



Pesticide Inspection Narrative Summary Case 2026-303

Respondent:

Name: The Pond and Lake Connection
PMBR.02764
Address: 1112 Federal Rd.
Brookfield, CT 06804
Contact: Jeffery Stahl
PMCS.0042349
Title: Owner
E: [redacted]
C: [redacted]

Complainant:

Name: [redacted]
Address: [redacted]
[redacted]
E: [redacted]
C: [redacted]

Nature of Complaint:

[redacted] expressed concern regarding potential environmental harm and pesticide misuse associated with a pending herbicide treatment scheduled to be performed on 7/22/2026 at Great Hill Pond in Portland. Mr. [redacted] had complained previously that pesticides were misused when the pond was treated on 5/15/2026 (Case #2026-195). The purpose of this inspection is to observe the use of pesticides to determine if they are being misused and permit conditions are followed.

Follow-up:

On 7/20/2026, I spoke with Jeffery Stahl, owner of The Pond and Lake Connection, to arrange to observe the scheduled treatment of Great Hill Pond on 7/22/2026. Mr. Stahl scheduled his team to meet with me at the site at 9am on 7/22/26. He informed me that the treatment would target Fanwort using a flumioxazin product, which is allowed for use under aquatic permit AQUA-2024-049.

On 7/22/26, I arrived at Great Hill Pond at about 8:40am and spoke with Nick McMahon (PMCS.0006424), Aquatic & Fisheries Biologist of The Pond and Lake Connection. I issued a Notice of Inspection and explained the reason for the inspection while presenting my credentials (see Inspection Attachment). Upon arrival, I witnessed aquatic pesticide application signs being posted along the public roadway by two Pond and Lake employees.

Mr. McMahon was supervising the application from shore while Kyle Waters (PMCS.0065473) and Glenn Holguin (PMCS.0066540) performed the application utilizing an airboat. All employees of Pond and Lake involved in this treatment have active supervisory licenses in the aquatic (5a) category. I inspected and photographed the airboat, including nozzles, and truck towing it prior to the application (see Great Hill Pond Pictures.zip). Pond and Lake had three trucks on site, which all displayed the pesticide application business registration number as required. I collected a label for Propeller herbicide (EPA#81927-68) while on site (DocuRB_278).

The airboat contains a 100-gallon tank, with an intake that draws water from the lake. The tank is filled with lake water and then mixed with Propeller herbicide, before being applied to the surface of the water through nozzles mounted on the back of the airboat. Mr. McMahon explained that they were treating at 0.25lbs/acft, and that most treatment areas have a depth of about three feet, equating to 0.75lbs/ac. These parameters fall within the labeled rate of application for surface sprays, however, Fanwort is listed in the subsurface application section of the label, which indicates that complete coverage and sufficient contact time of submersed weeds is required for optimal performance.

The airboat is equipped with a depth sounder and GPS. The GPS is capable of recording the path taken by the airboat during treatment. The depth sounder is capable of recording depth. Mr. McMahon explained that it is not standard practice for Pond and Lake to maintain a record of data from the GPS and depth sounder. The applicators had a map with them that specified treatment zones along with acreage of these zones (see IMG_0509.jpg). I questioned how the flow rate is monitored, to which Mr. McMahon replied that the flow rate is checked prior to each treatment and is maintained at 9.5 gallons per minute. He provided me with a signed statement detailing the airboat's capabilities (see STATEMENT FORM – Nick Pond and Lake.pdf).

The applicators began by treating the 9.5 acre zone which was closest to shore so I could observe the application more closely. I photographed the airboat while treating the zone and took a video of the application (see Great Hill Pond Pictures.zip). I completed a Use Report for this application (see Great Hill Pond Use Report.pdf). Prior to the treatment, Mr. [redacted] expressed concern regarding lake outflow and application depth, however, the label of Propeller has no restrictions based on depth or outflow.

On 7/24/26, I requested application records from Mr. McMahon for the 7/22/26 treatment. The application records were received on 7/28/2026 and indicate the treatment covered 21 acres of the 78 acre lake. A total of 15lbs and 5oz of Propeller herbicide was used for control of Fanwort. I issued and received a signature on a Receipt for Samples for this record (see Great Hill Record RFS.pdf).

Summary:

I observed the 7/22/26 treatment of Great Hill Pond in Portland, CT. The total amount of Propeller herbicide (EPA#81927-68) used was 15lbs and 5oz over 21 acres as a surface treatment, which is a method of application and within use rates prescribed by the label collected during my inspection (DocuRB_278). The label lists the target pest, Fanwort, under "Table 2 Submersed and Floating Weeds Controlled by Subsurface Application" and indicates that "complete coverage and contact time of submersed weeds with PROPELLER Aquatic Herbicide is required for optimal performance," so efficacy of surface spray for control of Fanwort may be limited. Additionally, the Propeller herbicide label has no use restrictions based on depth or outflow.

Pond and Lake Connection operated within the conditions required in permit AQUA-2024-049. The pesticide application record maintained by the business lists FW (Fanwort) as the target pest. The record does not include license numbers of the applicators, only their initials. The record lists that 21 acres were treated but does not specify which treatment zones were targeted as indicated on the 22 acre treatment map. A record of the treatment path using GPS

and record of treatment depth is not required. Since all applicators involved in performing the treatment are certified supervisors, supervisory written instructions were not required.

Submitted by:

Richard Beres, 8/7/26