

From: [Karie Mitchell](#)
To: [Jennings, Jonathan \(ECY\)](#)
Subject: RE :Aquatic Mosquito Control NPDES General Permit
Date: Wednesday, March 17, 2010 11:10:43 AM

March 17, 2010

RE: Proposed Aquatic Mosquito Control General Permit

To whom it may concern:

My name is Karie Mitchell my husband and I own a summer home in the Marine View Heights area located a short distance from Pot Holes Reservoir as well as own and operate 2 businesses in the same area.

I would like for the record to show my disdain on the proposed Aquatic Mosquito Control NPDES General Permit as it is written now.

There are a number of faults with this permit as proposed:

1. First and foremost by not allowing our local mosquito districts to spray for adult mosquitoes, The Department of Ecology is in essence putting the health of Washington State citizens at a greatly increased risk of contracting disease carried by these adult mosquitoes. There were 39 human documented cases of West Nile Virus, one of those resulting in death in 2009 as well as 73 cases of horse/mammal and 22 confirmed birds that carried the virus. According to Washington State Department of Health website the "West Nile virus is almost always spread to people by the bite of an infected mosquito". The Washington State Department of Health website states those over 50 years of age have the highest risk of serious illness, the majority of our local community is in that category. So in effect by denying our local districts to spray for these mosquitoes you are blatantly putting citizens and livestock at risk for disease, this is unacceptable!!
2. Secondly, this permit as written would be devastating to local businesses that depend largely on tourism for the majority of their income. As I stated earlier my husband and I own and operated two businesses in the Pot Holes area of Grant County. We have numerous employees who depend on their jobs for economic survival my family included. Last year the economic recession was difficult for all the local businesses, if we were to lose the tourist dollar due to a fear of contracting West Nile Virus or just plain nuisance that would surely be the demise of many taxpaying businesses including mine. Once again this is unacceptable!!
3. Thirdly, this would have a tremendously negative impact on our quality of life in the area. We pay extra taxes to control the mosquito population and our local mosquito district does an amazing job of using those tax dollars effectively. The people in our local community enjoy their time working out in their yards, spending time with family and friends engaged in leisure outdoor activities. I grew up on the west side of the mountains where you would seldom be bothered by a mosquito; however that is not the case on the east side of the state. I can't even imagine how miserable it will be this summer without some type of adult mosquito control. Unacceptable!!

It seems as if one of the big concerns of The Department of Ecology is being sued by third party persons, and I can appreciate the concern for the ecological well being of our waters, but at what cost are you willing to save the salmon? I can't believe the Department of

Health is ok with this either, and what kind of liability will your department surely face when people and livestock become ill or worse yet die due to the West Nile Virus and the residents of Washington State figure out you had the capability of prevention, shame on your department!

In closing I would like to state that I while I believe it is important to protect our environment, I believe in this case the health and welfare of the citizens of Washington State as well as those who come to visit supersede the rights of any salmon. Our local mosquito districts should be able to continue operating as usual and in the meantime it should be the goal of The Department of Ecology to work with these localities to come up with a better and safer solution for all.

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