

Dear Ms. Hamel,

I would like to make the following comments on the proposed revised Aquatic Noxious Weed Control NPDES general permit.

I appreciate separating herbicide applications that are not made directly to water from those that are. In most cases, plants we are treating may be near water's edge, but little to no herbicide gets in the water. The risks associated with this kind of application are significantly different from those that are made directly to plants in the water and several of the changes that are proposed reflect that appropriately.

I would ask that the posting notices only list a phone number for more information, but not stipulate that it be the applicator's. While I agree that the applicator will be in the best position to know exactly what applications were made in the field, and is ultimately responsible for treatments, they are not always available or within range to accept a phone call. It is important to provide a contact number, but best to it be worked out by the entity responsible for the treatments to decide whose name and number will be placed on the posting notice.

I would like to thank WA Dept of Ecology and WA Dept of Agriculture for continuing to work together so this important work can continue while providing thoughtful protections for the environment and citizens.

Cathy Lucero  
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