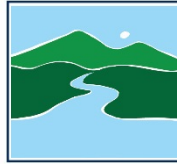


Response Summary for Aquatic Nuisance Control Individual Permit



VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
**WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT DIVISION**
LAKES & PONDS PROGRAM

<p>Permittees: Town of Hubbardton & Lake Beebe Watershed Association (Decision-makers) & Solitude Lake Management (Decision-makers & Operators)</p> <p>Control Activity: Pesticide (SePRO Sonar AS®)</p>	<p>Permit Number: 2016-C01</p> <p>Waterbody: Lake Beebe</p>
<p>The above referenced Aquatic Nuisance Control Individual Permit 2016-C01 authorizes the use of SePRO Sonar AS® in Lake Beebe, Hubbardton.</p> <p>The application was placed on public notice between April 18, 2016 and April 27, 2016. Public comments were received during the notice period.</p> <p>The following is a summary of the comments and the Department’s responses to those comments. Some of the comments were paraphrased and edited for clarity and combined where appropriate.</p>	
<p>1. Comment: The decision-maker and operator are concerned over the monitoring requirements for the compound n-methyl formamide (NMF). Under #7 Herbicide Concentration Monitoring on page 2, the need to sample for NMF is mentioned in several areas. Presently, there is no lab that is set up to run NMF analysis. This would require a significant investment, reportedly tens of thousands of dollars, for a metabolite that has never been detected in the field. I would ask that this requirement be removed from the permit.</p> <p>1. Response: The Department removed permit language requiring all monitoring of NMF in response to this comment and review of the <i>Specific Recommendations</i> regarding NMF formation as identified in Aquatic Nuisance Control Permit #2011-C01 (Star Lake, Mount Holly). NMF formation as described in 2011-C01 is as follows: “Based on the photolysis and behavior of fluridone in aquatic systems, the concentration of fluridone resulting from a Sonar A.S. treatment with a target concentration of 8 ppb should not be sufficient to result in the formation of NMF above a detection limit of 2 ppb. Under a realistic worst-case scenario, a concentration of greater than 30 ppb of fluridone would be needed to form 2 ppb of NMF. Therefore, the Department has determined that water samples need to be analyzed for NMF only if a fluridone concentration at or above 30 ppb is found”. The Department finds that the removal of NMF monitoring poses a negligible risk to public health if permit conditions are followed.</p> <p>2. Comment: Vermont Department of Fish & Wildlife staff noted that within the application, “only Humped Bladderwort (<i>Utricularia gibba</i>) is found on Vermont’s rare plant list” regarding the presence of rare, threatened, or endangered species. Please note that the Heritage database indicates two rare/uncommon (S2S3) species known from the lake. These are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · wire-stemmed pondweed (<i>Potamogeton strictifolius</i>) which was last observed in 2004. It was noted as present and the abundance and exact location(s) were not reported. · hornwort (<i>Ceratophyllum echinatum</i>), last observed in 2005 in the northeast corner of the pond. <p>At a minimum, a request that surveys be done to look for the wire stemmed pondweed and the hornwort, and any areas containing them not be treated with the Sonar.</p> <p>2. Response: The Department has added the reference to these two rare species in the Approved Application. The two aforementioned rare species have been identified within the <i>Finding</i> of the permit. Under permit condition a.10.E., all plant species encountered during pre-treatment and post-treatment plant surveys shall have their presence and relative abundance documented. In addition, under permit condition b.5.,</p>	

encounters with any rare, threatened, or endangered species shall be reported to the Secretary immediately. The request to not treat areas with Sonar AS® if either of these species are encountered would not be practical in light of the low dose lake-wide treatment technique.

- 3. Comment:** The applicant requested that it would be helpful, from a timing standpoint, if the 15-day advance notification period to abutting property owners in condition a.6.B. be reduced.
- 3. Response:** These proposed edits were accepted by the Department and the advance notification period to abutting property owners has been reduced to one week prior to treatment.
- 4. Comment:** The applicant requested that they would prefer “abutting property owners” in Specific Condition a.6.B. be replaced by “abutting home owners” as there are tiny parcels of lake frontage along Route 30 that are very small and do not contain homes. We suggest those property owners should be treated like the general public, as they do not use the state owned lake for drinking its water. They will of course be notified by the signs we will place along Route 30.
- 4. Response:** The proposed edit has been rejected by the Department. The notification is intended to allow for all abutting property owners an equal form of notification regardless of shoreline development.