



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

Aquatic Nuisance Control Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Water Resources Division's [Aquatic Nuisance Control \(ANC\) Program](#) regulates the chemical control of aquatic plants, algae, and swimmer's itch when they impair the use or enjoyment of the water. Aquatic species may include various forms of algae (planktonic, filamentous, and macroalgae such as *Chara* and starry stonewort), submersed plants (i.e., those located underwater, such as coontail, pondweeds, milfoils), floating-leaf plants (e.g., lilies), and emergent plants (e.g., cattails, rushes, *Phragmites*). Staff issues permits pursuant to [Part 33, Aquatic Nuisance Control, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451](#), as amended (Part 33; NREPA); [Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the NREPA](#) (Part 31); and the [administrative rules promulgated thereunder](#).

If you are interested in controlling other types of aquatic nuisances, please contact the MDEQ's Environmental Assistance Center by telephone at 1-800-662-9278 or by email at deq-assist@michigan.gov to be directed to the appropriate program.

General Information

1. [Do I need a permit to control aquatic vegetation on my property?](#)
2. [Whom do I contact for permits for lake digging, dredging, and/or beach grooming?](#)
3. [What is a General Permit and Certificate of Coverage?](#)
4. [How long do the permits last?](#)
5. [Where can I purchase aquatic pesticides?](#)
6. [May I apply chemicals myself or do I need to hire a certified applicator?](#)
7. [If I decide to hire a contractor, where can I find a list of licensed pesticide applicators?](#)
8. [What happens if I treat without a permit or violate my permit?](#)
9. [How can I determine if there has been a permit application submitted for a specific waterbody?](#)
10. [How do I request a public hearing or notification of the treatment on my lake?](#)
11. [Can I prevent my neighbor from putting aquatic pesticides in my lake?](#)
12. [What can I do if I think someone is treating without a permit or is not following the terms of their permit?](#)

Applying for a Permit

1. [What is the deadline to apply for an individual/standard permit or a Certificate of Coverage?](#)
2. [How do I know which permit application form to use?](#)
3. [How do I know which chemical to use and how much?](#)

4. [How can I obtain depth contour maps for my lake/pond?](#)
5. [Once my application is received how long will it take for my permit to be issued? Can I check the status of my application?](#)

Expansions/Revisions

1. [I have already received a permit, but I need to modify or transfer it. What are my options?](#)
2. [What is an expansion?](#)
3. [What is a revision?](#)
4. [How does my fee change if I add treatment area\(s\)? When is the additional fee due and do we have to wait to treat until the fee is received?](#)

Permit Fees

1. [What is the required permit application fee for my proposed treatment?](#)
2. [If the fees are subject to change each year, how can I pay for multiple years up-front?](#)
3. [What happens if I miss payment of the annual fee? How do I reactivate my permit?](#)
4. [What payment methods are available?](#)
5. [If my permit is denied or modified, will I get a fee refund?](#)
6. [If I increase the treatment area enough through a revision or an expansion to place my permit into a higher fee category, and then decrease the treatment area for the following year, would I revert back to paying the lower fee?](#)

Permit Conditions

1. [Annual treatment reports are due no later than November 30th each year. However, the permits run through the end of the year. How should treatments in December be reported?](#)
2. [Does notification of adjacent waterfront properties apply to all types of waterbodies or just lakes? Does the written notification for waterfront property owners within 100 feet of the treatment area apply only to owners with waterfront property or to properties that are within 100 feet inland from the treated waters but are not actually on the waterbody?](#)
3. [What are the special requirements for a whole lake treatment for aquatic nuisance control \(including fluridone treatments\)?](#)

Environment/Human Health

1. [Are the aquatic pesticides safe for public health and the environment?](#)
2. [Will the pesticides contaminate drinking water wells?](#)
3. [Will the aquatic pesticides affect swimming or fishing in the lake?](#)
4. [What if there are threatened or endangered species that nest/live on my lake?](#)
5. [What if my lake has wetlands adjacent to the shoreline?](#)
6. [What if my lake only has native vegetation?](#)
7. [I think I found a non-native invasive species in my lake. What should I do?](#)
8. [I am interested in learning more about improving the water quality in my lake. Whom should I contact?](#)

9. [I still have questions concerning aquatic nuisance control. What is the Aquatic Nuisance Control program's contact information?](#)

General Information

1. Do I need a permit to control aquatic vegetation on my property?

Chemical Control

Chemical control of nuisance aquatic species is typically a regulated activity and requires a permit from the [MDEQ's ANC program](#), particularly when targeting species in inland lakes, ponds, streams, wetlands, road-side ditches, etc., where there is standing water at the time of treatment. For shoreline areas along the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair, a permit is always required for all treatments below the ordinary high-water mark, regardless of whether there is standing water.

