



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-40__

October 5, 2005

Mr. William Iacoe
Minnesotans for Healthy Lakes
855 Village Center Drive, #311
North Oaks, MN 55127

Dear Mr. Iacoe:

As per your request during our telephone conversation on October 3, 2005, the following is the general time frame that we anticipate for the process to implement aquatic plant management rule changes.

We plan on publishing the "Request for Comments" in the *State Register* by the end of the calendar year (2005) or very early next year (2006). This is the initial stage of the process in which the agency announces that it is considering rule changes. There is a 60-day comment period once the Request for Comments is published.

The DNR will begin drafting rule language and the "Statement of Need and Reasonableness" (SONAR) after the initial 60-day comment period is over. We expect that this step will take some time and do not anticipate having draft rule language and the SONAR completed until fall 2006 at the earliest.

Once the rule language and SONAR are completed we need to get approval from the Commissioner's and Governor's Office and then publish a "Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules" in the *State Register*. There is a 30-day comment period following the publication of this notice. This step will not be completed until at least the end of 2006 or early 2007.

If we get 25 or more requests for a public hearing during the 30-day comment period we will have to set up one or more public hearings with an administrative law judge (ALJ). This typically adds at least three to four months to the process and I do anticipate that we will have a hearing on this rule. Once the hearing is conducted, there is additional time for people to send in comments and the DNR to respond to points made at the hearing. Once all comments are submitted, the ALJ makes a recommendation and the DNR Commissioner must then decide whether or not to follow the ALJ's recommendation. Therefore, the earliest we could expect the rule to be adopted would be spring of 2007.

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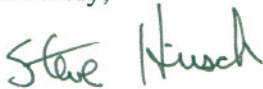
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To summarize, it will be a minimum of 15 months after the Request for Comments is published before any rule changes are adopted, which means the earliest any changes would become effective is the 2007 field season. Please keep in mind that this time frame should be considered a minimum estimate and is subject to change due to the complexity of this undertaking and the rule making process itself.

As I mentioned on the phone, you will be notified and will have a chance to comment when we publish the Request for Comments and Notice of Intent to Adopt Rules. Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Hirsch".

Steve Hirsch
Division of Ecological Services

c: Lee Pfannmuller
Dave Wright
Steve Enger