STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

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RESUBMITTED: November 8, 2010

APPROVED
December 9, 2010
MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
Debra L. Whipple
(ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSION)

Memorandum to the Natural Resources Commission

SUBJECT: Generally Accepted Operation Practices for Sport Shooting Ranges

Authority:

Section 1 of 1989 PA 269, authorizes the Natural Resources Commission to adopt generally accepted operation practices for sport shooting ranges.

Discussion and Background:

Sport Shooting Ranges, 1989 PA 269, as amended, an act to provide civil immunity to persons who operate or use certain sport shooting ranges, was amended by PA 250 of 1994. Public Act 250 is intended to protect the owners and operators of existing shooting ranges from nuisance suits based on noise emanating from the range. Under the terms of the amendment, an existing sport shooting range which is in compliance with any noise ordinances or laws which existed at the time the range was established, and which is operated according to generally accepted operation practices (GAOPs), are afforded this protection.

In order to assure that the general public receives a measure of protection from poorly operated sport shooting ranges, the legislature has required that the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) adopt the GAOPs which are required to be implemented by an existing sport shooting range in order that they may be entitled to the protections now contained in the law. Staff believes that implementation of the GAOPs will result in safer, more efficient, and modernized sport shooting ranges.

Once adopted by the NRC, the GAOPs must be reviewed at least every five years. The NRC may review the practices in a shorter interval and make any adjustments it feels are required.

The last review of the GAOPs by the NRC occurred in 1997, and was based upon the operating specifications outlined in the *National Rifle Association Range Manual, A Guide to Planning and Construction, 1988*. The 1997 NRC Memo listed the Sections and Chapters of the *National Rifle Association Range Manual* that established what is considered the current GAOPs.

In 1999, the National Rifle Association (NRA) released an updated edition of the *National Rifle Association Range Manual*, which is entitled *The NRA Range Source Book, A Guide to Planning & Construction*. The updated edition is almost identical to the 1988 edition. Of note, staff has contacted the NRA and it is in the process of updating the 1999 edition, which it plans to release in 2011.

Recommendation:

Based upon review of the 1999 edition of *The NRA Range Source Book, A Guide to Planning & Construction* and because of the diversity of ranges that exist, the following portions of the *Range Source Book* mean the "generally accepted operation practices":

Section I, General Information

Chapter 1, General Information
- Article 1, Introduction
- Article 2, Planning Overview
- Article 3, Outdoor Ranges
- Article 4, Indoor Ranges

Chapter 2, Safety Plan
- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Safety Planning
- Article 3, General Administrative Regulations
- Article 4, General Range Commands

Chapter 5, Operations and Maintenance
- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Operations Management
- Article 3, Range Operations
- Article 4, Maintenance Management
- Article 5, Appendix

Chapter 6, Sound Abatement on Shooting Ranges
- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Definitions
- Article 3, Concepts and Methodology

Section II, Outdoor Ranges

Chapter 1, General Outdoor Range Information
- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Safety and Personal Health

Chapter 2, Outdoor Range Design Criteria
- Article 1, Introduction
- Article 2, Range Facility Components
- Article 4, Miscellaneous Items
- Article 5, Utilities

Chapter 3, Outdoor Range Operation and Maintenance
- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Operations
- Article 3, Maintenance

Chapter 14, Outdoor Informal Training
- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Safety
- Article 4, Operations and Maintenance

Chapter 16, Outdoor Archery
- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Safety

Chapter 17, Outdoor Hunting Simulation
- Article 1, Introduction
- Article 2, Safety
- Article 4, Equipment Operation and Maintenance

Section III, Indoor Ranges

Chapter 1, General Indoor Range Information
- Article 1, General
- Article 2, General Indoor Information
- Article 3, Safety

Chapter 2, Indoor Range Design Criteria
- Article 4, Appendix

Chapter 3, Indoor Range Operations and Maintenance
- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Operations
- Article 3, Maintenance

Chapter 9, Indoor Informal Training
- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Safety
- Article 3, Equipment Operations and Maintenance

Chapter 11, Indoor Archery
- Article 1, General
- Article 2, Safety

The remaining portions of *The NRA Range Source Book* are to be considered informational to the named Sections, Chapters and Articles. Because each shooting range is unique and operation of the range is dependent upon its site, surrounding topography, adjoining land ownership, and shooting opportunities offered, not all ranges require identical operating environments or on-site structures. *The NRA Range Source Book* has been designed to provide guidance and direction to a broad variety of the sport/recreational shooting community. The information contained within the manual is advisory and should be considered guidelines rather than absolute requirements for safe and responsible range design and operation.

Staff recommends that the NRC adopt the above GAOPs. We further recommend that the NRC review the GAOPs after the NRA has completed its update to *The NRA Range Source Book*, and then adopt new GAOPs based upon the updated edition.

This order was submitted for information only at the November 4, 2010 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission. This item appeared on the Department's November 22, 2010, calendar and is eligible for approval on December 2, 2010.

Mark Hoffman, Chief
Marketing, Education & Technology Division

Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division

Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
Forest Management Division

Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Recreation Division

Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division

Frank Ruswick
Stewardship Deputy Director

Arminda S. Koch
Resource Management Deputy Director

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director