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TREATMENT COSTS (Cont. from page 1)

applications for waivers from the unattainable Reg. 31 interim values that received preliminary approval by the commission on March 14. The final versions of these two regulations are scheduled to be approved by the commission on May 14. The EPA may decide to establish even tighter nutrient restrictions, as it did in Florida, if it does not accept these two commission regulations. The EPA will not make a decision on Reg. 85 or Reg. 31 acceptability until after May 14.

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Water Quality Control Division regulates all aspects of state water quality in accordance with the Colorado Water Quality Act. The EPA exercises oversight over the division in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act and can establish its own tighter regulations if it determines the state has failed to comply with the Clean Water Act.

Control Regulation 85 is the state Water Quality Control Division's first response to EPA nutrient demands. It sets new discharge permit limits of 1 part per million (ppm), or 1 milligram per liter, for total phosphorus (TP) and 15 ppm for total inorganic nitrogen (TIN); these limits become effective for all existing facility discharge permits issued after July 1. These Reg. 85 limits will generally be superseded in 2022 by the interim nutrient values for warm water streams specified in the Reg. 31 amendment—0.17 ppm for TP and 2.01 ppm for total nitrogen (TN.)

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The EPA has stated that it would prefer that the state immediately approve its warm water nutrient criteria— 0.067 ppm for TP and 0.88 ppm for TN—but has not yet made these criteria a federal requirement and mandate on

Note: Neither the state's nor the EPA's interim nutrient values can be achieved by any existing technology.

There are different limits and start dates for new wastewater treatment facilities (WWTF) in Regulations 85 and 31, but they will not apply to the three existing wastewater treatment facilities in the OCN coverage area:

- Tri-Lakes WWTF
- Upper Monument Creek Regional WWTF
- Academy Water and Sanitation District's two treatment lagoons

The Reg. 85 nitrogen limit is for total inorganic nitrogen, which is only one component of total nitrogen. The Reg. 85 TIN limit will be easier to meet than the TN limits in the amendment to Reg 31. The actual TIN allowed by the new Reg. 31 TN interim value will be considerably smaller than 2.01 ppm. The interim nutrient values in the Reg. 31 amendment will not generally apply to existing wastewater treatment facilities until 2022, though some exceptions could apply as early as 2017.

Note: The actual chemistry and biological uptake of total phosphorus and total nitrogen in aquatic ecosystems is quite complicated and not well understood—particularly the relationship between total nitrogen and algal growth. This separate controversy was not part of Tamburini's

Some of the items Tamburini discussed regarding nutrients and their impacts were:

- Total phosphorus consists of numerous inorganic and organic (particulate and dissolved) components.
- Total inorganic nitrogen is composed of ammonia, nitrite, and nitrate.
- The Tri-Lakes facility has always been very effective and efficient in removing ammonia, a toxic chemi-
- There are already nitrate and nitrite drinking water standards.
- Total organic nitrogen is composed of particulate, dissolved, biodegradable, and refractory compo-
- The current standard response variable used by regu-

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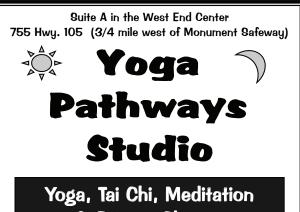
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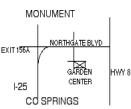
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