

**From:** [Diana & Rex McMullin](#)  
**To:** [Jennings, Jonathan \(ECY\)](#)  
**Subject:** public comment on npdes  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 16, 2010 6:52:33 PM

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Mr. Jennings,

The major issues I have with this draft permit is that it doesn't let mcd's control nuisance mosquitoes. How do you separate nuisance from vector? While it is known that the Culex ssp. Are the PRIMARY vectors for West Nile Virus. How do we know if some of the many other species of mosquitoes aren't carrying the disease? What of the next virus to show up? All mosquitoes can be a vector for disease!

Another issue is the use of the phrase "Waters of the State". It appears to me, that by your definition this means ANY water that ultimately ends up in primary water sources. I would prefer the use of the terms "Navigable Waters" or major bodies of waters.

MCD's use synthetic permethrin insecticides that have very low toxicity to mammals. They have a low residual activity in the environment because they break down very quickly once the chemical contacts soil and they degrade quickly with exposure to sunlight. All the products used for adult mosquito control have been registered and reregistered with EPA and approved upon extensive testing. Also, these chemicals are widely available to unlicensed homeowners that use them without being regulated. Mosquito control districts are using the same chemicals according to the Label to provide for public and animal health.

Third, the permit dictates that spraying for adult disease mosquitoes can only take place once there is documented disease activity. You want to use the Department of Health Level 3 Standard before treating for adults. Loosely quoted this means that there is active human and animal evidence of disease in the population. This ignores the fact that disease has been found in mosquitoes and/or birds and other mammals. To illustrate You basically want to wait until the house is totally engulfed in flames before calling the fire dept instead of when the fire is first noticed. Also small districts do not do their own testing so they can have up to a two week lag between mailing in samples and get results. If those results are positive, the disease can have escalated rapidly during that two-week period. By being able to control nuisance mosquitoes they will be controlling possible infected mosquitoes and "put the fire out" when the probability is high and they have the known vector mosquitoes present.

According to G9. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS AND STATUTES. "Nothing in this permit shall be construed as excusing the Permittee from compliance with any applicable Federal, State, or Local statutes, ordinances, or regulations" What about MCD's organized under ch. 17.28 RCW to control vector and nuisance mosquitoes? This permit as written would make these MCD's out of compliance with the laws that established them.

You should have advised with the MCD's before writing this draft it is totally unreasonable and if changes are not made I think you will end up changing it down the road. The people present at the public meeting who had West Nile Virus wont be the last, especially if this permit goes through. People health is at stake here. You need to allow incidental spray in all but navigable waters. You need to let the professionals do their job. You are not a mosquito control professional and don't really realize or care what is at stake. Listen to the people. I think the majority of comments are for changes to let MCD do their job and control ALL MOSQUITOES. What about all the other users of these chemicals; Homeowners, Lawn and tree care companies, Heavy users of these same active ingredients, where is there regulation? If changes are not made to this draft the public who has to deal with mosquitoes such as the residents of Grant County, whose live testimony you heard, are not going to let it rest, either will the MCD's and the organizations they are a part of.

Rex McMullin, Pasco Washington