STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

June 22, 2009

Mr. Jeff Krcmarik
Washtenaw County
705 N. Zeeb Rd.
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107

Dear Mr. Krcmarik:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has reviewed the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) permit number 09-98-0998-0 regarding pesticide application in Joslin Lake, Washtenaw County, for the potential take of the state-threatened Blanchard's cricket frog.

Blanchard's cricket frogs inhabit the more open edges of permanent ponds, bogs, lakes, and slow-moving streams or rivers. Where aquatic vegetation is abundant, the frogs are often seen on floating algae mats and water lily leaves; sparsely vegetated mud flats and muddy or sandy shorelines are also favored habitats. Cricket frogs prefer warmer temperatures and breed mid- to late May through July. They eat a wide variety of small terrestrial and aquatic insects and other invertebrates. They will feed on the shore, at the water's surface, or while submerged.

Joslin Lake is a relatively shallow lake with non-native invasive plants, most notably Eurasian water milfoil and starry stonewort. Non-native invasive species pose a significant threat to the biological diversity of Michigan's terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Management of non-native invasive species is a high priority for the State of Michigan.

If treatment is limited as outlined in the DEQ's permit letter of April 28, 2009 and does not occur in the emergent vegetation along the lake edge, the DNR would not expect adverse impacts to threatened or endangered species, as a result, the application of pesticides may proceed legally without a Michigan Threatened & Endangered Species Permit.

Because some uncertainty exists regarding the effects of herbicides on amphibians in general, and the Blanchard's cricket frog in particular, the DNR recommends monitoring Blanchard's cricket frogs both before and after the pesticide application. The survey period for Blanchard's cricket frog is from mid-May through July.

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Thank you for coordinating your activities with the DNR. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Christopher Hoving, Endangers Species Coordinator.

Sincerely,

Christopher L. Hoving
Wildlife Division
517-373-1263

cc: Mr. Eric Bacon, DEQ
Ms. Lori Sargent, DNR