A permit is not required for inland areas where the treated plants are not located in standing water at the time they are treated. In addition, [Part 33](#) grants authority to a landowner to chemically treat aquatic nuisances in a waterbody (both in and out of the water) without issuance of a permit by MDEQ if the pond meets **ALL** of the following criteria:

- No outlet
- No record of state or federal endangered or threatened species, pursuant to [Part 365 of 1994 PA 451](#)
- Surface area less than 10 acres
- Bottomlands are owned by either one person, or more than one person and written permission is obtained from each property owner
- The person posts the area of impact with notification signs in the manner provided in [Section 324.3310\(d\) of the NREPA](#)

Physical/Mechanical Control

A permit is generally not required from the MDEQ to control aquatic submerged vegetation in inland lakes by mechanical harvesting (i.e., cutting plants above the lake bottom with no soil disturbance). Inconsequential or insignificant (“de minimis”) vegetation removal done by hand (e.g., hand pulling, raking a few plants) does not require a permit. Small scale removal of plants that are an aquatic nuisance as defined in Part 33 does not require a permit, if the removal is accomplished by hand-pulling and all plant fragments are removed from the water and properly disposed of on land. Hand-raking of lake bottomlands that are unvegetated before raking and predominantly composed of sand or pebbles does not require a permit. Larger scale removal of plants requires a permit from the MDEQ's WRD. A use permit or authorization may be necessary from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to use a state operated access site for physical/mechanical control. In addition, cutting vegetation, including mechanical harvesting and mowing, on Great Lakes bottomlands in the St. Clair Flats requires a permit from the WRD. Disposal of harvested material within inland lakes, on Great Lakes bottomlands, or in wetlands is not allowed without prior written approval from the WRD.

Other physical control measures, such as benthic barriers, weed rollers, or lake draw-down, require a permit from the WRD. Contact the Environmental Assistance Center (1-800-662-9278 or email deq-assist@michigan.gov) for more information regarding WRD permit requirements.

Biological Control

A permit is not required from the State of Michigan for certain methods of biological control. Examples include biological control agents that are native to the region, including the milfoil weevil (*Euhrychiopsis lecontei*) and *Galerucella* beetles for Eurasian water milfoil and Purple loosestrife control, respectively. However, the introduction of banned species (e.g., grass carp) to control plant growth is illegal in the State of Michigan. Contact your local [Michigan Department of Natural Resources \(MDNR\) office](#) for further information.

Other Permits

Please contact your local units of government, including counties and townships, as they may have additional requirements or restrictions covering these activities. A permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is required for most activities that alter Great Lakes coastal areas. Contact the [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#) Detroit District at 1-888-694-8313.

2. Whom do I contact for permits for lake digging, dredging, and/or beach grooming?

Contact the [MDEQ's Environmental Assistance Center](#) by telephone at 1-800-662-9278 or by email at deg-assist@michigan.gov to be directed to the appropriate program.

3. What is a General Permit and Certificate of Coverage?

A General Permit (GP) is a special broad permit for a class of aquatic nuisance control activities that the state has determined should not negatively impact human health and should have no more than minimal short-term adverse impacts on the natural resources and environment. If a water body is eligible for coverage under a GP, an applicant may choose to apply for a Certificate of Coverage (COC) in place of an individual permit. A COC is written authorization from the MDEQ to implement a project under the terms outlined in a GP. The process for obtaining a COC is usually simpler, quicker, and less costly than the standard application process.

To view the current ANC GPs, please click [here](#).

Some GPs have pre-qualified waterbody lists. If your waterbody is not found on the candidate waterbody list, an applicant must go through the standard application process. Each year ANC staff review newly permitted waterbodies and treatment sites to determine if they fit the criteria to be covered under a GP. If they do fit the criteria, they may be added to the candidate waterbody list the following year. You may request that your waterbody or treatment site be reviewed for GP eligibility if you think that the waterbody or treatment site meets the criteria outlined in the GP.

