

STATE OF COLORADO

John W. Hickenlooper, Governor
Christopher E. Urbina, MD, MPH
Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer

Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S. Laboratory Services Division
Denver, Colorado 80246-1530 8100 Lowry Blvd.
Phone (303) 692-2000 Denver, Colorado 80230-6928
Located in Glendale, Colorado (303) 692-3090

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us>



Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

INFORMATION REGARDING DOMESTIC TREATMENT WORKS CLOSURE AT WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES

When a domestic wastewater treatment works (including all domestic wastewater treatment facilities (WWTF) and appurtenances as defined in Regulation 22 – treatment plants, lift stations, etc.) is decommissioned, the decommissioning efforts must be completed in a way that ensures protection of waters of the state (e.g., surface water, groundwater) and the surrounding environment in accordance with appropriate environmental regulations. This document is intended to provide information regarding the relevant Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (Department) regulations to assist entities in the development of plans to decommission all or portions of a domestic wastewater treatment works. There may be other Federal, State, and local regulations and requirements regarding decommissioning or other activities at the facility; this document does not address these. It is the responsibility of the facility owner to comply with the individual regulations.

This document includes domestic wastewater treatment works decommissioning-related information as it pertains to the following:

- Site Location Application and Design Approval
- Liquids Management
- Biosolids Management and Disposal
- Solid Waste Management and Disposal
- Discharge Permit Termination
- Note Regarding Previous Draft Documents

Site Location Application and Design Approval

Decommissioning of a domestic wastewater treatment works does not require site location approval and design approval. However, if a new domestic wastewater treatment work is being constructed to replace (in whole or in-part) decommissioned facilities, the new facility will need to receive site location approval and design approval from the Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) in accordance with the Colorado Water Quality Control Act, Section 25-8-702 and *Site Location And Design Approval Regulations For Domestic Wastewater Treatment Works 5 CCR 1002-22* (Regulation 22). Regulation 22 can be accessed at: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/regulations/wqccregs/>. There are fees associated with the site application and design review processes. Please refer to the following webpage for instructions regarding the fee request procedure,

<http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/engineering/pdf/SiteLocAppOrWastwtrDesignRevFeeInfo.pdf>.

Liquids Management

In accordance with the Colorado Water Quality Control Act, Section 25-8-501, no point source discharges of water and/or contaminants from a facility to the waters of the State are authorized unless a permit for such discharges has been issued by the WQCD. Information regarding permit issues or requirements can be accessed at: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/PermitsUnit/index.html>.

Biosolids Management and Disposal

Biosolids must be completely removed from the decommissioned WWTF and managed in accordance with Federal Requirements in 40 CFR 503 and the Colorado *Biosolids Regulation 5 CCR 1002-64* (Regulation 64). Regulation 64 can be accessed at: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/regulations/wqccregs/>. For questions regarding biosolids issues or requirements, please contact Tim Larson in the WQCD Permits Section at 303-691-4091. Disposal options for removed biosolids must also conform with Federal Requirements 40 CFR 503, 40 CFR 258, and the requirements of the Colorado *Regulations Pertaining to Solid Waste Sites and Facilities 6 CCR 1007-2*, as applicable.

Solid Waste Management and Disposal

Waste materials at a decommissioned WWTF (e.g., liners, basins, etc.) must be properly managed in accordance with *Regulations Pertaining to the Solid Waste Sites and Facilities 6 CCR 1007-2* (Solid Waste regulations) and the Solid Wastes Disposal Sites and Facilities Act, Title 30, Article 20, Part 1, Colorado Revised Statutes (CRS), as amended. Information regarding the Solid Waste regulations can be accessed from the Hazardous Materials and Waste Management Division (HMWMD) at: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/solidwaste.htm>.

Discharge Permit Termination

If a WWTF is being decommissioned, the facility will need to terminate the existing discharge permit, if a continuing discharge will not be needed. Once the WWTF discharge has been eliminated, the WWTF biosolids have been removed and managed, and the decommissioned WWTF waste materials have been managed in accordance solid waste regulations, the permittee must request termination of the permit from the WQCD in accordance with the *Colorado Discharge Permit System Regulations* (Regulation 61). Regulation 61 can be accessed at: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/regulations/wqccregs/>. Information regarding permit issues and requirements can be accessed at: <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/PermitsUnit/index.html>.

Note Regarding Previous Draft Guidance Documents

There has been confusion and questions in the past regarding the Department's requirements regarding closure and decommissioning of wastewater treatment lagoons and facilities. The Division is aware that there had been a *preliminary working draft* guidance document for lagoon decommissioning that had been circulated among the engineering and regulated communities. That working draft guidance document was never officially approved or published, does not accurately address Department-wide requirements and expectations and **should not be used**.