

Massachusetts
Water Resources
Commission

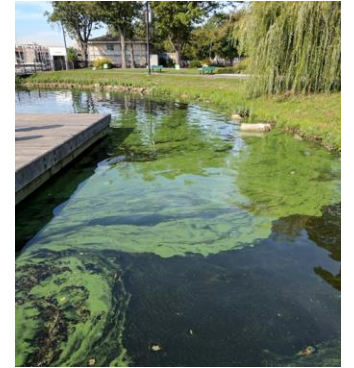
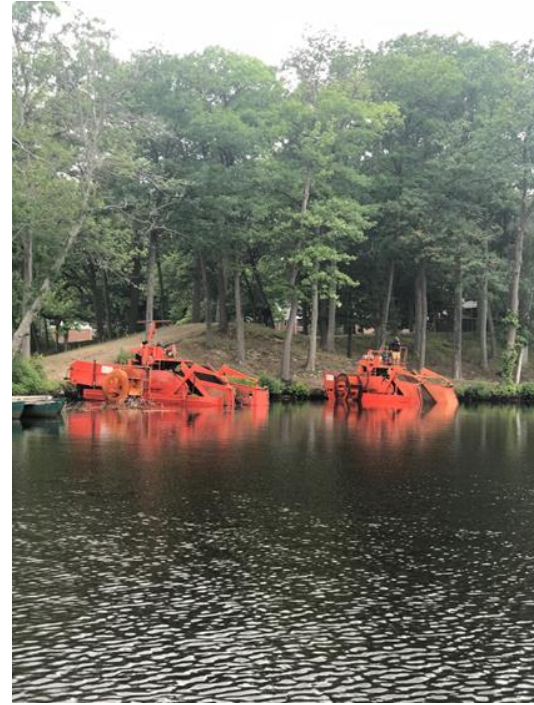
February 13, 2025

THE 2025 MASSACHUSETTS GUIDE TO ALGAE AND AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT

(AKA THE GEIR AND PRACTICAL GUIDE)

PURPOSE

- 1) To provide guidance to lake and pond managers, conservation commissions, and citizens concerned with lake management issues
- 2) To provide a basis for more consistent and effective lake management in the Commonwealth.
- 3) Describes technical approaches and management options for control of aquatic vegetation and protection of lakes



SUMMARY OF THE OLD GEIR& PRACTICAL GUIDE

- 1) Started 1980's
- 2) Covered Lake Management in MA
- 3) Covered all major techniques
- 4) Included costs, pro/con, permit guidance
- 5) MEPA Certificate in 2004
- 6) Summary Guide (Practical Guide) to help public

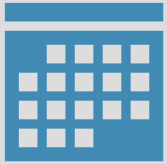
Eutrophication and Aquatic Plant Management in Massachusetts

Final Generic Environmental Impact Report



**Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
2004**

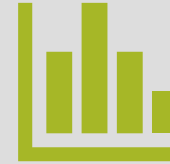
WHY WAS AN UPDATE NEEDED?



20 years of
experience



New techniques,
costs, reviews,
herbicides, etc....



More data, more
research = better
understanding



Explain permitting
process and
changes to regs

AGENCIES INVOLVED

DAR – regulates
herbicides and
algaeicides

DFW – regulates
fish and wildlife

DMF – coastal pond
work/streams to
ocean, anadromous
fish

DEP –
permitting/Wetlands
Protection Act

DCR – Recreation/
AIS Lead

NHESP – protect
R/E species



THE PROCESS AND TIMELINE

- 1) Hired consultant familiar with lake management in MA (Scientist and Practitioner)
- 2) Established an Interagency Review Team (IART) with DEP, DAR, DFG, guidance from MEPA
- 3) Systematically went through all chapters/techniques and updated – focusing on PRACTICAL guidance
- 4) Drawdown & Permitting guidance – special focus

The Practical Guide to Lake Management in Massachusetts

A Companion to the Final Generic Environmental
Impact Report on Eutrophication and Aquatic Plant
Management in Massachusetts



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

2004

THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This guide incorporates updates to both the GEIR and Practical Guide into one hybrid document
- The 2025 Guide **provides basic information about lake and watershed ecology** and key considerations in algae and aquatic plant management.
- **Principles of lake management, especially the underlying science**, provide the basis for evaluating options and restrictions for designing proper lake projects.
- The 2025 Guide:
 - Provides an updated summary of available algae and aquatic plant management techniques,
 - Identifies relevant regulatory considerations, and
 - Provides guidance for planning, implementation, and monitoring of algae and aquatic plant management projects.
- Per 2004 EOECA Certificate, **if projects are conducted in accordance with the 2025 Guide, individual review under the MEPA will not be required**, although all the other regulatory requirements remain in full effect.

MAJOR UPDATES

1. Designed as an editable online resource & includes Hotlinks
2. Emphasis on comprehensive lake management plan and how to develop
3. Updated science related to lake ecology
4. Acknowledgment of the increasingly important role of climate change
5. Consolidation of regulatory requirements into one chapter
6. Clarification of acceptable lake management techniques in MA vs alternative techniques (i.e. not accepted, rarely applied, or without a sufficient track record for proper evaluation)
7. Experience with phosphorus inactivation has expanded greatly, more guidance for best results.
8. Coverage of active ingredients in algaecides and herbicides registered for use in Massachusetts as of 2024
9. Changes in the guidance for how drawdowns should be conducted without MEPA review (appendix for projects where a MEPA review may be necessary)

NEXT STEPS

1

Develop outreach materials-website, PPT, etc.