4. How long do the permits last?

[Part 33](#) specifies that the term of a permit or COC shall not be less than 3 years unless the applicant requests a shorter term. All permits and COCs will terminate at midnight on December 31st in their year of expiration. Because of this statutory requirement, some permits and COCs will be issued for 4 treatment seasons in order to accommodate the minimum 3 year term (unless otherwise requested by the applicant).

5. Where can I purchase aquatic pesticides?

Consult the telephone book or internet to find local agricultural supply stores or pesticide distributors. Many stores that carry fertilizers and landscape supplies carry aquatic pesticides. Additionally, you may refer to this [list of approved pesticides in Michigan](#) and contact the manufacturer for locations of retailers in your area.

6. May I apply chemicals myself or do I need to hire a certified applicator?

In Michigan, most aquatic pesticides may be applied by individuals with proper authorization (such as permission of the property owner). However, the majority of treatments are carried out by [certified applicators](#). Certain chemical products, such as those with the active ingredients diquat dibromide or imazapyr, are categorized as restricted use pesticides, which mean they can only be applied by certified applicators. If you decide to apply chemicals on your own, be sure to follow all directions as indicated on the product label to protect yourself, others, and the environment.

7. If I decide to hire a contractor, where can I find a list of licensed pesticide applicators?

If you are interested in hiring a licensed pesticide applicator, visit the [MDARD Pesticide Application Business webpage](#) and select "Pesticide Application Businesses Currently Licensed to do Business in Michigan" or call the MDARD Central Licensing Unit for general information at 1-517-284-5771. On the licensed pesticide application businesses list, look for a company with individuals certified in Category 5, Aquatics, for lake and pond treatments, and Category 6, Right-of-Way, for exposed Great Lakes bottomlands. You may also seek referrals from other lake associations or riparian owners. The [ANC Program](#) also maintains a list of companies that commonly obtain ANC permits, which you may request by emailing deg-wrd-anc@michigan.gov or by calling 517-284-5593. By providing this list, the ANC Program does not endorse these companies, guarantee that these companies have the appropriate licenses/certifications, and/or does not accept liability for actions undertaken by these companies.

8. What happens if I treat without a permit or violate my permit?

Violations of Part 33 include performing chemical treatment without a permit, unless exempt as described in [Question 1](#). [Part 33](#) violations and permit violations are subject to both civil action and criminal enforcement. Penalties can be as high as a \$25,000 fine and up to two years of imprisonment. Permittees should review the statute and/or permit carefully and comply with all requirements. If there are any questions about complying with Part 33 or the terms of a permit(s), contact ANC staff at deg-wrd-anc@michigan.gov or by telephone at 517-284-5593.

9. How can I determine if there has been a permit application submitted for a specific waterbody?

The new MiWaters Database for the MDEQ Water Resources Division should be online mid-2015. At that point, interested parties may access the MiWaters database to determine whether an application has been submitted. The ANC Program website no longer has ability to track the status of an application.

10. How do I request a public hearing or notification of the treatment on my lake?

Unlike other sections of the NREPA, [Part 33](#) does not contain a provision for a public hearing regarding an ANC permitting decision.

In terms of pre-treatment notifications, each permit normally requires that the permittee notify, in writing, an owner of any waterfront property within 100 feet of the area of impact, not less than 7 days and not more than 45 days before the initial pesticide treatment. Written notification includes contact information for the permittee, a list of pesticides to be used with the corresponding water use restrictions, and approximate treatment dates. On the day of treatment, the permittee (or his/her contracted applicator) is required to post signs along treated areas to identify the locations and provide information about the treatment.

11. Can I prevent my neighbor from putting aquatic pesticides in my lake?

You generally cannot prevent your neighbor from treating his/her property under a valid permit. In Michigan, waterfront property owners typically own the bottomlands in wedge shape out to the center point or thread of the lake or stream, respectively. Just as your neighbor has a right to maintain or fertilize their lawn, they also have the right to control aquatic vegetation associated with their bottomlands, install a seawall, etc. as long as they have a permit from the MDEQ. Except in certain circumstances (such as in a Special Assessment District) you also have the right to *not* chemically treat your bottomlands.

12. What can I do if I think someone is treating without a permit or is not following the terms of their permit?

If you suspect that a violation of [Part 33](#) and/or an ANC permit has occurred, please contact ANC staff at 517-284-5593 or deq-wrd-anc@michigan.gov with as much information as possible (e.g. dates, chemicals used, people involved, any photos, etc.).

