



6450 York Street - Denver, Colorado 80229-7499  
(303) 286-3000 Telefax (303) 286-3030  
[www.metrowastewater.com](http://www.metrowastewater.com)

Contact: Steve Frank  
Office: 303-286-3465  
Cell: 303-957-7459

Kelley Merritt  
Office: 303-286-3455  
Cell: 303-877-0474

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 28, 2008

## **METRO WASTEWATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT REPORTS PERMIT VIOLATION**

**Denver, Feb. 28** — Observations have shown there was no harm to public health or the environment following a permit violation at Metro Wastewater Reclamation District on February 19, 2008.

As a result of a system failure, chlorine, which is the key ingredient in household bleach and is used to disinfect the water, was not completely removed from the treated wastewater for two hours and 22 minutes that morning.

“This is our first nonconformance in almost 14 years,” said Steve Rogowski, director of operations and maintenance. “We are disappointed that this happened, and we are resolving the problems and moving forward.”

A combination of computer control problems and human error caused the incident. They started when the automated system that feeds a chemical that neutralizes the chlorine added the chemical at an incorrect rate. Then field testing was not done correctly and consequently, a manual adjustment to the chemical feed was not made when one was warranted.

The Metro District has reported the incident to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. The Metro District is conducting a full investigation of the incident and is taking immediate action to address the problem.

The Metro Wastewater Reclamation District service area comprises 600 square miles. The District treats the wastewater for about 1.6 million people in metropolitan Denver. The service area includes all of Denver and parts of Adams, Arapahoe and Jefferson Counties. Arvada, Aurora, Lakewood, Thornton, and part of Westminster are included.

The Metro District collects and treats almost 140 million gallons of wastewater a day at its Central Treatment Plant five miles northeast of central Denver. This plant is rated for a design flow of 227 million gallons a day (30-day average). It's the largest wastewater treatment facility in the Rocky Mountain West.

Formed under Colorado law in 1961, the Metro District provides wholesale wastewater transmission and treatment service to 57 local governments, including both cities and sanitation districts in metropolitan Denver. Metro began treating wastewater in 1966.

###