

# Atrazine Research Exemption Permit Review Process

## Background

In accordance with ATCP 30.38, Wis. Adm. Code, *“the department may issue a written permit authorizing the use of atrazine for bona fide research purposes. An applicant for a research permit shall apply to the department in writing. The application shall describe the proposed research, and the amounts and locations of proposed atrazine applications. The department may require an applicant to file other information which the department considers necessary for its review of the application”*. A researcher may not use atrazine for research in an atrazine prohibition area until they receive a Research Exemption Permit from the department.

## Application Information

An applicant for a Research Exemption Permit must complete an application to the department that includes the information specified in **Attachment A**. A Hydrogeologist in the Environmental Quality Section shall review the permit request. There is no rule-specified review time, but the goal should be to complete the review within 30 business days of receipt of a complete application. Upon initial review, the Department may require an applicant to submit additional information necessary to complete the review of the application. Additional information requested by the department may extend the review beyond 30 business days. There is no fee associated with the permit review. Permits issued shall be for one pesticide application season and shall be set to expire on July 31<sup>st</sup> following the issuance date of the permit.

## Decision to grant a permit

Any decision to grant or deny a Research Exemption Permit for atrazine will be discussed with the Environmental Quality Section Chief and/or the ACM Bureau Director and will be based upon a thorough review of the application materials and any other relevant information provided by the permit requestor or DATCP staff. The permit application should provide the reviewers with all information required to determine if the proposed use of atrazine specified in the research plan will likely cause an increased atrazine concentration in any nearby private wells. At a minimum, the application review should consider the following information:

- A summary of all available analytical test results for atrazine for the last 5 years from private wells within ½ mile of the proposed field/test plot boundaries.
- Proposed application rates on the test plots.
- Soil textures of the test plots (USDA classification).
- Map showing the location and boundaries of the proposed fields/test plots.
- Depth to groundwater and bedrock within the test area.

The Department may consider granting an atrazine research exemption to allow use of atrazine in a PA if the following conditions are satisfied.

- The applicant demonstrates that the use of atrazine within the PA is for research purposes.
- The applicant provides a compelling reason why the research must be conducted within the PA.
- The concentration of total atrazine (parent + metabolites) in any well within 1/2 mile of the test area is less than 0.3 ug/l, the NR 140 preventative action limit (PAL).
- The application of atrazine in the research area may not contribute to any increasing trend of concentrations of atrazine or its metabolites in groundwater.
- Extended research proposals include monitoring of groundwater at a sufficient number of points and times near the research plots to adequately demonstrate that the use of atrazine in the research is not going to contribute to a renewed exceedance of the enforcement standard. Private drinking water wells may not be the sole source for monitoring during extended or multi-year research.
- The proposed use of atrazine in the research meets all other use restrictions and requirements stated in ch. ATCP 30 and on the applicable product label.

Based upon the application review, the department may seek additional information, deny the permit, issue the permit without condition, or issue the permit with conditions. Some examples of conditions that could be applied include, but are not limited to the following:

- Installation and regular testing of monitoring wells within and around the test plots.
- Notification of nearby homeowners with private wells about the intended use of atrazine in the research activity.
- Testing of nearby private wells with timely reporting of results to well owners and the department.
- Follow-up reporting of any/all deviations from the permit.

### **Permit**

An example permit is located at [Example ATRAZINE RESEARCH EXEMPTION PERMIT](#). This template should be used to create a permit for the current applicant by filling in all the relevant information. The permit should be signed by the Division Administrator, copied and sent to the applicant.

### **Permit Disapproval**

Permits that are denied or disapproved shall receive notice of permit disapproval with the reason(s) for denial.

## Attachment A

### Information required to be included in an application for an Atrazine Research Exemption Permit

*In accordance with ch. ATCP 30.38, Wis. Adm. Code, "the department may issue a written permit authorizing the use of atrazine for bona fide research purposes". For this review, this must include:*

- A detailed and accurate description of the proposed research project, including why atrazine is a necessary component of the research.
- A discussion of the research that describes why the proposed application of atrazine will not result in an increase in concentrations of atrazine and its metabolites in the PA.

Additionally, *"An applicant for a research permit shall apply to the department in writing". This must include at a minimum the following information:*

- Permit requestor name, address, phone number and credentials, including affiliation with public or private research institution.
- Landowner names and addresses for all fields or test plots on which the research will be conducted and atrazine will be applied.

Also, *"The application shall describe the proposed research, and the amounts and locations of proposed atrazine applications". This must include:*

- Name of pesticide product(s) to be used, including atrazine application rate information (pounds active ingredient/acre/year) for all fields/test plots
- Land ownership parcel maps with an overlay showing named test plots/fields where all proposed atrazine applications will be made
- A parcel map showing all locations within the prohibition area where mixing and loading of atrazine used in the research will occur.
- USCS Soil survey map(s) (with soil descriptions) for the proposed fields where atrazine will be applied.

Finally, *"The department may require an applicant to file other information which the department considers necessary for its review of the application."* This can include:

- A parcel map showing all known private and potable well locations within ½-mile of the test field locations.
- Name and certification number of pesticide applicator.
- Name and certification number of person who will mix/load atrazine.