this general permit. However, private pool owners must still meet all requirements of the general permit, especially those listed in Section 5, "Conditions of this General Permit", when discharging.

Due to Public Act 08-44 which requires that nearly all pool maintenance at non-government owned public or private pools must be performed by an individual licensed by the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection, Section 4(c)(3)(B) now requires the SP-1 license number "of the directly and regularly employed contractor of record" on the contractor registration form.

The contractor certification in Section 4(c)(3)(C) was modified to add language indicating that the contractor has trained all employees in the requirements of this general permit.

Section 5. Conditions of This General Permit

Section 5(a) was modified to add three requirements. The first requirement at Section 5(a)(1) requires owners/operators of public pools and pool contractors to create and annually implement a training program for all employees to cover the requirements of the General Permit and procedures that could lead to wastewater discharges. The second requirement at Section 5(a)(2) requires all swimming pool wastewater from public pools be discharged to a sanitary sewer if the site is served by sanitary sewer. The third requirement at Section 5(a)(3) requires the development and implementation of a Release Prevention Plan for all public pools containing drains that could be used to drain swimming pool wastewater to surface waters or the ground surface to prevent unauthorized discharges of swimming pool wastewaters.

Section 5(a)(4)(A) was modified to increase the level of total residual bromine or chlorine in the swimming pool wastewater that can be discharged to a POTW from 1.0 mg/l to 5.0 mg/l. The current limit of 1.0 mg/l is overly stringent. Chlorine and bromine react rapidly when mixed with other wastewaters in sewage lines and should not cause an operational problem at a treatment plant at the proposed maximum concentration of 5.0 mg/l.

In the current and reissued permit, the discharge of acid cleaning, pressure wash or swimming pool filtration backwash wastewater to surface water is prohibited.

Section 5(a)(7)(B)(i) was added to direct swimming pool draining wastewater to sanitary sewer or ground surface before directing it to a surface water.

The ***Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements*** at Section 5(b) were expanded to include records necessary if the public pool being maintained uses a drain directed to surface waters or the ground surface. Some sample recordkeeping forms associated with the ***Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements*** were added as Appendices.

Appendix A: Allowed Swimming Pool Wastewater Releases was updated to include all modifications being made to the general permit.

A copy of the reissued general permit is available on the DEP website at:
www.ct.gov/dep/permits&licenses.