



# Focus on Draft Aquatic Noxious Weed Control General Permit

from Ecology's Water Quality Program



## Workshops and Public Hearings

*Ecology will host two informational workshops and public hearings on its proposed permit. A public hearing will immediately follow each workshop.*

### Lacey

November 5, 2007

2 p.m.

Department of Ecology  
Headquarters Building  
300 Desmond Drive  
Lacey, WA 98503  
360-407-6000

### Spokane

November 7, 2007

2 p.m.

Shadle Library  
W. 2111 Wellesley Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99205  
509-444-5390



## Ecology to Reissue the Aquatic Noxious Weed Control General Permit

The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has revised the Aquatic Noxious Weed Control Permit and is issuing a draft of the permit for public comment.

### What does the permit regulate?

The draft general permit covers the discharge of products used to control noxious weeds in waters of Washington state. Under the Washington State Water Pollution Control Act, a permit is required to discharge pollutants that alter the biological or chemical characteristics of a water body. The proposed permit addresses these legal requirements and regulates the discharge of pollutants to protect surface water quality in Washington state.

Ecology issues a general permit in place of a series of individual permits for similar permitted activities. Individual activities that receive coverage under the general permit must comply with the terms and conditions of the permit.

### How does the draft permit differ from the current permit?

This permit no longer covers the control of submersed plants in lakes or ponds. For this activity, please refer to the Aquatic Plant and Algae Management General Permit at:

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/final\\_pesticide\\_permits/aquatic\\_plant\\_s/aquatic\\_plant\\_permit\\_index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/final_pesticide_permits/aquatic_plant_s/aquatic_plant_permit_index.html)

### When does Ecology plan to issue the permit?

The public may review and comment on the draft permit and fact sheet from October 3 to November 14, 2007. This permit, once issued, will replace and revoke the Aquatic Noxious Weed Control NPDES General permit that Ecology issued on May 15, 2002 and expired on June 14, 2007. The title of the revised permit is *Aquatic Noxious Weed Control National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and State Waste Discharge General Permit*.

Ecology will issue the final permit after it considers all public comments. Ecology expects to issue the general permit soon after the end of the public comment period. It will be effective thirty days later. When Ecology issues the permit, it will send a response to everyone who commented.

### Public comments

Ecology encourages the public to give written comments during the public comment period or oral comments at the public hearings. Ecology will accept written and oral comments on the draft Aquatic Noxious Weed Control general permit and fact sheet.



Comments should reference specific text when possible. Comments may address the following:

- Technical issues.
- Accuracy and completeness of information.
- Scope of activities proposed for coverage.
- Adequacy of environmental protection and permit conditions.
- Other concerns that might result from issuance of the new permit.

### **How do I submit comments or request more information?**

To submit written comments, ask questions, or request copies of the permit, contact:

Kelly McLain  
Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
Phone 360-407-6938; Fax 360-407-6426  
E-mail: [kelm461@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:kelm461@ecy.wa.gov)

You may also access the draft permit and fact sheet online at:

[http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/final\\_pesticide\\_permits/noxious/noxious\\_index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/final_pesticide_permits/noxious/noxious_index.html)

Ecology **must receive** written, emailed, and faxed comments no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, November 14, 2007. The two public hearings will provide the opportunity to give oral comments on the draft permit. Please see the sidebar of this document for a schedule of workshops and public hearings.

*If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call Water Quality at 360-407-6401. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.*