

RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT
Pesticide General Permit
MPDES Permit No. MTG870000

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued Public Notice MT-26-07 on July 13, 2026. The Public Notice provided the tentative determination to issue a Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) General Permit for discharges to surface water from pesticide application to or over surface waters; known as the Pesticide General Permit (PGP). The notice required that all written comments be received or postmarked by August 12, 2026, to be considered in formulation of the final determination and issuance of the permit. A public hearing was also held on August 12, 2026, to accept public comments. DEQ received no comments during the public hearing.

DEQ received written comments from one party: the Prairie County Board of Commissioners. DEQ has considered these comments in preparation of the final permit and decision. A summary of the submitted comment and DEQ's response is included below. Copies of the original comment letter is available from DEQ upon request. This Response to Comments is an addendum to and supersedes relevant portions of the Fact Sheet to the extent those changes are described herein.

Comment 1: The Prairie County Commissioners

The Prairie County Commissioners submit this letter in strong support of the DEQ's tentative determination to reissue the Pesticide General Permit (PGP).

As representatives of a rural agricultural community, we understand that protecting water quality and managing public health and agricultural threats are not mutually exclusive. The renewal of this general permit is vital for Eastern Montana counties to effectively manage noxious weeds, mosquitoes, and other pests that threaten our local economy, infrastructure, and public safety.

Prairie County remains dedicated to protecting our state's natural surface waters. We believe the draft PGP strikes the ideal balance between proactive resource management and strict environmental compliance. We urge the DEQ to finalize the reissuance of the permit.

Response to Comment 1:

DEQ thanks the commenter for taking the time to provide comment.

DEQ did not make any changes to the permit in response to this comment.

Comment 2: n/a

While not in response to a formal comment, DEQ made corrections to a typographical error in the permit. The correction removed reference to an unrelated permit within the Section VI. Definitions of the Permit.