
Wisconsin DNR

Integrated Aquatic Plant Management Rule Process

FAQ's

Why is the DNR undergoing rule revisions for Aquatic Plant Management?

The main goal of the rule revision process is to combine and update NR 107 (chemical control) and NR 109 (mechanical, manual, physical control) into one inclusive aquatic plant management rule. The goal is to streamline permitting and create a planning process. In addition, the rule incorporates integrated pest management (IPM) concepts throughout, modernizes public notification procedures, and reduces some regulations for small waterbodies.

How did the DNR draft the new NR 107?

From 2016-2019, the DNR completed a Strategic Analysis of the Aquatic Plant Management Program. The comprehensive document has information on all aspects of aquatic plant management. Including, known and possible environmental impacts, applicable regulations, economic considerations, and potential program alternatives for the future. It is a key informational resource to help the DNR and public better understand APM and help with future policy. You may find the document here: <https://widnr.widen.net/s/pjvlt9khp8/undefined>.

Around the same time, the DNR put together a Study Group of external partners to consult on the Strategic Analysis and eventual scope statement for administrative rule drafting. This group was made up of chemical applicators, lake management consultants, wetland field experts, lake association representatives and conservation organizations. The Study Group reviewed the final Strategic Analysis document. They highlighted the key areas where the APM program could improve in a final report. They also reviewed and supplied input on the Scope Statement for Aquatic Plant Management, which frames what revisions the DNR intends to do in a rule revision.

Over the two years, the DNR worked with a diverse range of stakeholders to gather input on the rule proposals. The DNR used the Study Group's recommendations to frame ten policy white papers. Each white paper shares ideas about the best way forward. The DNR conducted four public meetings on the white papers to supply an early opportunity for input. There were over 450 relevant comments and questions on the white papers. The DNR met with interested groups to discuss options for the rule and answer questions. After careful consideration of all public input, the DNR drafted the proposed rule. The Economic Impact Analysis was drafted at the same time. After a draft was completed, APM program staff, the program attorney and DNR leadership supplied input.

Why does the new rule draft look different from current NR 107 and 109?

The DNR followed new administrative rule drafting formats set by the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau. This means some sections may “look” different than the current NR 107 or NR 109 language though the content in the section did not substantially change. Other sections are new, such as the ponds and wetlands sections. Some sections were not changed at all. The draft is in “Board Order” format now, which makes the rule look longer than it will once the final draft is approved as law.

Is the rule available on the DNR website the final draft?

Yes. There was a public comment period for the draft Economic Impact Analysis: September 27th through November 10th, 2021. There was a public comment period for the draft rule from January 3rd to March 1st. There was a public hearing on the rule February 22nd. The DNR considered every comment that was submitted, and made numerous changes to the proposed rule as a result. The DNR will send the proposed rule to the Natural Resources Board, Governor for approval in summer 2022.

When can I provide comments on the proposed rule?

All comment periods during the drafting phase of the rule process are complete. However, you may register to speak at the Natural Resources Board Hearing or submit written comments to the board on the draft rule prior to their public meeting this summer. Please sign up for [GovDelivery](#) and watch the [APM Rules web page](#) for the most up to date information. They will tell you when and how you can provide input into the rule making process.

Where can I learn more about what’s in the proposed rule and what it means to me?

Please go to the APM Rules Web page. There are several educational resources available to walk you through all of the proposed changes to the program. The program will also host multiple workshops, present at conferences and provide articles in LakeTides to get everyone up to speed on the program changes prior to rule implementation January 1, 2024.

When will the program changes come into effect?

The proposed rule is scheduled to be implemented on January 1, 2024. The program set this date so that APM permittees can get familiar with the program changes, reach out with questions and continue their aquatic plant management programs.

Who should I reach out to with questions about the proposed rule and what it means for me?

You may email [Madi Johansen](#) or [Carroll Schaal](#) with questions about the rule.

