



# Public Notice

## Virtual Public Hearing About 2000-J Proposed Water Quality General Permit Renewal

Date posted: May 4, 2026

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality invites the public to submit written comments and attend a virtual public hearing to provide verbal comments on the proposed general permit for pesticide in irrigation systems, known officially as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination system permit. DEQ gives equal weight to written and verbal comments.

### How to provide public comment

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**Permit name:** 2000-J

**Permit type:** Water Quality General Permit

**Hearing details:** Monday, June 15 at 3 p.m.

[Register to join virtually on Zoom](#)

**Comments due by:** Thursday, June 18 at 5 p.m.

Meeting ID: 852 5434 6458

Passcode: JWUri5

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#### Submit written comments:

**By mail:** Beth Moore, Oregon DEQ, 700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600, Portland, OR 97232

**By email:** [npdesgeneralpermit@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:npdesgeneralpermit@deq.oregon.gov)

### Summary

Subject to public review and comment, DEQ plans to renew the proposed 2000-J permit that expired on Sept. 30, 2025. This statewide permit allows pesticide applications to control weeds and algae within irrigation system boundaries.

### About the permit

This permit is for pesticide use to control weeds and algae within irrigation system boundaries.

An irrigation system is a controlled system consisting primarily of manmade canals, ditches and ponds designed and operated for the delivery and management of water for irrigation. Pesticides are applied to irrigation systems to control weed and algae growth that would otherwise overtake canals and choke off water supply. Weed and algae growth in canals is common and can be excessive to the point where it interferes with system operations, increases risk of system failure, and reduces water available for agriculture.

The proposed permit does not cover discharges in all waterbodies of the state. It cannot be used for waterbodies listed as water quality limited categories 4 and 5 on DEQ's impaired waters 303(d) list for a pesticide or its by-product unless there is a total maximum daily load that includes a wasteload allocation.

### What types of pollutants does the permit regulate?

The permit regulates the discharge of biological pesticides and chemical pesticides.

Biological pesticides are certain microorganisms including bacteria, fungi, viruses and protozoa which are effective in controlling target pests. Biological pesticides do not work through a toxic mode of action.

Chemical pesticides are applied as a product and are intended to be toxic to the target species. The discharges covered under this permit are the chemical pesticide residue. The residual will be no higher than, and in many instances lower than, the concentration of the pesticide as applied.

## **Would the draft permit change the amount of pollution the facility is allowed to release?**

No. The draft permit does not change the amount of pollution regulated. This permit retains the same effluent limits for acrolein, dissolved copper and xylene. Requirements also include minimizing pesticide use through integrated pest management, following the pesticide label, maintaining equipment and other practices.

## **How does DEQ determine permit requirements?**

DEQ evaluates types and amounts of pollutants and the water quality of the surface water or groundwater where the pollutants are proposed to be discharged to determine permit requirements. This ensures the proposed discharges will meet applicable statutes, rules, regulations and effluent guidelines of Oregon and the Clean Water Act.

The 2000J is a statewide general permit that achieves a desired environmental outcome in a manner that is less costly for each registrant and more efficient for DEQ to administer. For this permit action, DEQ considered previous individual permits, the 2300-A pesticide general permit, literature and federal NPDES pesticide general permit requirements. The fact sheet provides more information.

## **How does DEQ monitor compliance with the permit requirements?**

Visual monitoring and notification are required for an adverse environmental impact.

DEQ expects irrigation water to remain within irrigation boundaries. If there is a release of water outside irrigation boundaries to natural water, as defined by the permit, operators of irrigation districts that apply acrolein-, copper-, or xylene-based pesticides will use a laboratory test result from a water sample to determine compliance with effluent limits. Operators report monthly using Your DEQ Online, which is DEQ's electronic data management system.

## **What happens next?**

DEQ will consider and respond to all comments received and may modify the proposed permit based on comments. DEQ gives equal weight to written and verbal comments.

## **For more information**

Find more information by reviewing the proposed general permit and fact sheet at [Pesticide Applications into Surface Waters](#) or by contacting Beth Moore at 503-229-6402 or [beth.moore@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:beth.moore@deq.oregon.gov) to make an appointment to review the documents in person.

## **Non-discrimination statement**

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