



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

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Steve Frank

Office: 303-286-3465

Cell: 303-263-5039

### **Molybdenum-containing water treatment chemicals to be banned**

Building owners have until Jan. 1, 2007, to comply

DENVER, June 20 — After Jan. 1, 2007, the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District (Metro) says molybdenum-containing water treatment chemicals cannot be discharged to its sanitary sewer system.

Theresa Pfeifer, Metro's regulatory compliance officer, said violators could face penalties of up to \$32,500 a day for each prohibited discharge after Jan. 1.

Pfeifer said Metro is banning the chemicals under provisions of the Federal Clean Water Act and the Colorado Water Quality Control Act.

EPA approved the ban on June 6, and Metro's board approved it earlier this year.

Pfeifer said the ban prohibits all discharges of molybdenum-containing water treatment chemicals to the Metro District's sanitary sewer system from cooling towers, boilers, closed-loop heat transfer systems, and any other cooling or heating systems.

"We have sent letters to all the water treatment chemical suppliers in the area asking them to provide us a list of their customers for molybdenum-containing water treatment chemicals. If they won't give us the list because they consider the information confidential, we are asking them to tell us how many customers they have so we can supply them with advisories that they can send to their customers," Pfeifer said.

"We are also sending advisory notices to all of our connectors and area water suppliers asking them to provide us a list of users of molybdenum-containing water treatment chemicals or notify building owners in their service areas that water treatment chemicals containing molybdenum cannot be discharged to our system after Jan. 1."

Pfeifer said the molybdenum ban is required to protect the quality of Metro's biosolids. She said biosolids are the treated solid materials removed from wastewater during treatment. Biosolids can be used as a soil amendment if the quality meets state and federal standards.

The Metro Wastewater Reclamation District serves most of the metro Denver region and is the largest wastewater treatment agency in the Rocky Mountain West. Included in Metro's service area are Denver, Arvada, Aurora, Edgewater, Lakewood, Mountain View, Thornton, Wheat Ridge, parts of Englewood and Westminster, and about 40 metro Denver sanitation and water and sanitation districts.

Last year Metro treated almost 47.5 billion gallons of wastewater — about 130 million gallons a day — for 1.5 million metro Denver residents. It also won a first place award in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's annual Operations and Maintenance awards competition for large, advanced plants.

Business owners who have questions about the molybdenum-containing water treatment chemical ban can call Rue Eich, who heads Metro's industrial waste pretreatment unit, or Eugene Jansak, senior industrial waste specialist, at 303-286-3000.

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For more information, contact: Steve Frank, 303-286-3465 (office) or 303-263-5039 (cell).