DEPARTMENT OF CODE ENFORCEMENT
TELEPHONE: (716) 286-4450

SWIMMING POOL REQUIREMENTS

1. Building permit shall be required prior to the installation of any pool.

2. A copy of property survey.

3. Electrical work must be completed by a Master Electrician licensed by the City of Niagara Falls, New York. (List of electricians available) Electrical permit must be obtained prior to issuance of pool permit.

4. All pools inclusive of any decking must be a minimum of 3’ from lot lines, garages, and other accessory buildings.

5. A pool clearance letter from National Grid is required. Must be obtained prior to issuance of pool permit.

6. The installation of any pool less than 48” in height requires a fence. A building permit shall be required for any such fence. Minimum required height is 4’ and maximum is 6’ where allowed.

7. A fence permit must be obtained prior to the issuance of an inground swimming pool permit.

8. Swimming pool alarms installed as per 1221.3 (ASTM F2208-02).

9. No swimming pool shall be permitted within any required front or side yard.
19. 2015 IRC Section R326 (Swimming pools, spas and hot tubs).

Section R326 of the 2015 IRC shall be deemed to be amended to read as follows:

SECTION R326
SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS

SECTION R326.1
GENERAL

R326.1 General. The provisions of this Section shall control the design and construction of swimming pools, spas and hot tubs installed in or on the lot of a one- or two-family dwelling.

SECTION R326.2
DEFINITIONS

R326.2 Definitions. For the purposes of these requirements, the terms used shall be defined as follows and as set forth in Chapter 2.

ABOVE-GROUND/ON-GROUND POOL. See "Swimming pool".

BARRIER, PERMANENT. A fence, wall, building wall or combination thereof which completely surrounds the swimming pool and obstructs access to the swimming pool.

BARRIER, TEMPORARY. An approved temporary fence, permanent fence, the wall of a permanent structure, any other structure, or any combination thereof that prevents access to the swimming pool by any person not engaged in the installation or construction of the swimming pool during its installation or construction.

HOT TUB. See "Swimming pool".

IN-GROUND POOL. See "Swimming pool".

RESIDENTIAL. That which is situated on the premises of a detached one- or two-family dwelling or a one-family townhouse not more than three stories in height.

SPA, NONPORTABLE. See "Swimming pool".

SPA, PORTABLE. A nonpermanent structure intended for recreational bathing, in which all controls, water-heating and water-circulating equipment are an integral part of the product.

SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE. For the purpose of determining compliance with the pool alarm provisions of this appendix, damage of any origin sustained by a swimming pool whereby the
cost of restoring the swimming pool to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the swimming pool before the damage occurred.

**SUBSTANTIAL MODIFICATION.** For the purpose of determining compliance with the pool alarm provisions of this appendix, any repair, alteration, addition or improvement of a swimming pool, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the swimming pool before the damage occurred. If a swimming pool has sustained substantial damage, any repairs are considered substantial modification regardless of the actual repair work performed.

**SWIMMING POOL.** Any structure, basin, chamber or tank which is intended for swimming, diving, recreational bathing or wading and which contains, is designed to contain, or is capable of containing water more than 24 inches (610 mm) deep at any point. This includes in-ground, above-ground and on-ground pools; indoor pools; hot tubs; spas; and, fixed-in-place wading pools.

**SWIMMING POOL, INDOOR.** A swimming pool which is totally contained within a structure and surrounded on all four sides by the walls of the enclosing structure.

**SWIMMING POOL, OUTDOOR.** Any swimming pool which is not an indoor pool.

### SECTION R326.3
**SWIMMING POOLS**

**R326.3.1 In-ground pools.** In-ground pools shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-5.

**R326.3.2 Above-ground and on-ground pools.** Above-ground and on-ground pools shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-4.

### SECTION R326.4
**SPAS AND HOT TUBS**

**R326.4.1 Permanently installed spas and hot tubs.** Permanently installed spas and hot tubs shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-3 as listed in Section R326.8.

**R326.4.2 Portable spas and hot tubs.** Portable spas and hot tubs shall be designed and constructed in conformance with ANSI/NSPI-6.
SECTION R326.5
BARRIER REQUIREMENTS

R326.5.1 Application. The provisions of this section shall control the design of barriers for residential swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. These design controls are intended to provide protection against potential drowning and near-drowning by restricting access to swimming pools, spas and hot tubs.

