



Focus on Aquatic Plant and Algae Management Draft Permit

from Ecology's Water Quality Program

Workshops and Hearings

All workshops and hearings are open to the public and begin at the times listed below.

Centralia: Monday,
January 9, 2006, 6 p.m.

Centralia College,
Washington Hall
Room 109
600 W. Locust
Centralia, WA 98531

Spokane: Tuesday,
January 10, 2006, 5 p.m.

Shadle Library
W. 2111 Wellesley Ave
Spokane, WA 99205

Lynnwood: Thursday,
January 12, 2006, 6 p.m.

Edmonds Community
College, President's
Board Room
20000 68th Ave W
Lynnwood, WA 98036

The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is proposing to issue a general permit to cover Aquatic Plant and Algae Management activities in surface waters of the state. This permit replaces and revokes the Aquatic Nuisance Plant and Algae Control National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit that expires on July 5, 2007, and portions of the Aquatic Noxious Weed Control NPDES permit that expires on June 14, 2007.

Ecology invites you to review and comment on the draft permit and fact sheet from December 7, 2005, to January 20, 2006. Ecology will host three workshops and public hearings on its proposed permit (see left column). Ecology will issue the final Aquatic Plant and Algae General Permit after it considers all public comments. If you comment on the draft permit, the Department of Ecology will send a response to you when it issues the final permit.

Purpose of the General Permit

The proposed general permit covers the discharge of products used to control aquatic plants and algae to Washington State waters. State law requires a permit for the discharge of pollutants that may alter the biological or chemical characteristics of a water body. The permit provides a way to control nuisance plant species, eradicate invasive plants, and reduce nutrients in water bodies. It covers and restricts the use of products such as herbicides, algaecides, shading products, biological water clarifiers, adjuvants, marker dyes, barley straw, and nutrient inactivation products.

Public Comments

You are encouraged to give written comments during the public comment period or oral comments at the public hearings. Please send comments to:

Mail: Kelly McLain
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Phone: 360-407-6938
Fax: 360-407-6426
E-mail: kelm461@ecy.wa.gov

Written, faxed and e-mailed comments must be received no later than **5 p.m., Friday, January 20, 2006.**



Types of Management Covered by the Permit

The permit allows three types of aquatic plant management activities. Each type of activity restricts the use of products and must meet other permit requirements.

1. Invasive Plant Eradication

Eradication is the complete removal of targeted plant species from an entire water body and/or shoreline. Ecology allows eradication management for the following plants: noxious weeds, quarantined listed plants, and newly discovered non-native and potentially invasive plants.

2. Aquatic Plant and Algae Control

Aquatic plant control is the partial removal of aquatic plants within a water body or shoreline to protect beneficial uses of the water body. Aquatic plant control includes control of both native plants and noxious weeds. Ecology allows algae control for species that affect human or environmental health.

3. Nutrient Inactivation

Nutrient inactivation uses certain chemicals to bind and remove nutrients such as phosphorous from the water. This deters growth of aquatic plants and algae. This permit allows the use of alum and calcium hydroxide to inactivate phosphorus.

What does the Permit Require?

The permit requires an applicator to:

- Provide public notice in the newspaper and to area businesses and residents.
- Post signs around the application area.
- Conduct pre- and post- treatment monitoring for control projects if the water body is listed as impaired for dissolved oxygen. Nutrient inactivation treatments require pH monitoring.
- Submit annual reports to Ecology.
- Record results and keep records for at least 5 years.
- Conduct plant surveys for the presence of sensitive, threatened, or endangered plants if Ecology identifies ones of these plant types as being present in a water body.
- Mitigate for sensitive, threatened, or endangered plants. Mitigation options depend upon plant type and include use of buffers, timing and type of application, and selective herbicides.

For More Information

This focus sheet is a summary of the draft permit. For more details please review the draft permit, fact sheet, and application. Download copies of these documents from our web page at:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/index.html

If you require special accommodation or need this information in an alternate format, please contact the Program Development Services Section Secretary at 360-407-6401. For persons with a speech or hearing impairment, call 711 for relay service or 800-833-6388 for TTY.

What's different in this draft permit from the past permits?

The new draft permit is a combination of the old nuisance weed permit and portions of the noxious weed permit.

In the past, Ecology permitted the Washington State Department of Agriculture who provided coverage for chemical applicators across the state. This new permit will require individual applicators and sponsors to apply for a permit and pay permit fees.

The new draft permit also uses a different management strategy to regulate the chemicals used to control aquatic plants and algae. See left for details.