

MAR 25 2010

WATER QUALITY PROGRAM
March 12, 2010

Jon Jennings – Mosquito Control Permit Comments
Washington State Department of Ecology - Water Quality Program
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Mr. Jennings:

We live on the Yakima River near Benton City where the local Mosquito district has sprayed over the years. We are most concerned about the proposed additional restrictions we've read of in that we well know the problem of adult mosquito populations.

Several years ago I contracted viral encephalitis and was in severe pain for a long time although thankfully I did not receive permanent injury from the episode. Our school bookkeeper's family from Prosser (also near the Yakima) was not so fortunate. Her adult son is now partially mentally handicapped from his encounter with encephalitis..

We are very concerned about water quality and appreciate the state's concern in protecting our natural resources. Balancing nature is a very tricky and serious effort. Whereas we feel the adulticides used for mosquito control for both juvenile and adults should not be directly applied to our public waters, the public good necessitates continued control at least at the level it has been in the past.

There are far larger sources of public water pollution than from incidental amounts of adulticides in controlled mosquito spray programs. It seems a wiser expenditure of government monies would be to work on larger uncontrolled causes.

We are also disturbed to see a recommended change requiring mosquito disease testing and other disease indicator monitoring prior to being allowed adulticide use. First this ties the hands of a district having to wait for test results and extensive additional field work. Of course these added layers will cost more. As you would appear to be lead agency requiring such additional restrictions are you also guaranteeing the concomitant permanent funding? If not, that means further stress on districts' budgets giving us even less protection than we now have.

Please reconsider your proposed restriction on adulticide use on both vector and nuisance mosquitoes.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concern.

Sincerely,



Tom and Laura Beaver
11826 E SR224 NE
Benton City WA 99320

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