R326.5.2 Temporary barriers. An outdoor swimming pool, including an in-ground, above-ground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa shall be surrounded by a temporary barrier during installation or construction and shall remain in place until a permanent barrier in compliance with Section R326.5.3 is provided.

Exceptions:

1. Above-ground or on-ground pools where the pool structure is the barrier in compliance with Section R326.5.3.
2. Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346, provided that such safety cover is in place during the period of installation or construction of such hot tub or spa. The temporary removal of a safety cover as required to facilitate the installation or construction of a hot tub or spa during periods when at least one person engaged in the installation or construction is present is permitted.

R326.5.2.1 Height. The top of the temporary barrier shall be at least 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool.

R326.5.2.2 Replacement by a permanent barrier. A temporary barrier shall be replaced by a complying permanent barrier within either of the following periods:

1. 90 days of the date of issuance of the building permit for the installation or construction of the swimming pool; or
2. 90 days of the date of commencement of the installation or construction of the swimming pool.

R326.5.2.2.1 Replacement extension. Subject to the approval of the code enforcement official, the time period for completion of the permanent barrier may be extended for good cause, including, but not limited to, adverse weather conditions delaying construction.

R326.5.3 Permanent barriers. An outdoor swimming pool, including an in-ground, above-ground or on-ground pool, hot tub or spa shall be surrounded by a barrier which shall comply with the following:

1. The top of the barrier shall be at least 48 inches (1219 mm) above grade measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. The maximum vertical clearance between grade and the bottom of the barrier shall be 2 inches (51 mm) measured on the side of the barrier which faces away from the swimming pool. Where the top of the pool structure is above grade, such as an above-ground pool, the
barrier may be at ground level, such as the pool structure, or mounted on top of the pool structure. Where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, the maximum vertical clearance between the top of the pool structure and the bottom of the barrier shall be 4 inches (102 mm).

2. Openings in the barrier shall not allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.
3. Solid barriers which do not have openings, such as a masonry or stone wall, shall not contain indentations or protrusions except for normal construction tolerances and tooled masonry joints.
4. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is less than 45 inches (1143 mm), the horizontal members shall be located on the swimming pool side of the fence. Spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 1¾ inches (44 mm) in width. Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1¾ inches (44 mm) in width.
5. Where the barrier is composed of horizontal and vertical members and the distance between the tops of the horizontal members is 45 inches (1143 mm) or more, spacing between vertical members shall not exceed 4 inches (102 mm). Where there are decorative cutouts within vertical members, spacing within the cutouts shall not exceed 1¾ inches (44 mm) in width.
6. Maximum mesh size for chain link fences shall be a 2¾-inch (57 mm) square unless the fence has slats fastened at the top or the bottom which reduce the openings to not more than 1¾ inches (44 mm).
7. Where the barrier is composed of diagonal members, such as a lattice fence, the maximum opening formed by the diagonal members shall not be more than 1¾ inches (44 mm).
8. Gates shall comply with the requirements of Section R3265.2, Items 1 through 7, and with the following requirements:
   8.1. All gates shall be self-closing. In addition, if the gate is a pedestrian access gate, the gate shall open outward, away from the pool.
   8.2. All gates shall be self-latching, with the latch handle located within the enclosure (i.e., on the pool side of the enclosure) and at least 40 inches (1016 mm) above grade. In addition, if the latch handle is located less than 54 inches (1372 mm) from the bottom of the gate, the latch handle shall be located at least 3 inches (76 mm) below the top of the gate, and neither the gate nor the barrier shall have any opening greater than 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) within 18 inches (457 mm) of the latch handle.
   8.3. All gates shall be securely locked with a key, combination or other child proof lock sufficient to prevent access to the swimming pool through such gate when the swimming pool is not in use or supervised.
9. Where a wall of a dwelling serves as part of the barrier, one of the following conditions shall be met:
   9.1. The pool shall be equipped with a powered safety cover in compliance with ASTM F 1346; or
   9.2. Doors with direct access to the pool through that wall shall be equipped with an alarm which produces an audible warning when the door and/or its screen, if
present, are opened. The alarm shall be listed in accordance with UL 2017. The audible alarm shall activate within 7 seconds and sound continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds after the door and/or its screen, if present, are opened and be capable of being heard throughout the house during normal household activities. The alarm shall automatically reset under all conditions. The alarm system shall be equipped with a manual means, such as touch pad or switch, to temporarily deactivate the alarm for a single opening. Deactivation shall last for not more than 15 seconds. The deactivation switch(es) shall be located at least 54 inches (1372 mm) above the threshold of the door, or

9.3. Other means of protection, such as self-closing doors with self-latching devices, shall be acceptable so long as the degree of protection afforded is not less than the protection afforded by Item 9.1 or 9.2 described above.

