

Aquatic Noxious Weed Control General Permit

Ecology to issue the final permit



Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) issued a draft Aquatic Noxious Weed Control General Permit and Fact Sheet for public comment from October 3 to November 14, 2007. Ecology issued the final permit, entitled the Aquatic Noxious Weed Control National Pollutant Discharge

Elimination System and State Waste Discharge General Permit, on January 16, 2008.

This permit replaces and revokes the Aquatic Noxious Weed Control NPDES General permit that Ecology issued on May 15, 2002 and that expired on June 14, 2007. The final permit takes effect on February 15, 2008, and expires in February 2013.

What does the permit regulate?

The general permit covers the discharge of pesticides used to control state-listed, noxious aquatic 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 permit addresses these legal requirements and regulates the discharge of pollutants to protect surface water quality.



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

Why control invasive weeds?

Non-native invasive weeds can have devastating impacts on aquatic environments. They can reduce habitat for salmon and other aquatic species. They can also out compete native

MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions, or would like copies of the permit, contact:

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You may also access the permit and fact sheet online at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/program/s/wq/pesticides/final_pesticide_permits/noxious/noxious_index.html

Special accommodations:

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



plants to form single species stands, eliminating the diversity in a healthy ecosystem. Invasive weeds also have economic impacts. They harm shellfish growing operations, damage recreational areas, and reduce property values. Physical and mechanical means of removal sometimes remove invasive weeds successfully, but established and rapidly-growing infestations often require chemical controls. The permit allows the use of herbicides including 2, 4-D, glyphosate, triclopyr TEA, imazapyr, fluridone, endothall, and diquat dibromide. EPA, the Washington Department of Agriculture and Ecology have reviewed and approved the use of these herbicides. They are considered the least toxic products available and persist for a very short time in the environment. This permit only allows the use of aquatic formulations that have active and inactive ingredients that have the least environmental harm.

How does this permit differ from the previous permit?

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

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/final_pesticide_permits/aquatic_plants/aquatic_plant_permit_index.html



Ecology clarified language for the control of freshwater emergent plants along marine shorelines. Ecology shortened the required posting period from 48 hours to “the length of recreation restrictions plus 24 hours.” Ecology also changed the signage requirement to require the permittee to clarify whether a pesticide application happened near rather than in a water body.

How to apply for the permit

You may download a copy of the permit and the Notice of Intent (NOI), or application, from Ecology’s website at:

www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/final_pesticide_permits/noxious/noxious_index.html