Applying for a Permit

1. What is the deadline to apply for an individual/standard permit or a Certificate of Coverage?

There is no deadline to submit an application in order to receive a permit or COC to treat in a given year. However, there are processing times provided in the statute. The MDEQ must either approve or deny an application for a permit or COC by the later of April 15 or 30 (15 for a COC) working days from receipt of a complete application or by any date requested by the applicant and agreed to by the MDEQ. There are exceptions to these deadlines for applications meeting certain criteria; however you should generally keep these timeframes in mind when submitting an application.

2. How do I know which permit application form to use?

There are two application forms that can be used to apply for an ANC permit or COC. All applicants should submit the [ANC Permit Application Form EQP2790](#) unless the request is to treat for swimmer's itch. In that case, submit the [Swimmer's Itch Application Form EQP2794](#).

3. How do I know which chemical to use and how much?

The species of targeted aquatic vegetation must be correctly identified before an effective chemical can be selected. Documents including “[Common Aquatic Plants of Michigan](#)”, this [list of aquatic plant identification resources](#), and others are available from the [ANC homepage](#) to help with plant identification. Once you have identified the plant(s) you wish to treat, review the document “[What are the Chemical Control Options?](#)” to assist in appropriate chemical selection. To determine the chemical amount(s) necessary for effective control, first determine the treatment area size (acres) and/or the average water depth (feet). Then, using the correct application rate found on the product label, calculate the appropriate amount of chemicals needed by multiplying the treatment area or volume by the application rate. This [list of chemicals approved for use on the ANC Standard Permits](#) may also be a helpful resource for you as it includes chemicals and the typical application rates allowed in ANC permits.

If approved, your ANC permit will list the maximum amount(s) and application rate(s) of each chemical that is appropriate for your treatment area. As part of the permit application review process, ANC staff will ensure that you will be using enough product to be effective, but not too much as to cause environmental harm. It is imperative that you read and understand your permit.

4. How can I obtain depth contour maps for my lake/pond?

The MDNR has many [lake maps](#) available to the public. If depth contour maps are not available for your lake or pond, accurate measurements can be made by using a boat and a measurement device to approximate depth contours of your treatment areas. Consultants or chemical applicators may also offer this service. Of particular interest is the location of the 5 foot depth contour. You may also check local fishing, bait, and sporting good/boating retailers for any locally generated lake maps.

5. Once my application is received how long will it take for my permit to be issued? Can I check the status of my application?

Every treatment proposal is considered unique, and each proposal will be reviewed individually, so the timeframe inevitably varies based on the scope of the proposal, site conditions, etc. However, the MDEQ must either approve or deny an application for a permit or COC by the later of April 15 or 30 working days (15 working days for a COC) from receipt of a complete application or by any date requested by the applicant and agreed to by the MDEQ. The MDEQ must issue a 15 percent refund of the application fee if this deadline is not met, provided the application was complete upon submittal.

Additionally, if the MDEQ does not meet the deadline, certain applications shall qualify for the 15 percent application fee refund and be considered to be approved if all of the following apply:

- The proposed area of impact is the same as or entirely contained within the area of impact approved in a previous permit.
- The active ingredient or trade name of each chemical proposed to be applied is the same as approved in a previous permit and each chemical is currently approved for use by the department.
- The application rate and number of treatments do not exceed those approved in the previous permit.

- The minimum length of time between treatments is not less than that approved in the previous permit.

The new MiWaters Database for the MDEQ Water Resources Division should be online mid-2015. At that point, interested parties may access the MiWaters database to determine whether an application has been submitted. The ANC Program website no longer has ability to track the status of an application.

Expansions/Revisions

1. I have already received a permit, but I need to modify or transfer it. What are my options?

Depending on your situation, you may need to revise, expand, transfer, or submit a new permit application. Expansions and revisions are explained below, but you may also wish to review the [ANC Form Choice Flow Chart](#), which will direct you to the appropriate form given the modification you wish to make to your permit.

2. What is an expansion?

Expansions are a new way to add additional area(s) to your permitted treatment area(s). Permits can be expanded without a formal revision if an infestation of a targeted non-native invasive species is newly located in adjacent (contiguous), unpermitted areas. The expansion treatment must also use the same chemicals and application rates as those currently authorized in the permit. Expansions must still comply with the notification requirements described in the permit and in [Question 10 of the General Information section](#). Additionally, there are notifications required between the permittee and the DEQ, depending on the size and location of the expansion. Please review the [ANC Permit Revision and Expansion Form EQP9221](#) (Revision and Expansion Form) for more detailed information and directions. An expansion report is also due 15 days following treatment. This report form is part of the Revision and Expansion Form.

