

August 31, 2015

To: Director Bellon

Washington Dept of Ecology

RECEIVED

SEP - 2 2015

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR

Director:

I recently read these two articles which generally irritated me about the depts. of ecology, both federal and state. I know the department means well, but it looks like there is a 'double standard' at times and the dept. has the opinion that "it can do no wrong". I know the situation in Colorado was a federal issue, but to the average citizen it is all bureaucracy.

Lately, here in Kittitas County, we are going 'round and round' about ground water and drilling wells. Most of the new rules coming from Ecology are, I believe, not really based on much science.... Just made because of opinions and speculation, and money. (see enclosed article referring to "assumptions") Of course whatever the rules, it adds to the cost for construction and business. NEVER is anything simplified or streamlined! The proposed manure lagoons will drive dairies out of business. It can't be ONE lining,.... no it has to be TWO, and with expensive sensors no less. Nevermind your facility might be miles out in the desert away from streams, etc. For the Dept of Ecology, "one size fits all". Next, large "mud puddles" will be regulated as navigable waterways. Doesn't anyone have any common sense anymore? I have very little confidence in my State government.

WS Conger, EllensburgP



DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

SEP 08 2015

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

Ecology edges toward regulating manure lagoons

Agency revamping terms of its CAFO permits

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

The Washington Department of Ecology tentatively moved Tuesday to regulate hundreds of dairies and other livestock operations that have manure lagoons.

Ecology officials say they're trying to keep livestock waste from seeping into groundwater, fulfilling their mandate to enforce federal and state pollution laws.

An environmental group's director said the move is overdue, while livestock industry representatives warned the proposal could lead to costly rules that hinder producers.

DOE is rewriting the rules for confined animal feeding operations, or CAFOs. Currently, only 10 operations, such as feedlots, in Washington state are required to have CAFO permits. The permits set out what producers must do to keep manure from washing into surface water, regulating the size, design and maintenance of lagoons.

Under the new proposal, which Ecology officials described as a "preliminary draft," the department turns its attention to groundwater, as well.

DOE assumes lagoons leak manure into groundwater, so producer with a lagoon

Tens of thousands of dollars spent because of "assumptions" ?

between the layers, empty from the CAFO permit requirements.

Jay Gordon, governmental relations director of the Washington State Dairy Federation, said most of the state's 400-plus dairies have manure lagoons, but he didn't know of one lagoon that's double-lined. "It's unbelievably expensive," he said.

Turn to LAGOONS, Page 12