

Municipal Letterhead

Date (before March 9, 2007)

Name of Swim Club, Retirement Home, Health Club (or for individuals To All Pool Owners in XX Township)

Address

Re: Swimming Pool Requirements

To the Board of XXXX Swim Club or Dear Swimming Pool Owner:

With the opening of the 2007 Pool Season close at hand, _____ (your municipality's name) would like to remind pool owners of their responsibilities concerning the discharge of pool water. The Pennsylvania Clean Streams Law and the _____ (your municipality's name) NPDES MS4 permit prohibits the discharge of non-stormwater, such as pool water, to the municipal storm sewer system. Every year, there are incidents of fish kills relating to either the discharge of pool water at the end of the season, at the beginning of the season, or the running of tap water or pool water hoses into storm sewers. Pool owners/operators can be liable for any damage to aquatic life or the stream that occurs as a result of their pool discharge(s).

Pool water discharges can be directed to the local sanitary sewer, if permission is first obtained from the sewer owner/operator (usually the municipality), or the water to be discharged could be trucked away to a treatment facility. If this can not be done, then pool water should not be discharged to storm drains, or streets that run to storm drains, but rather over a grassy area at a rate that optimizes infiltration and aeration and will not cause erosion. The overall goal is to ensure that your pool discharges do not have an adverse impact on nearby surface waterways, such as creeks and ponds.

Single family residences are exempt from NPDES permits under our ordinance, but they too should not be draining pool water directly to streams, storm sewers, or streets. Discharges should be over a grassy area at a rate that does not cause erosion and optimizes infiltration and aeration. The attached guidelines regarding zero chlorine residual, temperature, and pH should be followed by both pool operators and homeowners. It is not permitted to discharge filter backwash water to storm sewers or streams; this water must be infiltrated to the ground.

We ask that you review the attached DEP Guidance carefully so that you are aware of your responsibilities under the PA Clean Streams Law. Should you have any questions, please contact _____ (your municipality's name) or the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Southeast Regional Office, Bureau of Water Management, 484-250-5970.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our streams healthy!

Sincerely

Municipal Manager