

October 28, 2004

To: Aquatic Nuisance Weed and Algae Control Permittees or Lake Management Associations

The year 2005 will be Ecology's fourth year of issuing Nuisance Weed permit coverage. Those of you who have received two years of coverage under the Nuisance Weed and Algae NPDES permit need to submit an Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan to Ecology before additional herbicide treatments can be made. The earlier these documents are submitted to your regional Ecology contact, the more likely they will be approved in time for the 2005 application season.

Ecology developed and issued guidance last July to help lake groups meet the permit requirement of developing Integrated Aquatic Vegetative Management plans. The guidance Ecology developed can be found on our website at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/pesticides/index.html>. This plan is an important component to the permit that not only is an educational experience to better understand lake systems but also fosters greater involvement of lake users in protecting and enhancing lakes. Well thought-out plans provide some flexibility in how and where herbicides are used in individual lakes. Ecology believes the plans are a good lake management tool and want to work with you to make these plans successful.

There is a large workload associated with reviewing these plans. Your chances of having an approved plan in time to treat during the 2005 season improve if you submit the plan as soon as possible. Please remember that many of these plans will need to be revised after they are reviewed. You need to include revisions time and SEPA comment time in any timeline you have in mind for these plans.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact the Ecology regional office in your area. Contact names and phone numbers are listed below.

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Sincerely,

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