Aquatic Nuisance Control: Identifying and Protecting Drinking Water Wells

FACT SHEET

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Water Bureau
Surface Water Assessment Section

WHERE TO BEGIN

In Michigan, the chemical control of nuisance aquatic plants, algae and swimmer's itch is regulated by the Aquatic Nuisance Control (ANC) Program, part of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ) Water Bureau. Permits are issued pursuant to Part 33, Aquatic Nuisance Control, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA); Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the NREPA; and the administrative rules promulgated thereunder.

DRINKING WATER WELL REQUIREMENTS

A drinking water well is any well which withdraws groundwater for human consumption. Drinking water wells may be used by individual property owners, multi-family complexes (e.g., mobile home parks or apartment buildings), private businesses, public facilities, municipalities, etc.

Due to the potential for persistence and mobility in the environment, granular aquatic pesticides containing either 2,4-D or endothall (active ingredient) require extra precautions when used near active drinking water wells. The State of Michigan setback distances (or "no-treatment" zones) are as follows:

- *Wells less than 30 feet deep: do not apply the pesticide within 250 feet of the well.*
- *Wells more than 30 feet deep: do not apply the pesticide within 75 feet of the well.*

The setback distance should be measured from the well, not the shoreline. Currently approved product brand names are Navigate, Aquacide, and Aquakleen (2,4-D) and Aquathol Super K and Hydrothol 191 Granular (endothall). Your annual ANC permit will include the above restrictions if these products are approved for use.

HOW TO FIND WELL INFORMATION

The following sources may help you determine the existence, location and/or depth of drinking water wells:

- Local unit of government, such as county health department, planning department, etc.
- MDEQ/Michigan State University Water Well Viewer (free) – a mapping tool to locate newer wells. http://wellviewer.rsgis.msu.edu
- MDEQ Wellogic System (free with password) – well logs entered since January 2000. http://www.deq.state.mi.us/wellogic/main.html
- MDEQ Scanned Water Well Retrieval System (free) – older well logs, mostly from 1965 to 1999. http://www.deq.state.mi.us/well-logs
- Contact your neighbors! Ask each property owner to confirm their drinking water source.

CREATING A WELL LOG

A comprehensive well log should include the following:

- Names, addresses, and phone numbers for all property owners within and adjacent to the treatment area.
- Well information for each parcel – the distance from the shoreline, the depth, and whether the well is actively used.
- Map showing the waterbody, parcel boundaries, and well locations. Use the map scale to draw the "no-treatment zones" around the wells.

The well log should be reviewed on a regular basis to confirm that the information is accurate. Over time, wells may be abandoned (often in favor of municipal connections) and/or new wells may be constructed.

ADDITIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, contact the ANC Program staff at DEQ-LWM-ANC@michigan.gov (email) or 517-241-7734 (phone).