

January 10, 2024

Municipality of Thames Centre
Mr. David Barrick, Chief Administrative Officer
4305 Hamilton Rd.
Dorchester, ON
N0L 1G3

Re: 2024 Request for Letter for Private Applications for Mosquito Larviciding Permits

We are requesting local assistance in coordinating the documentation that is needed to support a larvicide permit application from licensed exterminators on behalf of private property owners for West Nile Virus control in each local municipality within Middlesex County.

The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MOECP) through the regional offices of their Operations Branch, is responsible for issuing permits authorizing the use of larvicides in municipal mosquito control programs. In order to support West Nile Virus control programs, MOECP will review completed permit applications, with the appropriate support documentation, within five business days of their receipt. Applications for permits for nuisance purposes may not receive the same level of priority depending on the demand.

To address these requests, and not create an onerous burden for MOECP regional office permit approvals or Health Units, MOECP has established the following protocol:

- MOECP requests that one blanket letter of support for larviciding within the Medical Officer of Health's Health Unit for the prevention and/or control of West Nile Virus on private property be provided to the appropriate MOECP Regional office. MOECP will retain this letter on file for 2024. *The Medical Officer of Health for Middlesex-London has already provided this letter to the MOECP's Southwestern Region Office for this purpose.*
- MOECP requests that local municipalities draft a "blanket authorization" letter to the MOECP Director under the *Pesticides Act* and the Medical Officer of Health for the larviciding (methoprene) of catch basins on private property in their municipality. Municipalities that wish to have specific notification requirements in the permits or other conditions (see attached template letter) can include them in their letter to the MOECP for 2024.

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- Applicators holding the Mosquito/Biting Flies license that are contracted by a private property owner, will be requested to “bundle” their customers together by Health Unit area and make a single permit application including support documentation as outlined in the *Permit Applicant Guide: Controlling Mosquito Larvae for Prevention and/or Control of West Nile Virus*. (MOECP will contact the licensed pest management industry by direct mail and also provide web site information to encourage a single permit application). Pest management companies contracted by private property owners may wish to submit bundles biweekly if it is warranted.
- MOECP will append the Medical Officer of Health blanket support letter and any lower tier municipal approvals/orders for catch basin treatments to the private property permit application.
- MOECP will attempt to review completed private property West Nile Virus permit applications within five business days but they will be prioritized on the basis of size in the event MOECP staff receive numerous applications. Public notification, monitoring and final report requirements will be identical to municipal larviciding permit approvals.

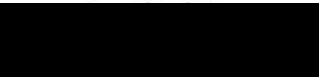
Please find attached a blanket letter template that you may wish to modify or use as a template for your local municipal support letter. You may wish to specify requirements or procedures to be carried out by the licensed exterminator that MOECP will place as conditions to any approved permit in this letter.

The letter should be directed to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change c/o Tom Cowan, Supervisor, Air, Pesticides and Environmental Planning, Regional Pesticide Specialist, 733 Exeter Rd., London, Ontario, N6E 1L3.

Please send a signed copy of the letter of support as requested above to the Middlesex-London Health Unit, c/o Dr. Alexander Summers, Medical Officer of Health via email to vbd@mlhu.on.ca

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Yours truly,


Mary Lou Albanese
Director
Safe Water, Tobacco Enforcement, and Vector Borne Disease
Environmental Health, Infectious Disease, and Clinical Services Division

pc: Alexander Summers - Medical Officer of Health

attachment

Suggested Letter Template

Dear Medical Officer of Health and Director under the *Pesticides Act*.
[cc MOE Regional Pesticides Specialist]

The **[Name of municipality]** supports local action by the Middlesex-London Health Unit to reduce the risk of West Nile Virus including, larviciding catch basins and other surface water locations within our jurisdiction. In addition, **[Name of municipality]** supports any permit application for West Nile Virus control submitted to the Ministry of the Environment from an appropriately licensed exterminator contracted by a private property owner, to apply a larvicide into catch basins located on private property within **[name of municipality]**.

[Signed by an official representative of the municipality]