

From: [Dave Nygard](#)
To: [Jennings, Jonathan \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: Draft CFO
Date: Friday, October 02, 2015 12:51:16 PM
Attachments: [Draft responce.doc](#)

Jonathan,

Attached are our comments in regard to the preliminary draft of the CAFO general permit.

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October 2, 2015

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in regard to the Preliminary Draft of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation General Permit.

We at Thurston Conservation District share your concern about water quality and in particular groundwater. It is obvious to us that this draft was written to address issues cause by several mega dairies in the Yakima Valley. We do feel that those issues should be addressed. However, the issues caused by a 10,000 cow dairy in Yakima are not the same as issues facing a 100 cow dairy in Thurston County. This draft paints them all together with a very big brush. We must say that as written this draft does present a number of unintended consequences.

The largest of these unintended consequences is the one that will be caused by the requirement for a double geomembrane liner with a leak detection system between the liner layers. To install such a system is hugely expensive. This is an expense that the smaller family dairies would be unable to absorb and they would simply go out of business. Based on our knowledge of dairies in Thurston County and the surrounding area we believe that this would be at least half of the dairies now in operation. We don't believe it is the intent of this draft to put that many family farms out of business. The unintended consequence is that the large dairies would get bigger. Those dairies that choose to implement this would need to add more cows to pay for the implementation of this practice. The demand for dairy products from the public is still there. Someone will provide the milk that was previously produced by those smaller dairy farms.. The result will be either dairy farms will get bigger causing more concentration of the cows or there will be a lot of diesel smoke blown into the air hauling milk in from out of state.

Another issue is the one caused by the components of a MPPP. Those minimum components exactly like the components of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). There are very few people in this state qualified to write such a plan. At the present time the NRCS requires people who get cost share on manure structures to get a CNMP. They have had to bring people in from out of state to do this. Consider the time and money that was spent to write the current Dairy Nutrient Management Plans. It took over five years and millions of dollars of state money. This much more complicated MPPP would take at least as much effort. The back log would take years to work through. And who would pay for it? The state does not presently have the funds. If the farmers are required to pay, once again many would simply close their doors. On top of that the few people who are qualified to write these plans work for conservation districts. Farmers can't hire them do write the plans because conservation districts are prohibited by law from charging for services. This would serve to create an even bigger back log on completing these plans. If all dairies with a lagoon are required to go under permit and all of those under permit are required to

have an MPPP written to the requirements in this draft it would conservatively take five to ten years to complete that task.

It is our opinion that if this draft became the rule it would only serve to make the big dairies bigger. We don't believe that is the solution to the issue. In fact we believe this solution will only create and bigger problems more problems.

Respectively submitted

David Nygard
Resource Specialist
Thurston Conservation District