



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

*PO Box 47820 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7820*  
*(360) 236-3000 • TTY Relay Service: (800) 833-6388*

September 26, 2016

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

Dear Ms. Mendoza:

Dr. Kathy Lofy asked me to respond to your request for a recommendation regarding safe practices of application of manure to cropland. I understand that you are asking us to provide a description of conditions that are appropriate for manure application, with a specific concern about aerosolized manure during high winds, burn bans, and inversions.

There are general health concerns about contact with pollutants from manure; however, less information is available about the hazard and extent of exposures or the mitigating conditions that impact these. Much more of the literature in this area has been devoted to evaluation of pollutants that occur in runoff or leachate than aerosolized manure.

I agree that the potential for hazardous exposures resulting from land application of manure merits further consideration. I have asked our Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences to work with the Yakima Clean Air Authority and the Yakima Health District to learn more about manure application on cropland both in the Yakima area and in general. An exposure investigation is currently being conducted by Region 10 of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry near animal feeding operations in the vicinity of Harrah, Washington. I anticipate the results of this study will inform our recommendation.

We will work with the Yakima Health District to provide a coordinated response to your questions.

Sincerely,

Clark Halvorson  
Assistant Secretary

cc: Lauren Jenks, Director, Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences  
Chris Spitters, Health Officer, Yakima Health District  
Dave Cole, Environmental Health Director, Yakima Health District