2

Develop outreach plan for roll out and public comment

3

Identify and reach all individuals and groups who are interested

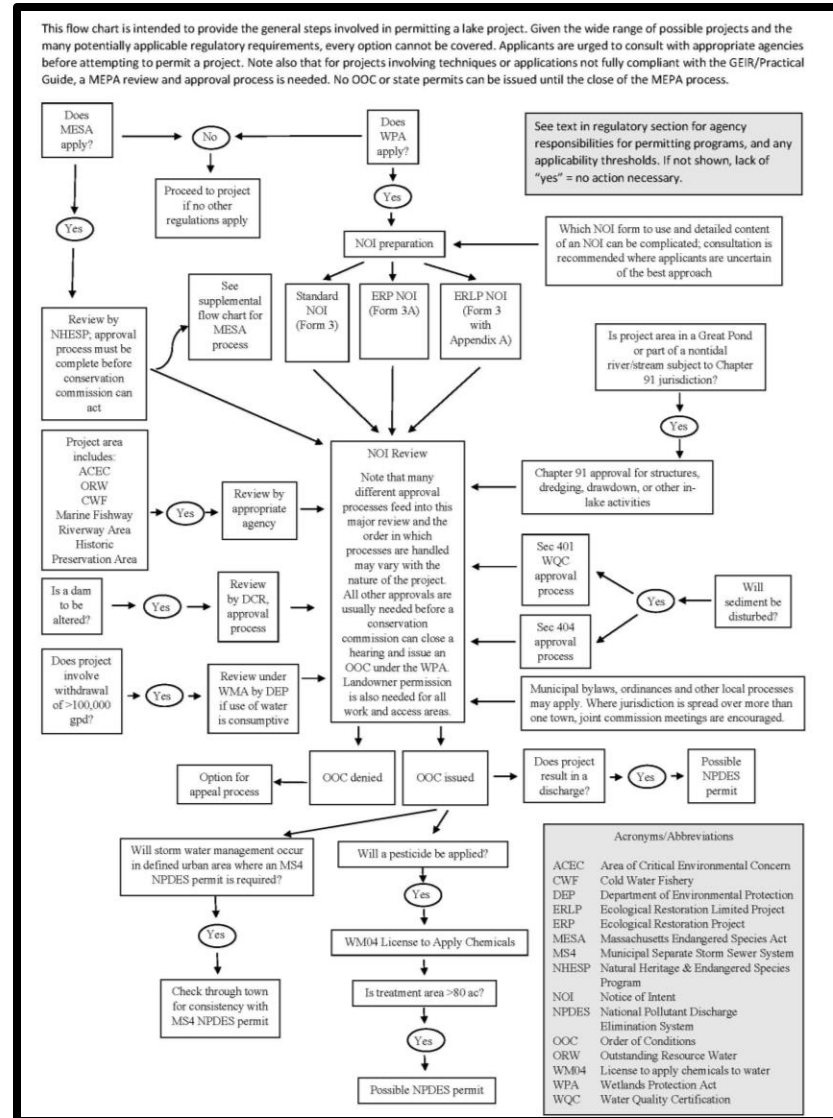
4

Review and address all comments

5

Complete outreach by June 30, 2025, then commence MEPA process

EXAMPLE: FULL PERMITTING FLOW CHART FOR LAKE PROJECTS IN MASSACHUSETTS



EXAMPLE:
ABRIDGED FLOW
CHART FOR LAKE
PROJECTS IN
MASSACHUSETTS

Abridged Permitting Sequence

1.

Filing of NOI

Applicant/representative submits Notice of Intent (NOI) package to Conservation Commission (ConCom) and DEP, according to the town's timeline.

2.

NOI Review

ConCom and DEP regional staff review the NOI before the hearing date; DEP will issue a file number and any comments. Wetlands NOI packages can be found online by town at <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/portal#/search/wire>

3.

Hearing & Public Comment

At the hearing, the applicant/representative will present the project, the ConCom will deliberate and there is opportunity for public comment.

4.

Issuance & Appeal Period

Once the hearing is closed and the Order of Conditions (OOC) is issued, there is a 10-day appeal period during which anyone can submit an appeal to DEP. For more information, contact DEP regional staff.

5.

Registry Recording

The OOC also needs to be recorded at the Registry of Deeds before any work can proceed.

6.

Annual Herbicide Permit

Once the appeal period has ended, the applicant can apply for the annual License to Apply Chemicals through DEP's WMO4 online process, which involves herbicide product information, dosing, acreage, treatment area map, and a copy of the OOC. David Wong oversees this permitting process.

7.

Herbicide Application

Once the License to Apply Chemicals has been issued, a certified applicator can apply the approved herbicides as requested in the application.

8.

Overall Timeline

Ideally, from initial submission to the ConCom and DEP to issuance of the License to Apply Chemicals, this process should take at least two months to complete. However, delays are common and should be anticipated.