



Yakima Health District
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December 29, 2016

Jean Mendoza
Executive Director
Friends of Toppenish Creek
3142 Signal Peak Road
White Swan, WA 98952

Dear Ms. Mendoza,

I am writing to you in further response to your inquiry of September 11, 2016, regarding provision of public health input to the Yakima Regional Clean Air Authority regarding application of manure under particular environmental conditions (e.g., high winds, burn bans, inversions). I initially responded to you via email on September 12, 2016, indicating: *"I am not an expert on this topic, so this will take some time to get input and guidance from subject matter experts before I can respond. I will respond as soon as I can reasonably do so."* Similarly, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) provided an initial response to your inquiry in a September 26, 2016, letter from Assistant Secretary Clark Halvorson (attached).

As you may know, DOH's resources are finite and must balance multiple demands. I know that DOH has indeed been researching your question, but neither a definitive answer to your inquiry nor any specific input for YRCAA's consideration is yet forthcoming at the moment.

While the Yakima Health District (YHD) maintains an interest in promoting air quality to the extent that it affects human health and supports efforts to mitigate conditions that are proven to be harmful to human health, neither YHD Environmental Health staff nor I possess expertise in this arena. Consequently, we remain dependent upon and interested in any information or guidance that does emanate from DOH's look into this issue. Until that time, I urge and appreciate your patience as their efforts continue.

Sincerely,

Christopher Spitters, MD, MPH
Health Officer

cc: Clark Halvorson, Assistant Secretary, Environmental Public Health, DOH
Lauren Jenks, Director, Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences
Andre Fresco, Director, YHD
Dave Cole, Environmental Health Director, YHD