Be aware that if the treatment acreage for expansions places the permit into a higher fee category, the difference in fee is due within 15 days of the initial expanded treatment. Instructions on paying this fee are also on the Revision and Expansion Form and more information is provided under [Question 4 of this section](#).

3. What is a revision?

Revisions, previously called amendments, are changes to your permit that do not constitute a change in scope of what was permitted. Revisions must still comply with the notification requirements described in the permit and in [Question 10 of the General Information section](#) if additional treatment area is added. Your revision request is not a change of scope if it meets the following criteria:

- addition of chemical(s) or modification of chemical amount(s) for an existing approved treatment area;
- addition, deletion, or modification of permit conditions to protect natural resources or improve treatment efficacy or operations;

- addition of treatment areas consistent with the conditions of your permit (other than for an expansion of invasive treatment meeting the expansion criteria);
- correction of an MDEQ error.

A permit revision request that is outside the scope of the original project will not be issued as a revision. This request must be submitted as a [new permit application](#).

In order for a permit to be revised, the MDEQ must receive a written request signed by the permittee. Complete the [Revision and Expansion Form](#) for a Revision and follow all instructions to submit additional payment with the Revision and Expansion Form if required due to added treatment area. More information is provided under [Question 4 of this section](#).

4. How does my fee change if I add treatment area(s)? When is the additional fee due and do we have to wait to treat until the fee is received?

Your fee only changes if the additional treatment area(s) adds sufficient area to place you into a higher fee category and your permit was not a COC (COCs have a flat fee and do not change based on treatment area size). Then the difference between the fee initially paid and the fee for the new total treatment area size is due. The due date for the additional fee varies depending on whether the area is added through an expansion or a revision. Expansion payments are due 15 days after the initial treatment along with the expansion report of the [Revision and Expansion Form](#), so you may treat prior to the MDEQ receiving the payment. Revision payments are due with the Revision and Expansion Form requesting a revision (prior to treating the revised area).

Treatment categories are defined as:

- Less than ½ acre
- ½ acre or more but less than 5 acres
- 5 acres or more but less than 20 acres
- 20 acres or more but less than 100 acres
- 100 acres or more

As an example, if the fee for a permit for less than ½ acre is \$75 and the fee for a permit for ½ to less than 5 acres is \$200, then expanding a ¼ acre treatment area by adding 2 more acres results in an additional fee of \$125 due 15 days after the treatment. If the permit is revised from ¼ acres to 2 ¼ acres, then \$125 is due at the time of the revision request. Additionally, the annual fee for subsequent years becomes \$200 in both cases. If the permit was issued as a COC, no additional fee is due in either case.

Permit Fees

1. What is the required permit application fee for my proposed treatment?

The permit application fee structure is based on the size of the proposed treatment area (not the waterbody size) and may vary from year to year in order to achieve a target in fee revenue, in accordance with Part 33. The COC application fee is a flat fee and does not vary by size of the proposed treatment area, but may also vary on an annual basis. Please visit the [ANC homepage](#) and view the “ANC Fee Information” under the Application & Permit Information header for the latest fee information.

Please be aware that an annual fee due by April 1st is also a requirement for subsequent years of in-effect multi-year permits. The annual fee is equal to the permit application fee paid for that permit plus any additional fee required due to an expansion or revision if the added treatment area places the permit in a higher fee category.

2. If the fees are subject to change each year, how can I pay for multiple years up-front?

The annual fee is equal to the application fee paid in the initial year of the permit plus any additional fees due to an expansion or revision adding treatment area sufficient to place the permit into a higher fee category. To pay the permit application fee and the annual fees for multiple years up-front, multiply the initial permit application fee times the number of requested years of coverage. Additional annual fees due to revision or expansion would be based on the fee structure in place during the initial year of the multi-year permit. Additional fees are due within 15 days of an expanded treatment or permit revision in the first year and become part of the annual fee due by April 1st of subsequent years. An example of this scenario for both revisions and expansions is provided under [Question 4 of that section](#).

