

Dear Lakeshore Property Owner:

You are receiving this letter because you have expressed interest in an Aquatic Plant Management (APM) permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This permit may allow you to use pesticides for control of aquatic plants.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also have permits that cover these activities with the goal of protecting water quality from chemicals such as pesticides. The use of herbicides or pesticides in water requires coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

The EPA permit is needed if your lakeshore property is located in Indian Country. If you are in Fond du Lac Reservation, you are not eligible for general permit coverage and must contact EPA Region 5 to request an individual permit (see EPA contact information below). If you are in Grand Portage Band of Chippewa Reservation, special requirements apply (see Section 9.5.2 of EPA's 2021 PGP). In other Indian Country, any entity for which pest management for land resource stewardship is an integral part of the organization's operations must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI, i.e. permit application) with EPA. For other entities, if you are performing aquatic plant or algae control with an annual treatment area of less than either 20 linear miles or 80 acres, you do not have to submit an NOI; however, you still must comply with the conditions of EPA's NPDES permit. Pesticide applications that are less than these thresholds are considered 'automatically covered' by the EPA's NPDES permit, which can be found on-line at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/pesticide-permitting>.

Outside of Indian reservation boundaries, MPCA found that the APM Permit issued by DNR fulfills many of the requirements of MPCA's permit. In many ways, the APM Permit is more prescriptive and specific to your water body and pest. Therefore, by following DNR's permit requirements, both you and any for-hire applicators fulfill the requirements of MPCA's Permit.

By complying with your APM Permit you will meet the requirements of MPCA's NPDES Permit. It is important for you to know that a violation of the APM Permit is also a violation of the NPDES Permit. You can learn more about MPCA's permit at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/pesticide-npdes-permits>. This webpage includes checklists to help you and for-hire applicators maintain compliance with the NPDES Permit.

If you have questions about EPA's permit, you may contact John Colletti, EPA Region 5 at [colletti.john@epa.gov](mailto:colletti.john@epa.gov) or 312-886-6106. If you have further questions about MPCA's permit, please contact me at 651-757-2602 or by email at [steven.theisen@state.mn.us](mailto:steven.theisen@state.mn.us). For questions about your APM permit, continue working with your DNR Regional aquatic plant management specialist.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Theisen  
Environmental Specialist  
Water and Mining Section  
Industrial Division