STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

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GOVERNOR

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DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: October 14, 2013

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Generally Accepted Operation Practices for Sport Shooting Ranges
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

Section 1 of 1989 PA 269 and Executive Orders 2009-45, 2009-54, 2011-1, and 2011-2 authorize the Department of Natural Resources to adopt generally accepted operation practices for sport shooting ranges.

Discussion and Background:

Sport Shooting Ranges, 1989 PA 269, an act to provide civil immunity to persons who operate or use certain sport shooting ranges, was amended by PA 250 of 1994. Public Act 250 is intended to protect the owners and operators of existing shooting ranges from nuisance suits based on noise emanating from the range. Under the terms of the law, an existing sport shooting range which is in compliance with any noise ordinances or laws which existed at the time the range was established, and which is operated according to generally accepted operation practices (GAOPs), are afforded this protection.

Once adopted, the GAOPs must be reviewed at least every five years. The DNR may review the practices in a shorter interval and make any adjustments it feels are required.

The last review of the GAOPs occurred in 2010, and was based upon the operating specifications outlined in the *National Rifle Association Range Manual, A Guide to Planning and Construction, 1999*. The 2010 Memo listed the Sections and Chapters of the *National Rifle Association Range Manual* that established what is considered the current GAOPs.

In fall 2012, the National Rifle Association (NRA) released an updated edition of *The NRA Range Source Book, A Guide to Planning & Construction*. The updated edition is almost identical to the 1999 edition.

Recommendation:

Based upon review of the 2012 edition of *The NRA Range Source Book, A Guide to Planning & Construction*, the following portions of the *Range Source Book* mean the "generally accepted operation practices":

Section I, General Information

Chapter 1, General Information
- Article 1, Introduction
- Article 2, Planning Overview
- Article 3, Outdoor Ranges
- Article 4, Indoor Ranges

Chapter 2, Safety Plan
- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Safety Planning
- Article 3, General Administrative Regulations
- Article 4, General Range Commands

Chapter 5, Operations and Maintenance
- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Operations Management
- Article 3, Range Operations
- Article 4, Maintenance Management
- Article 5, Appendix

Chapter 6, Sound Abatement on Shooting Ranges
- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Definitions
- Article 3, Concepts and Methodology

Section II, Outdoor Ranges

Chapter 1, General Outdoor Range Information
- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Safety and Personal Health

Chapter 3, Outdoor Range Operation and Maintenance
- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Operations
- Article 3, Maintenance

Chapter 14, Outdoor Informal Training
Article 1, General
Article 2, Safety
Article 4, Operations and Maintenance

Chapter 16, Outdoor Archery
Article 2, Safety

Chapter 17, Outdoor Hunting Simulation
Article 2, Safety
Article 4, Equipment Operation and Maintenance

Section III, Indoor Ranges

Chapter 1, General Indoor Range Information
Article 2, General Indoor Information
Article 3, Safety

Chapter 3, Indoor Range Operations and Maintenance
Article 1, General
Article 2, Operations

For the purpose of 1989 PA 269, the remaining portions of *The NRA Range Source Book* are to be considered informational to the named Sections, Chapters and Articles. Because each shooting range is unique and operation of the range is dependent upon its site, surrounding topography, adjoining land ownership, and shooting opportunities offered, not all ranges require identical operating environments or on-site structures. *The NRA Range Source Book* has been designed to provide guidance and direction to a broad variety of the sport/recreational shooting community. The information contained within the manual is advisory and should be considered guidelines rather than absolute requirements for safe and responsible range design and operation.

Staff recommends that the Director adopt the above GAOPs.

This memorandum is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appeared on the Department's October 2013, calendar and may be eligible for approval on December 12, 2013.

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I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur.

Keith Creagh
Director