



April 17, 2025

Josh Estreen
PO Box 446
Rice Lake WI 54868

Subject: Permit NO-2025-3-X03-24T11-43-15, Rice Lake, Barron County Aquatic Plant Management
Permit Application Denial

Dear Josh Estreen,

The Department has reviewed your application to chemically treat 23.60 acres of aquatic vegetation in Rice Lake in Barron County. After careful consideration, your permit application does not meet the minimum requirements by law and is denied.

The Rice Lake District annually maintains aquatic plant harvesting for navigational purposes. Implementation of a chemical treatment would introduce unnecessary water use restrictions throughout Southwest and Clearwater Bays on Rice Lake which is not accounted for within the application permit.

The department is committed to managing Rice Lake in Barron County responsibly. If you have any questions or concerns, you may reach me at tyler.mesalk@wisconsin.gov or 715-416-5066.

State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the Secretary,

Tyler Mesalk
Water Resources Management Specialist

CC:

Alex Smith – Lake Biologist, WDNR

Anna Mares – Water Resources Supervisor, WDNR

Madi Johansen – Aquatic Plant Management Team Leader, WDNR

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Josh Estreen has submitted an application to chemically treat aquatic vegetation on March 24th, 2025, under Sections 23,24 and 281.17(2), Wis. Stats, and Wisconsin Natural Resources Code 107, to chemically treat up to 23.60 acres on Rice Lake with 2,4-D and Aquastrike.
2. 2,4-D is a systemic herbicide (i.e., it moves throughout the plant tissue) that primarily affects broadleaf plants. It is a WSSA Group 4 herbicide, meaning that the mechanism of action is by mimicking the plant growth hormone auxin. Following treatment, 2,4-D is taken up by the plant and translocated through the roots, stems, and leaves, resulting in bending and twisting of stems followed by growth inhibition.

Plants begin to decay within one to two weeks after application, but it can take several weeks for plants to fully decompose. Treatments should be made when plants are actively growing.

3. The Department has determined under the Wisconsin Administrative Code Chapter NR 107.05 (3) (c) that the chemical control will not provide aquatic plant nuisance relief in the designated areas (CWBay-Nav and CWBay-25). The control will not allow for increased navigation and recreational opportunities. The previously issued permit for harvesting (NO-2025-3-21452M) already maintains nuisance navigation relief in Southwest and Clearwater bays.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The Department has authority under s. Sections 23.24 and 281.17(2), Wis. Stats., and Chapter NR 107 Wis. Adm. Code and the foregoing Findings of Fact, to issue an order denying the proposed chemical application.

Notice of Appeal Rights: If you believe that you have a right to challenge this decision, you should know that Wisconsin statutes and administrative rules establish time periods within which requests to review Department decisions must be filed. For judicial review of a decision pursuant to ss. 227.52 and 227.53, Wis. Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed or otherwise served by the Department, to file your petition with the appropriate circuit court and serve the petition on the Department. Such a petition for judicial review shall name the Department of Natural Resources as the respondent. This notice is provided pursuant to s. 227.48(2), Wis. Stats. To request a contested case hearing pursuant to s. 227.42, Wis. Stats., you have 30 days after the decision is mailed, or otherwise served by the Department, to serve a petition for hearing on the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources. The filing of a request for a contested case hearing is not a prerequisite for judicial review and does not extend the 30-day period for filing a petition for judicial review.