10. Where an above-ground pool structure is used as a barrier or where the barrier is mounted on top of the pool structure, and the means of access is a ladder or steps:

10.1. The ladder or steps shall be capable of being secured, locked or removed to prevent access; or

10.2. The ladder or steps shall be surrounded by a barrier which meets the requirements of Section R326.5.2, Items 1 through 9. When the ladder or steps are secured, locked or removed, any opening created shall not allow the passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.

R326.5.4 Indoor swimming pool. Walls surrounding an indoor swimming pool shall comply with Section R326.5.2, Item 9.

R326.5.5 Prohibited locations. Barriers shall be located to prohibit permanent structures, equipment or similar objects from being used to climb them.

R326.5.6 Barrier exceptions. Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F 1346 shall be exempt from the provisions of this appendix.

SECTION R326.6
ENTRAPMENT PROTECTION FOR SWIMMING POOL AND SPA SUCTION OUTLETS

R326.6.1 General. Suction outlets shall be designed to produce circulation throughout the pool or spa. Single-outlet systems, such as automatic vacuum cleaner systems, or multiple suction outlets, whether isolated by valves or otherwise, shall be protected against user entrapment.

R326.6.1.1 Compliance alternative. Suction outlets may be designed and installed in accordance with ANSI/APSP-7.

R326.6.2 Suction fittings. Pool and spa suction outlets shall have a cover that conforms to ANSI/ASME A112.19.8M, or an 18 inch by 23 inch (457mm by 584 mm) drain grate or larger, or an approved channel drain system.
Exception: Surface skimmers.

R326.6.3 Atmospheric vacuum relief system required. Pool and spa single- or multiple-outlet circulation systems shall be equipped with atmospheric vacuum relief should grate covers located therein become missing or broken. This vacuum relief system shall include at least one approved or engineered method of the type specified herein, as follows:
  1. Safety vacuum release system conforming to ASME A112.19.17; or
  2. An approved gravity drainage system.

R326.6.4 Dual drain separation. Single or multiple pump circulation systems have a minimum of two suction outlets of the approved type. A minimum horizontal or vertical distance of 3 feet (914 mm) shall separate the outlets. These suction outlets shall be piped so that water is drawn through them simultaneously through a vacuum-relief-protected line to the pump or pumps.

R326.6.5 Pool cleaner fittings. Where provided, vacuum or pressure cleaner fitting(s) shall be located in an accessible position(s) at least 6 inches (152 mm) and not more than 12 inches (305 mm) below the minimum operational water level or as an attachment to the skimmer(s).

SECTION R326.7
SWIMMING POOL AND SPA ALARMS

R326.7.1 Applicability. A swimming pool or spa installed, constructed or substantially modified after December 14, 2006, shall be equipped with an approved pool alarm.

Exceptions:
  1. A hot tub or spa equipped with a safety cover which complies with ASTM F1346.
  2. A swimming pool (other than a hot tub or spa) equipped with an automatic power safety cover which complies with ASTM F1346.

Pool alarms shall comply with ASTM F2208, and shall be installed, used and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and this section.

R326.7.2 Multiple alarms. A pool alarm must be capable of detecting entry into the water at any point on the surface of the swimming pool. If necessary to provide detection capability at every point on the surface of the swimming pool, more than one pool alarm shall be provided.

R326.7.3 Alarm activation. Pool alarms shall activate upon detecting entry into the water and shall sound poolside and inside the dwelling.

R326.7.4 Prohibited alarms. The use of personal immersion alarms shall not be construed as compliance with this section.
Swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs are becoming more frequent in the back yards of homes across the State. While very enjoyable to the users, these places of comfort are very alluring to young children. Protection against unsupervised children is paramount in avoiding a household disaster.

