

Mar. 17. 2010 5:46PM

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FAX COVER SHEET

**Attention: John Jennings, WA State Department of Ecology
Re: Mosquito Control Permit Comments**

**Fax Number: (360)407-6426
Phone Number: (360) 407-6283**

**From: Nicole Denny
Phone: Cell (509) 439-9039 or Home (509) 786-1136**

Mr. Jennings,

Here are my concerns with regard to limiting the Benton County Mosquito Control District's ability to spray for adult mosquitoes. Please read and consider our position. Thank you very much!

Nicole

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

MAR 17 2010

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

CA#469

March 16, 2010

To: John Jennings
WA State Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
MAR 17 2010
WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

Dear Mr. Jennings,

My name is Nicole Denny and I am a 37 year old mother of four who lives in Prosser, WA in Benton County. In March of 2007 we bought a house in a very nice development on 2 acres at the end of Byron road near the Byron Ponds. Since we are not natives of this area we were not even aware the ponds existed when we bought the house. To make matters worse our neighbor has a natural pond on his private property that we were also not aware of. These became abundantly clear to us in a short amount of time after moving in. The mosquitoes were relentless, even getting into our house and biting us while we sleep at night!!!! We called our local Mosquito Control district, they put us on their regular spraying schedule and things became much better. However, we still spent hours at night scouring every room in the house to kill mosquitoes that somehow found their way into the house. We counted at least 40 each night that my husband and I killed with fly swatters, and who knows how many others that we were not able to find that were then able to bite us all night long.

When we moved to our dream house, we had three children and were contemplating a fourth, but I didn't want to have an infant (who cannot be sprayed) in these mosquito infested conditions. It is simply not possible to dress our children (Ranging in age from 9 years to 4 months) from head to toe to protect them. In addition, it is not an option to spray them from head to toe with deet spray EVERY night the entire mosquito season without adverse affects to their health. Not to mention that an infant cannot have any spray at all!! The mosquitoes bite our necks, ears, heads, cheeks, hands and feet. There is no way to cover their entire bodies in clothing. However, there was some relief from this during the most recent past summer of 2009. We are not sure what the Control District was doing differently last summer, but things were dramatically improved!!!! We spent maybe two nights where we had to hunt down mosquitoes that had gotten indoors and found at the most 5! It was a blessing because I was 4 months pregnant with that fourth child and extremely worried about how I would protect an infant during the 2010 mosquito season. I put my worries aside and hoped next summer the Control District would keep up the amazing work!

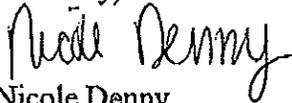
It is also important to note that this last summer of 2009 we found two dead birds on our property in addition to one grounded bird that was acting very strangely and we observed closely for one day until it eventually died. We called and reported these to the proper authorities, but no one ever followed up with us. We are pretty certain all three of these birds, on our actual property, died of West Nile Virus. If this virus is that close to us and infecting as well as killing living things then it seems ridiculous to worry about "possible" affects on fish and other water life versus protecting human beings and other wildlife. Where is the common sense in that?

MAR 17 2010

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As can be expected, after all we've experienced, lived with and witnessed, I was shocked and outraged to hear about the possibility of more restrictions put on the Mosquito Control District's ability to do their job! People who don't live with this just don't realize how dangerous and real this is and they don't realize the preventative measures they tell us to take (wear long sleeves, spray with deet) don't work when you are indoors and the mosquitoes are too!!!! It is an outrage that people who live hundreds of miles away are putting the lives of a few fish that may "possibly" be harmed by chemicals ahead of human beings, especially the most vulnerable and helpless little infants and children who are really left with no protections on their heads, faces and necks!!!! At some point someone is going to have to be held accountable if a child or adult contracts West Nile Virus that should and could have been prevented if not for restrictions placed on the very groups who are there to protect us. I personally know one man whose life has been shattered since he was infected with West Nile Virus this past summer in the Prosser area. He will never be the same and he is grown man! Imagine if this happens to a child or infant! I realize we have to achieve a balance for the environment and humans; however, sacrificing humans for fish (when it hasn't been proven there is an adverse affect upon them) is an outrage and lacks common sense, especially when the amount of spray needed has been shown to be incidental and harmless to the water quality. Please, please, please think about all of the people who have these mosquitoes not only invade their outdoor lives, but also their indoor living spaces! It was impossible for two summers for us to "fend for ourselves" even within the walls of our own home. The pests were so bad that they ate us alive at night while we were sleeping until last summer when the control district did something different. Please think about human lives and the dangers we will face. We don't have the choice to move at this point in our lives, for many reasons, so we will be left like sitting ducks inside our own house if these restrictions are implemented! I hate to bring up the "lawsuit" word, but if one of my innocent children contract West Nile Virus then I will do all within my power to assure someone is held accountable, and if that means I have sue the Department of Ecology and/or Environmental groups then so be it. Please allow the permit to be written in a manner that will allow the Control District to continue the amazing work they did last summer. Please allow it to read "The Permittee is authorized to discharge incidental amounts of adulticides and their residues to waters of the state for nuisance and vector mosquito control." Thank you for your time and understanding of the helplessness I feel!

Sincerely,



Nicole Denny
173303 West 193 PR SW
Prosser, WA 99350
(509) 786-1136

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MAR 17 2010
WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

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