

APM Rule Economic Impact Analysis (EIA)

General Advisory Committee

August 25, 2025

Individual Member Feedback

This information is a general summary of all the comments, questions and specific changes brought forth by individual committee members. The committee did not vote or indicate as a group which of these changes were supported by a majority.

Comments/Changes from Individual Members – EIA

EIA Discussion:

- There may be some pushback/questioning on why the program is increasing its fees so dramatically. The fee increases are justified; however, it still may be difficult for people to accept.
- Consider advanced notification of fee increase so that lake groups/HOAs/etc. may modify their budgets accordingly.
- Include information on the history of the rule revision to provide more context for the EIA; including how permit fees have not been changed since the rule was first written in 1989. May help stakeholders absorb and understand the proposed fee changes.
- Consider adding a fee escalator to avoid this situation from occurring again. Committee members were unsure if the department is capable of including a mechanism in the rule to increase fees gradually.
- Reoccurring chemical permits should be subjected to the same halved price renewals as mechanical permits. Example being a permit that does the same treatment in the same area yearly (navigation lanes, AIS, etc.).

Comments/Changes from Individual Members – Rule Update

Mechanical:

- Is diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH) explicitly mentioned in the rule? Be more explicit in defining DASH as mechanized control (and currently requires an NR109 permit) rather than manual.
- 5-year mechanical permit process is not mapped out well in proposed rule. Provide applicants further instruction/clarification. Clarify that updated APM is required, clarify that PI surveys may be required for plans.

Public Notice:

- Including proposed chemicals within the public notice may cause alarm. May cause more issues, the people who want more information on the chemicals will seek it out regardless.
- Can social media (i.e., Facebook) be used for public notice? Add note to rule stating that publicly accessible social media site is acceptable.

Riparian Notification:

- Some confusion on the difference between riparian notification and public notice. Mentioned concerns for large lakes with hundreds of riparians and how notification in those cases would be achieved. Language for use of social media is not clear.

Amendments:

- What happens if a group has a 5-year manual permit, and needs to switch companies? Consider adding guidelines for non-private amendments.
- Removal company information is currently an optional area on the permit application form, but the name of the person or commercial provider is outlined as a permit requirement under current NR 109.06(3)(m). Consider adjusting the form to match requirements in rule.

Mixing Props:

- There are no clear guidelines for riparians who are using a mixing prop. One advisory mentioned that 10% of their riparian owners use them. DNR should provide clear information on these devices so that homeowners can avoid APM issues and dredging permits. They requested DNR clarify the regulation.

Questions From Individuals

- For a 5-year mechanical permit, would riparian notification occur yearly or only at the time of permit application?
 - Only at the time of permit acquisition.
- How would the state handle public informational meetings?
 - Clarified that these meetings are generally for the permit applicant and the public. DNR may also attend but does not directly moderate the discussion or outcomes.
- APM rules are silent on what should happen if the outcome of the requested public meeting is a lot of disagreement. Would substantial public opposition cause the DNR to deny the application even if the plan was technically flawless?
 - The DNR uses the standards outlined in NR 107 to make permit decisions. However, in some cases, permittees have made changes or withdrawals to their permit due to information or feedback brought up in public informational meetings.
- How would a permit holder switch from 5-year to annual mechanical harvesting permit?
 - Clarified during the meeting that annual permits may be the best option in cases of variable acreage, and 5-year permits may be better for situations with established navigational lanes, for example.