

Public Notice
Mississippi Environmental Quality Permit Board
P. O. Box 2261
Jackson, MS 39225
Telephone No. (601) 961-5171

Public Notice Start Date: May 31, 2017

MDEQ Contact: Tracy Tomkins

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality is considering the reissuance of a statewide Pesticide General Permit. The proposed PGP covers the State of Mississippi and authorizes operators who discharge to waters of the State from the application of pesticides under the terms and conditions of the proposed PGP. Activities covered by the permit include the application of pesticides to control: 1/ mosquito and other flying insects; 2/ weeds, algae, and pathogens; 3/ nuisance animal pests in water and at water's edge; 4/ forest canopy pests; and 5/ other pests on a "case by case" basis to be evaluated individually. In addition to being consistent with product label application rates (*authorized under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)*), the permit requires eligible operators to implement site-specific control measures that minimize discharges of pesticides to waters of the State. In addition, large operators must develop and implement Pesticide Discharge Management Plans to prevent or mitigate pollutants from entering State waters. The term of the proposed permit is for a five-year period.

The staff of the Permit Board has developed the draft general permit and has made a preliminary determination that the Pesticide General Permit meets the requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act and applicable provisions of the Mississippi Air and Water Pollution Control Law. Facilities granted coverage under this permit and adhering to conditions contained therein should operate within State and Federal environmental laws and standards. However, before proceeding to the final staff evaluation, public comments are being solicited. The staff recommendation to the Permit Board, as well as the Permit Board decision, will be made only after a thorough consideration of all public comments. The draft permit conditions have been developed to ensure compliance with all State and Federal regulations but are subject to change based on information received as a result of public participation.

Persons wishing to comment upon or object to the proposed determinations are invited to submit comments in writing to Mrs. Tracy Tomkins at the Permit Board's address shown above, no later than the end of the thirty (30) day public notice. All comments received by this date will be considered in the formulation of final determinations regarding the General Permit. A public hearing will be held if the Permit Board finds a significant degree of public interest in the proposed permit. Persons wishing to request a public hearing may do so by submitting that request in writing to Mrs. Tracy Tomkins or the Chief of the Environmental Permits Division at the address shown above. The Permit Board is limited in the scope of its analysis to environmental impact. Any comments relative to zoning or economic and social impacts are within the jurisdiction of local zoning and planning authorities and should be addressed to them.

A copy of the proposed draft permit may be found on the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's website at: http://www.deq.state.ms.us/mdeq.nsf/page/epd_epdgeneral?OpenDocument or by writing or calling Mrs. Tracy Tomkins at the above Permit Board address and telephone number. This information is also available for review at the following location during normal business hours:

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
Office of Pollution Control
515 E. Amite St
Jackson, MS 39201

Please bring the foregoing to the attention of persons whom you know will be interested.