



Public Interest Center | P.O. Box 1049 | Columbus, OH | 43216-1049

FOR RELEASE: October 31, 2011
MEDIA CONTACT: Linda Fee Oros, (614) 644-2160
CITIZEN CONTACT: Mary McCarron, (614) 6442160

Ohio EPA Finalizes General Permit for Pesticide Application Discharges

Ohio EPA has finalized a general permit applying to discharges from the application of pesticides as mandated by a federal court decision. Pesticide application requires a wastewater discharge permit beginning today, if it occurs in, over or on surface waters. Ohio EPA expects these discharges to have minimal effect on the environment.

The permit will be needed for applications to ditch banks, aerial spraying and fogging. It covers six use categories including:

- mosquito and other aquatic nuisance insect control;
- aquatic weed and algae control;
- forest canopy pest control;
- intrusive vegetation control;
- aquatic nuisance animal control; and
- invasive plant management in resource conservation areas and mitigation areas.

An operator is not eligible for coverage under this permit if the application is in, over or near waters already impaired by the pesticide or the chemical products that result from its breakdown, or if the discharges are currently covered under another permit. Discharges not covered under this permit may be covered under a separate discharge permit with its own specific requirements.

Modifications were made to the original draft based on comments Ohio EPA received including cost concerns about additional paperwork. Ohio EPA responded by decreasing the number of permittees required to fill out applications by setting up a provision for the general permit to apply automatically. In other words, some pesticide users such as homeowners – would simply be required to follow proper application procedures and restrictions.

Ohio EPA decreased the number of permittees that are required to submit a pesticide discharge management plan. Small businesses and public entities with less than 10,000 people served will be exempted. While requirements for annual reporting were retained, a standard fill-in form is under development that can be downloaded and emailed back to streamline the reporting process.

Invasive plant management in conservation and mitigation areas also were exempted from pesticide discharge management plans as these applications occur when a small scale individual use is intended, such as a park manager conducting routine spraying of spots to kill invasive plants.

This general permit would no longer apply if currently pending federal legislation were to move forward. The legislation would amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), over-riding the federal court decision. U.S. EPA could no longer require additional permitting for pesticide use under the Clean Water Act. It also would prohibit issuing permits for pesticide use.

Statewide general permits have a five-year duration and are reviewed and revised as needed at the end of that period. A general permit is one permit covering many locations that have similar discharges. General permits are used to allow discharges that will have a minimal impact on the environment. An individual could request coverage under the draft general permit by submitting an application, notice of intent and paying applicable fees.

Copies of [the permit, fact sheet and public notice](#) are available for review.

Those wishing to be on Ohio EPA's interested party's mailing list for this general permit should write to Eric Nygaard, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water, Permits and Compliance Section, P.O. Box 1049, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049, call (614) 644-2024, or email eric.nygaard@epa.ohio.gov.