What are the requirements for barriers?

The Residential Code of New York State and the Building Code of New York State regulate the construction parameters of barriers. Several options are available.

1. A 48" barrier shall surround the pool area. The barrier can be made using various methods including masonry, wood, or metal. Whatever method is used, it must not allow passage of children through the barrier as well as be constructed to prevent climbing.

2. For above ground pools, the side wall can be used as part of the barrier as long as the walls are 48" above the ground and the access ladder is secured. A barrier can be placed on top of the pool if it doesn't quite make the 48" by itself.

3. When the wall of a building serves as the barrier, or a portion thereof, a power operated top can be used or alarms can be placed on the doors leading to the pool area.

Do I need to put a barrier up to protect my hot tub or spa?

No. Hot tubs and spas are exempt from the barrier if equipped with a safety cover complying with the ASTM F1346 safety standard.

Do fences, gates and folding ladders need to be locked?

Yes. Pool gates and folding ladders do need to be locked when unsupervised. This needs to be achieved by a key, combination, or child-proof lock.

Barriers like pool fences are working! In 1985, New York State started requiring pool fences when the rate of child deaths (newborn to 4 years old) soared to 17 drownings per million. By 1999, that number dropped by 95%.

When do I need a barrier?

Barriers, such as fences, are required around swimming pools, hot tubs and spas. This includes both fixed and portable units, including pre-formed or inflatable pools. The only exception is when a swimming pool is no: able to contain more than 24" of water.

Are existing swimming pools exempt from barrier requirements?

No. All swimming pools, no matter how old, are required to have a barrier around them. The Property Maintenance Code of New York State requires an approved barrier around all swimming pools, regardless of their age.

For more information, contact the Department of State Division of Code Enforcement and Administration 41 State St. Albany, NY 12231 Phone: (518)-474-4073 Fax: (518)-486-4487 http://www.dca.state.ny.us

Specifics on fence construction and permitted gates are found in the Residential Code of New York State and the Building Code of New York State.
OWNERS OF INFLATABLE POOLS MAY BE SITED FOR CODE VIOLATIONS

Those blue inflatable pools you see in backyards may seem like a great, cheaper way to cool off but state laws and town codes require permits and proper fencing.

Building inspectors and engineers in the town of Clarence are especially concerned about the growing use of the pools which are sold in some of the larger chain retail stores in the area. The inspectors say people are not aware that any structure or container which can hold more than 24 inches of water does require a permit.

Inspectors say there are also safety concerns because children can easily slide over the pool's flexible sides into the water. They also point out that the usual filters sold with the pool are not large enough to keep the water clean. And they say there must be sufficient fencing with a locking latched gate to keep children away from the pool.

Inspectors in Clarence may actually notify homeowners about the required permit and safety issues in the coming weeks. As Town Engineer Joseph Latona puts it "We're not just trying to fine people. We want a safe summer and we just want people to be in compliance."

If you have questions about the use of inflatable pools, contact your community's building inspector.
AFNOR: Toughest Pool Alarm Standard in the World

AFNOR is a European standards organization similar to ASTM or ANSI in the U.S. In 2003, AFNOR was tasked to develop a rigorous new certification process for pool alarms. This new standard was precipitated by the French government who passed a law that required every pool owner to install one of the approved safety devices (pool alarm, fences, pool cover). In 2004 AFNOR issued its official standard for swimming pool alarms (NF P90-307) which immediately became the toughest standard in the world.

For a pool alarm system to be officially certified to this standard, it must pass a battery of tests as well as provide specific functions. The most difficult part of the certification is passing the detection test (using 2 types of simulators) under varying conditions including a wind tunnel above the pool as seen in the photo to the right.

The difficult tests are conducted in very windy conditions (created by the wind tunnel) during which the pool alarm is not allowed to false alarm.

Additional requirements for the certification are structural integrity (unit has to withstand a person weighing 175lbs standing on it) as well as environmental integrity where the system must be waterproof, handle extreme temperatures, absorb vibration and shock.

ASTM Pool Alarm Standard

ASTM (American Society for Testing & Materials) is a U.S. non-profit organization creating technical standards for products, materials, systems, and services. Child safety is a major focus for the organization and in conjunction with the Consumer Product Safety Commission, they have created standards for such things as baby chairs, strollers, high chairs, cribs, etc. Many parents, especially moms, rely on the ASTM label when buying a product because they know it has been tested to ASTM’s technical standard.

