

Aquatic Pesticide Applications

What Do I Need to Do to Comply With These Permits?

Licensed WSDOT and Contractor Applicators with an aquatics license are the only people who will apply aquatic pesticides (chemicals) under the coverage of these permits. [Pesticide Application Licenses](#) are obtained through the Washington State Department of Agriculture (Agriculture). Although state law allows a non-licensed person to make a pesticide application under the direct supervision of a licensed applicator, WSDOT requires all applicators be appropriately licensed for the herbicide treatment being performed. All aquatic pesticide applications are required to be recorded on a [WSDOT Pesticide Application Record form](#). WSDOT staff use a restricted access electronic form which is entered into an internal data base. Contractors fill out a hard copy which is submitted to the Project Engineer (PE), and sent to HQ-Maintenance. These records are kept for the required seven years, and are subject to public disclosure, so accurate information is important.

All aquatic applications must follow the pesticide label requirements and the NPDES permit conditions, including proper notification. As with any pesticide application, care must be taken to avoid drift or overspray that may damage desirable vegetation. Agriculture also has a [Pesticide Sensitive Registry](#) that requires special notification if an herbicide application is made in the vicinity of specified properties. HQ-Maintenance, HQ-Roadside & Site Development, and Regional Landscape Offices can provide guidance on the use of herbicides, permits requirements, and recommendations for the most effective method of making the applications.

Construction Projects

Section 8-02 of the WSDOT Standard Specifications Manual covers the requirements of weed control measures for construction projects. The contractor is required to submit a weed control plan to the PE for approval prior to any weed control measures. The plan must be developed by a licensed pesticide consultant to insure compliance with the label requirements and NPDES permit conditions. It provides information on the weed species to be controlled, the type of herbicide to be used, the rate at which the pesticide will be applied, and when the applications can be made. The plan also requires submittal of the label and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for the pesticides to be used. Often times the PE will send this plan to the Regional Landscape Office, or HQ-Roadside and Site Development Office (for Regions without a Landscape Office) for review. Once approved, the contractor may proceed with the specified weed control measures. The contractor is required to keep a daily log, and provide that information to the PE, and to the Washington State Departments of Agriculture, Labor and Industries, and Health upon request.

Annual Reports

The applicable aquatic information from the pesticide application records are summarized in Annual Reports, and submitted to Ecology and Agriculture each winter. The Annual Reports disclose the specifics of the chemical application, location, and plants targeted for eradication. Submitting the Annual Reports is the responsibility of the HQ-ESO staff.

Contact

For additional information on aquatic pesticide applications, please contact [HQ-Roadside and Site Development](#), [Roadside Maintenance](#) or the [Region's Landscape Architect staff](#). [Ecology and the Department of Agriculture](#) also have specialists available for assistance.

What Are the Permit Specifics?

Aquatic Plant and Algae Management General Permit

[The Aquatic Plant and Algae Management General Permit, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System \(NPDES\) and State Waste Discharge General Permit, # WAG-994000](#) is issued to WSDOT. This permit allows application of certain approved herbicides into or directly over water bodies for the control of non-noxious invasive aquatic plant species within WSDOT owned facilities and Right-of-Way (R/W).

Five Year General Permit Approval

The Aquatic Plant and Algae General Permit is administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology, and does not require annual notification to cover WSDOT activities. The [coverage approval letter](#) issued by Ecology, April 28, 2006 provides WSDOT approval for specified types of chemical applications in aquatic situations as needed throughout the state.

Aquatic Noxious Weed Control General Permit

[The Aquatic Noxious Weed Control NPDES Waste Discharge General Permit, # WAG-993000](#) is also issued to WSDOT. This permit allows application of certain approved herbicides for control of designated noxious weeds growing in or out of water within WSDOT owned facilities and R/W. (see [Chapter 17.10 and 17.24 RCW](#))

Annual Notice of Intent and General Permit Approval

The Aquatic Noxious Weed Control General Permit is administered by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (Agriculture), and requires a "[Notice of Intent](#)" (NOI) to be filed annually using the Secure Access Washington (SAW) database. The NOI specifies the chemicals proposed to be used for statewide application, and provides a listing of the current WSDOT Licensed Applicators. The NOI is approved by Megan White, Environmental Director, and submitted by ESO Permitting and Compliance Program staff in spring. A "[Letter of Limited Agent Status](#)" approval letter is issued by Agriculture, providing WSDOT approval for chemical applications.