

Rotary Park Mill Pond Aerator DNR Regulations

DNR permitting is not required provided:

1. The aeration system is attached to a legal structure (pier, retaining wall, etc.). This can be a previously permitted structure or a structure that is exempt from permitting.
2. The mixing action from the aerator does not disturb the lake bottom. Pointing the aerator flow perpendicular to the lakebed or towards the water surface will help ensure that the lake bottom is not significantly disturbed. If these standards cannot be met, please visit dnr.wi.gov, keyword, "water permit".

In order to protect public safety, ice holes formed from an aerator must be marked with one of the following methods. Please contact the local sheriff's department to report a violation of this requirement (s. 167.26, Wis. Stats.):

- Erect and maintain a barricade around the holes consisting of uprights that are spaced at adequate intervals to maintain the barricade and that are connected by a continuous rope, cord, or similar material placed at least 2.5 feet and not more than 4.5 feet off the surface. The connecting rope, cord, or similar material shall have reflectorized, fluorescent, or lighted ribbon or tape or other reflectorized devices attached to it, so as to be highly visible, and shall be of sufficient strength to allow for the retrieval of the barricade following melting of the ice.
- Erect and maintain a visual warning mechanism that is highly visible and that is reflectorized, fluorescent, or lighted.

Please be aware you may be liable for any accidents that occur due to improperly marked ice holes. Disputes between neighboring landowners may be handled through a civil action. To avoid accidents or injuries, here are some additional best practices that should be followed:

- Limit the open water in the pier vicinity by orienting the circulator to create an upflow of water;
- Operate the aerator or circulator on a timer to limit run time to the duration necessary to keep the pier ice free;
- Install the aerator in a manner that avoids impacting the ice on your neighbor's property or creates unsafe ice conditions in recreational areas known to be used by for ice skaters, fishermen, snowmobilers, etc.