The ASTM standard for pool alarms (F2208-02) was approved in 2002. It was created in order to provide a minimum performance standard for pool alarms so that consumers can make better choices when buying such product.

The ASTM standard for pool alarms requires detection testing with one simulator in a standard 16’ X 32’ pool. The standard also requires the pool alarm device refrain from to false alarms during wind simulation; however, the wind tests required by the ASTM standard are much less difficult that the AFNOR tests due to the way the wind is simulated.

The ASTM pool alarm standard does not require environmental or structural testing.

CE: Basic European Listing

CE Certification (or marking) is required to sell product into the European Common Market and has been adopted in many other countries around the world.

The CE marking requires a battery of tests to insure that the product meets European safety standards.
About AquaGuard

The AquaGuard Pool Alarm System detects a child, pet, or object with a minimum weight of 18lbs (8kg) falling into a pool or spa. When the alarm is set off, a siren sounds at the main unit by the pool and in the wireless remote inside the house.

AquaGuard technology has been extensively tested to the most rigorous standard for pool alarm in the world (AFNOR) as well as the U.S. ASTM standard. What all this means to you is that the system features excellent performance combined with the highest immunity to wind and other surface disruptions for consumer installed pool alarms.

AquaGuard incorporates the latest advances in volumetric displacement technology. When a child or object falls into the pool, AquaGuard accurately measures the amount of water being replaced. If the water displaced is more than 18lbs, then the system triggers the siren to alert the homeowner.

How the AquaGuard Pool Alarm Works

The AquaGuard Pool Alarm System provides ease of use and intuitive “messaging” that lets you know the status of the system. When you want to use the pool, you simply enter your access code at the main unit’s keypad or with the wireless remote, putting the system into “swim stand-by”.

A short while after everyone has left the pool, the system will automatically re-arm. We felt that it is very important for you to know when the system is armed or in “stand-by” mode or if there is a low battery. For this purpose the main unit has a large red visible LED on the rear unit which tells you exactly that and the wireless remote does the same. Whenever the system re-arms you will get an audible via the main unit and wireless remote (See diagram below).
Each AquaGuard Pool Alarm System includes a main unit (detector) and a remote unit with an AC adapter.

One AquaGuard Pool Alarm system will cover a typical 32' X 16' rectangular or kidney shaped swimming pool. If the pool is larger or irregular shaped, then you will need 2 systems (consult your AquaGuard dealer or us directly with questions). When using 2 systems, they can be operated via one wireless remote for ease of use. A spa will require a separate system.
1221.3. Swimming pool alarms, [amended text 12/14/2006]

(a) Purpose. Paragraph (b) of subdivision (14) of section 378 of the Executive Law, as added by Chapter 450 of the Laws of 2006, requires that the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (the Uniform Code) provide that any "residential or commercial swimming pool constructed or substantially modified after the effective date of this paragraph (December 14, 2006) shall be equipped with an acceptable pool alarm capable of detecting a child entering the water and of giving an audible alarm." The Introducer's Memorandum in Support of Chapter 450 states, in pertinent part, that "drowning is the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths in children between the ages of one and fourteen nation wide, and the third leading cause of injury-related deaths of children in New York. . . . (T)echnological advances have produced several different types of pool alarms designed to sound a warning if a child falls into the water. When used in conjunction with access barriers, these alarms provide greater protection against accidental pool drownings." This section and section 1220.5 of Part 1220 of this Title are
intended to implement the provisions of Executive Law section 378(14)(b).

(b) Definitions. The following terms shall, for the purposes of this section and for the purposes of section 1220.5 in Part 1220 of this Title, have the following meanings:

(1) Approved. Approved by the code enforcement official responsible for enforcement and administration of the Uniform Code as complying with and satisfying the purposes of this section and section 1220.5 in Part 1220 of this Title.

(2) Commercial swimming pool. Any swimming pool (as defined in paragraph (4) of this subdivision) that is not a residential swimming pool (as defined in paragraph (3) of this subdivision).