3. What happens if I miss payment of the annual fee? How do I reactivate my permit?

If you do not pay the annual fee by April 1st, your permit is suspended until payment is received. Your permit is reactivated once the annual fee is paid—however, all unpaid annual fees are due at that time. For example, if you do not treat and therefore do not pay the annual fee for year two of a three-year permit, but you do want to treat in year three, you must pay both the annual fee for years two and three to reactivate your permit.

4. What payment methods are available?

You may pay via mail by check or online using a credit card. You must submit one check or one online transaction receipt per application. Details on the options for submitting payment are listed on the last page of the [ANC Permit Application EQP2790](#).

5. If my permit is denied or modified, will I get a fee refund?

All application fees are non-refundable once the application review process begins. However, a 15 percent application fee refund will be issued if a permit decision is not made within the statutory deadlines (details in [Question 5 of the Applying for a Permit section](#)).

6. If I increase the treatment area enough through a revision or an expansion to place my permit into a higher fee category, and then decrease the treatment area for the following year, would I revert back to paying the lower fee?

Annual fees for multi-year permits are equal to the initial application fee plus any additional fee required due to revision or expansion of the treatment area, regardless of treatment area size in subsequent years. If you wish to reduce the permit fee due to reduced treatment area size, you must [apply for a new permit](#).

Permit Conditions

1. [Annual treatment reports](#) are due no later than November 30th each year. However, the permits run through the end of the year. How should treatments in December be reported?

Treatments in December rarely if ever occur. If a December treatment occurred, the permittee could either revise a treatment report that was submitted earlier in order to meet the November 30 deadline, or they could contact the ANC program to negotiate the approval of a late submittal of the annual treatment report.

2. **Does notification of adjacent waterfront properties apply to all types of waterbodies or just lakes? Does the written notification for waterfront property owners within 100 feet of the treatment area apply only to owners with waterfront property or to properties that are within 100 feet inland from the treated waters but are not actually on the waterbody?**

Part 33 allows the MDEQ to require the permittee to notify an owner of any waterfront property within 100 feet of the area of impact. This may include any type of waterfront property, whether the waterbody is a lake, river, or wetland. Written notification is not required for those who live within 100 feet inland from the treatment area who do not own waterfront property within 100 feet of the area of impact.

3. **What are the special requirements for a whole lake treatment for aquatic nuisance control (including fluridone treatments)?**

A request for a whole lake chemical treatment must be accompanied by a Lake Management Plan (LMP) pursuant to [Part 33](#). An LMP includes the following items:

- Physical characterization of waterbody
- Biological characterization of waterbody
- Water quality information
- Description of nuisance conditions
- Management goals
- History of waterbody management
- Vegetation management plan
- Monitoring and evaluation

The LMP is a tool used by riparian owners, resource managers, lake managers, consultants, and commercial pesticide applicators to review aspects of the lake in order to determine the aquatic plant management problems, outline possible solutions, and consider the various methods to achieve these solutions successfully. The LMP also provides sufficient scientific information for the MDEQ to determine if proposed treatments can selectively control an aquatic nuisance without causing unacceptable impacts on native aquatic vegetation, other aquatic or terrestrial resources, or human health and safety. For further details, please click [here](#).

In addition, supplementary conditions may be applied to a whole lake treatment permit. These conditions allow for monitoring of a chemical application to determine adverse impacts on native aquatic vegetation or other aquatic life. Special pre- and post-treatment monitoring procedures are already in place for fluridone treatments. These guidelines can be found on the ANC website under [Fluridone Treatments](#).

Please note that requests for whole lake treatments are not common. Typically these treatments are intended for control of large-scale infestations of invasive species. Before you apply for a whole lake treatment, please contact the ANC Program by email at

deg-wrd-anc@michigan.gov or telephone at 517-284-5593 for additional guidance. Application fees are not refundable once the review process begins.

Environment/Human Health

1. Are the aquatic pesticides safe for public health and the environment?

The aquatic pesticides that are permitted by the [ANC Program](#) are registered by the [United States Environmental Protection Agency](#) and the [Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development \(MDARD\)](#). They also undergo toxicological review by the MDEQ. If the pesticides are applied according to label instructions and permit requirements, these chemicals should pose no danger to public health and the environment.

General product safety information should be included on the product label or generally you can find the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) or Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) on the manufacturer's website for more information.

