

597 Harrison Rd.
Burbank, WA 99323
March 12, 2010

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
MAR 16 2010
WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

Dear Mr. Jennings,

I am writing to you because I have enormous concerns about the Ecology Aquatic Mosquito Control NPDES permit.

I live in a district where years ago we had none to minimal mosquito control. It was impossible to go outside in the evenings to enjoy any activity. To watch a school football game in the fall or other sports such as baseball, softball, tennis or a graduation outside, or a simple barbeque in your back yard were impossible due to the mosquitoes. At that time we didn't have the farming and irrigation we have today. With the development of acres and acres of irrigated or flooded lands the number of breeding grounds for the mosquitoes has risen. With the development of our mosquito control district we now can enjoy these events without having to seek refuge in our homes at dusk even with the larger breeding area. Beyond the concern for being able to just enjoy life is the concern for our health. I personally know three people who have contacted West Nile Virus as well as many horses that have been infected by the disease. The three people were in adjoining states, but the severity of the illness opened my eyes. One almost died and spent months in the hospital then spent months recuperating at home. This is not an illness to be taken lightly as the total cases and death toll continues to rise throughout Washington every year.

There are several items that need to be addressed in order for us to keep any quality of life and the safety of our health. First, remove the Malathion and Nalid restrictions from the permit. Second, both nuisance and vector mosquitoes need to be controlled, do not separate them. Third, the current language needs changed to allow organized mosquito control districts under chapter 17.28 RCW to adulticide to control vector and nuisance mosquitoes as listed in the districts Integrated Pest Management Plan. Fourth, eliminate the use of the term "waters of the state".

We need our mosquito control districts to be able to control and be proactive not reactive to our mosquito problem. Your permit, as written, would put the health of our families and livestock in jeopardy and change our quality of life so I am hoping you will address changing the language of the permit to allow the mosquito control districts to continue to protect us.

Sincerely,

Ellie Ensunsa

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