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MAINE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & RURAL RESOURCES
BOARD OF PESTICIDES CONTROL
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SETH H. BRADSTREET III
COMMISSIONER
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TO: Board Members

FROM: Gary Fish

DATE: April 6, 2007

SUBJECT: Request to Require Additional Areas be Posted Prior to Outdoor Pesticide Applications

At the March meeting we discussed a concern raised by Mary Dolan of Old Orchard Beach regarding the lack of posting when certain pesticide applications are made to public parks or to other public areas. You asked that we raise this issue again at the April meeting so the Board could debate the merit of making some minor changes to Chapter 28 that would address her concern.

The current status of Chapter 28 posting requirements is based on application categories. The rule states:

“Section 3. Posting Requirements for Pesticide Applications in Certain Commercial Licensing Categories

Where outdoor commercial pesticide applications in certification and licensing categories III(a) - Outdoor Ornamentals, III(b) - Turf, and VII(a) - Structural General will take place, the area shall be posted in a manner and at locations designed to reasonably assure that persons entering such area will see the notice. Such notice shall be posted before application activities commence and shall remain in place at least two days following the completion of the application. The sign shall be sufficient if it meets the following minimum specifications:”

When this rule was amended last, there was little pesticide application done for control of ticks and mosquitoes or weeds on areas other than turf or ornamental sites, e.g., driveways, sidewalks, and fence lines.

Application to these areas has grown dramatically, especially tick and mosquito control, over the past 5 years. Therefore, you may want to consider adding a posting requirement prior to applications in these areas.

You can accomplish this most easily by extending the list of categories that must post. The categories to add are VI(b) – Industrial/Commercial/Municipal Vegetation Management and VII(e) – Biting Fly and Other Arthropod Vectors. The other consideration you might make is whether to limit the requirement to applications done on areas open to the public.

If you have any questions, please call 287-7545 or E-mail gary.fish@maine.gov.