**Procedure for Allowing Beaver or Muskrat Related Conflicts Under**

M.G.L. Ch. 131 sec. 80A

**Do you have a problem that you think is caused by beaver or muskrat activity? Are you concerned that this problem is a threat to public health or safety?**

- **Yes**
  - Call your local board of health. The law, which suggests possible threats in items "a through f", gives local boards of health the discretion to determine whether or not the problem is a threat to public health or safety. Do they think your problem does pose a threat?
  - **Yes. 10-day emergency permit issued.**
  - **No.**
    - Appeal approved? Yes. 10-day emergency permit issued.**
    - Appeal denied? Threat alleviated? No. Apply, with local board of health, to DFW for a 30-day extension permit. Permit approved. Solutions a, b, and/or c available for 30 days. You must also, with DFW, local board of health, and conservation commission, develop a long-term plan to solve the beaver problem using water-flow devices and non-lethal methods, where possible.
    - Waiting for the 30-day extension permit from DFW? Yes. 30-day extension permit granted. Solutions a, b, and/or c (see "Important Notes") available for 30 days. Also, you must, with DFW, local board of health, and conservation commission, develop a long-term plan to solve the beaver problem using water-flow devices and non-lethal methods, where possible.
  - Threat alleviated? Yes! (It's a good idea to make a long-term plan to avoid a future problem.)
  - Threat alleviated? No. Apply, with local board of health, to DFW for a 30-day extension permit. Permit approved. Solutions a, b, and/or c available for 30 days. Also, you must, with DFW, local board of health, and conservation commission, develop a long-term plan to solve the beaver problem using water-flow devices and non-lethal methods, where possible.

- **No**
  - For Situations Not Involving Health or Safety (non Board of Health)
    - Call DFW, the MSPCA, or a private contractor who can advise you of available solutions. Solutions include: dam breaching, installing flow devices, and/or trapping with box/cage traps. After trying solutions for 15 days, if the problem isn’t solved, you can apply to DFW for a 30-day permit to use a Conibear trap. Permission is needed from DFW and local conservation commission for breaching and water-flow device installation.
    - Appeal approved? Yes. 10-day emergency permit issued.**
    - Appeal denied? Threat alleviated? No. Apply, with local board of health, to DFW for a 30-day extension permit. Permit approved. Solutions a, b, and/or c available for 30 days. Also, you must, with DFW, local board of health, and conservation commission, develop a long-term plan to solve the beaver problem using water-flow devices and non-lethal methods, where possible.

**Important Notes**

- Solutions:
  - a) trap with box/cage or Conibear traps;
  - b) breach dam;
  - c) install water-flow device.

  - b & c must be approved by Conservation Commission. Trappers must be licensed by DFW.

- Beaver-caused threats to public water supplies must be determined by DEP.
- When a permit is denied, an individual may try alternatives for 15 days; if unsuccessful, a person can apply to DFW for permit to use Conibear trap.

If there is a concern that there may be a threat to a public water supply, the Department of Environmental Protection must make this determination.