(3) Residential swimming pool. A swimming pool (as defined in paragraph (4) of this subdivision) which is situated on the premises of a detached one- or two-family dwelling; a multiple single-family dwelling (townhouse) not more than three stories in height; a one-family dwelling converted to a bed and breakfast; a community residence for 14 or fewer mentally disabled persons, operated by or subject to licensure by the Office of Mental Health or the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities; a one-or two-family dwelling operated for the purpose of providing care to more than two but not more than eight hospice patients, created pursuant to Article 40 of the Public Health Law, and defined as a hospice residence in §4002 of said Law; a manufactured home; a mobile home; or a factory manufactured dwelling unit.

(4) Swimming pool. Any structure intended for swimming, recreational bathing or wading which contains or which is designed to contain water over 24 inches (610 mm) deep. This includes in-ground, above-ground and on-ground pools; indoor pools; hot tubs; spas; and fixed-in-place wading pools.

(5) Substantial damage. Damage of any origin sustained by a swimming pool whereby the cost
of restoring the swimming pool to its before
damaged condition would equal or exceed 50
percent of the market value of the swimming
pool before the damage occurred.

(6) Substantial modification. Any repair
reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition, or
improvement of a swimming pool, the cost of
which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the
market value of the swimming pool before the
repair, rehabilitation, addition, or improvement is
started. If a swimming pool has sustained
substantial damage, any repairs are considered
to be a substantial modification regardless of the
actual repair work performed.

(c) Pool alarms. Each residential swimming pool installed,
constructed or substantially modified after December 14,
2006 and each commercial swimming pool installed,
constructed or substantially modified after December 14,
2006 shall be equipped with an approved pool alarm which:

(1) is capable of detecting a child entering the
water and giving an audible alarm when it
detects a child entering the water;

(2) is audible poolside and at another location
on the premises where the swimming pool is
located;

(3) is installed, used and maintained in
accordance with the manufacturer's instructions;

(4) is classified by Underwriter's Laboratory, Inc.
(or other approved independent testing
laboratory) to reference standard ASTM F2208,
entitled “Standard Specification for Pool
Alarms,” as adopted in 2002 and editorially
corrected in June 2005, published by ASTM
International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West
Conshohocken, PA 19428; and

(5) is not an alarm device which is located on
person(s) or which is dependent on device(s)
located on person(s) for its proper operation.

(d) Multiple pool alarms. A pool alarm installed pursuant
to subdivision (c) of this section must be capable of
detecting entry into the water at any point on the surface of
the swimming pool. If necessary to provide detection
May 14, 2008

SWIMMING POOL INSTALLATIONS

Dear Company Manager:

As construction season approaches, I am writing to remind contractors and dealers to consider the proximity of electric conductors when designing swimming pool installations. The National Electric Code (NEC), local building codes, and National Grid's (Niagara Mohawk Power) standards require vertical and horizontal clearance distances from electric lines to pool surfaces, decks, and diving board/platforms in the interest of public safety. I have enclosed a copy of our clearance requirements from swimming pool facilities to energized electrical conductors as a guide to assist your installation.

It is strongly recommended that the proposed pool location be marked or staked prior to the pool's purchase or installation. National Grid will work with you and your prospective customers regarding a location that meets safe clearance distances. The customer should call us at the number listed below at least two (2) weeks before purchase or installation.

- **National Grid Customer Service Assistance:** 1-800-NIAGARA (1-800-642-4272).

- Request a "Planner Review for Pool Clearance" order. Indicate if the pool will be an "Above Ground" or an "In-Ground" type installation.

A representative will identify if the proposed location meets requirements and issue a letter to the customer as required by municipal inspection officials in some jurisdictions (Note: City of Buffalo, Town of Tonawanda, and Town of Amherst, among others, require an electric line clearance letter). Should the proposed location not meet the safe distance limitations, we will attempt to identify alternate pool locations or the relocation of electric facilities with an estimate of associated cost to customer.

A site investigation by National Grid representatives prior to purchase or installation of a pool may save a customer significant future expenses or discontinuation of electric service for safety violations.

I am sure you frequently deal with unique installation questions. I hope this information will be helpful in determining the best location for your customers' safe enjoyment of their new pool. If you have any questions on our clearance policies, please do not hesitate to call me at (716) 831-7704.

Sincerely,

NATIONAL GRID

Timothy E. Spellman
Supervisor, Distribution Design

TES/pjr
Enclosure
cc: Municipal Inspection Agencies