2. Will the pesticides contaminate drinking water wells?

Most registered aquatic pesticides break down quickly and are not a threat to drinking water wells. Some granular aquatic pesticides containing either 2,4-D (e.g., Navigate, Aquacide) or endothal (e.g., Aquathol Super K, Hydrothol 191 Granular) require extra precautions when used near active drinking water wells due to the potential for persistence and mobility in the environment. When these products are proposed for use, the MDEQ imposes isolation distances (or "no-treatment" zones, measured from the well, not the shoreline) as follows:

- Wells less than 30 feet deep: do not apply the pesticide within 250 feet of the well.
- Wells more than 30 feet deep: do not apply the pesticide within 75 feet of the well.

Prior to using the above aquatic pesticides, the user should develop a comprehensive list of wells around the waterbody. The list should be reviewed on a regular basis to confirm that the information is accurate. Over time, wells may be abandoned (often in favor of municipal connections) and/or new wells may be constructed. The list of wells can include the following:

- Names, addresses, and telephone numbers for all property owners within and adjacent to the treatment area.
- Well information for each parcel – the distance from the shoreline, the depth, and whether the well is actively used.
- Map showing the waterbody, parcel boundaries, and well locations. Use the map scale to draw the isolation distances around the wells.

The permittee is required to obtain information on wells prior to applying any of these products. The MDEQ may ask the permittee to submit the list of wells on any waterbody where there is a concern.

3. Will the aquatic pesticides affect swimming or fishing in the lake?

The DEQ institutes a 24-hour swimming restriction only in the treatment area. This restriction is in place primarily so that swimmers are not dispersing the product into areas where it is not permitted. The only product with a swim restriction on the federal label is 2,4-D ester (Navigate

and Aquacide, 24-hour swim restriction). As of January 2015 there are no fishing restrictions required by the aquatic pesticide labels of products allowed in Michigan and, if properly used, the pesticides should not directly affect the fish.

4. What if there are threatened or endangered species that nest/live on my lake?

The [ANC Program](#) assesses each waterbody to determine whether there is a threatened or endangered species present using historical data and by reviewing information from the MDNR Fisheries Division. If there is a protected species present, ANC Program staff will work with applicable agencies, the applicant, and other waterbody stakeholders to minimize impacts of the treatment activity to the threatened or endangered species.

5. What if my lake has wetlands adjacent to the shoreline?

The [ANC application](#) requires that known wetlands be identified on the treatment map(s). ANC staff uses multiple resources to verify wetlands during the review process. Sometimes, areas that appear to be wetlands are not. For example, the presence of a few cattails along the shoreline does not necessarily mean that an area is considered wetland. The ANC program typically does not permit treatment of native plants adjacent to wetlands and/or along other types of undeveloped shoreline. For additional guidance on identifying wetlands, including regulatory information, contact the MDEQ's Wetlands, Lakes, and Streams Unit at 517-284-5531. You may also review the information available on the [MDEQ Wetlands Map Viewer](#).

6. What if my lake only has native vegetation?

MDEQ permits treatment of both native and non-native aquatic vegetation. Treatment of native vegetation is typically restricted to certain sized areas with the highest recreational usage (along developed shoreline). Treatment of non-native vegetation is usually allowed anywhere in the lake, provided it can be conducted in a selective manner (through selection of the herbicide active ingredient, dosage, seasonal timing, treatment frequency, etc.).

7. I think I found an invasive aquatic plant in my lake. What should I do?

If you think you have found a non-native invasive aquatic plant, please contact the [ANC Program](#) by email at deq-wrd-anc@michigan.gov or telephone at 517-284-5593.

You may also visit the [MDNR Invasive Species Reporting in Michigan](#) web page for more information, as well as further contacts for reporting the species.

8. I am interested in learning more about improving the water quality in my lake. Whom should I contact?

The MDEQ, in partnership with the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc., developed the [Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program](#) (CLMP) as a cost-effective method for citizens to monitor water quality and to document changes in lake water quality over time. The [CLMP website](#) has additional information, such as how to join.

Additional information may be obtained from local universities, environmental consultants, non-profit organizations, local units of government, other state agencies, and the federal government.

9. I still have questions concerning aquatic nuisance control. What is the Aquatic Nuisance Control Program's contact information?

ANC staff welcomes any questions you may have. You may contact staff by email at deq-wrd-anc@michigan.gov or telephone at 517-284-5593. If you have a particular staff person you wish to contact, please view the [ANC program staff contact list](#).