

10/31/16

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing with my concerns and objections to the proposed dumping of bio-solids by Fire Mountain on Gary Rosemans' property near Davenport, WA. For a myriad of reasons, I am very opposed to the dumping of bio-solids in general, which I will go into. With this particular site proposal, I am especially concerned because of the proximity to my herbal farm where I grow herbs for my tea business Perianth Herbs.

My third of an acre herb garden is located just on Deanne Burdine's property and is watered throughout the season by the spring located Morton Alexander's land. I have also been wildcrafting (collecting wild plants, upper and lower parts) for the last eleven years on both Deanne and Morton's property, for additions to my teas, oils and salves. Many people buy these products from me at local Spokane Farmers' markets for herbal supplemental health benefits. I chose to start my business and grow and collect my herbs in this part of Mill Canyon because of the purity of a place that has never directly been touched by pesticides, growth hormones or other toxic chemicals. I promote this fact when talking to my customers and tout the fact that everything is spring watered. My biggest fear is that if bio-solids are dumped on Gary Roseman's land, it will reach Mill Canyon via windstorms and spring and fall runoff. I have just started making this business into something more than just a hobby. In the next couple of years, I will be expanding into the herbal tincture business (herbal alcoholic extractions). In order to do this, I will need to go through testing to make sure my products are safe for their proposed use and in order to apply for agricultural grants from such agencies as the USDA. If my product ends up getting contaminated by toxins such as PBDE's, it will put me out of business and put me out of work for the summer months. I will not be able to promote by products for health benefits, if they could in fact cause adverse effects.

I feel that my product is especially sensitive due the how many perennials I grow and wildcraft. Many of the perennials such as *Echinecea sp.*, *Lomatium dissectum* and *Balsamarihzza sagitatta*, have deep tap roots and take many years to develop to a harvestable state. Many of these roots can develop to two and three feet deep and I have at times come across the water table when digging them up.

Additionally, I have great concern about the dust storms that occur in the area. I am quite certain. As I said before, I have been gardening and wildcrafting in this canyon for the last eleven years. This year and last year, I have had to wash off a lot of dust of my mints and other leaves. If the dust is too thick, I just need to prune it and discard it. I'm certain that during big windstorms, a lot of the dust comes from the wheat fields up above. In the summer, there are big dust devils that look like small tornadoes that at times blow a large amount of dust into this canyon.

Fire Mountain and the EPA have not done enough research on the spread of bio-solids contamination to convince me that what is proposed to me dumped on Roseman's farm, won't spread down here eventually. Taking water samples is not enough. After all, the solution to bad pollution results is dilution. In addition to the many studies showing the ill effects of PBDE's to the endocrine systems of both humans and wildlife, there needs to be more relevant studies, there

needs to be more studies on the spread of bio-solids into nearby areas. Additional testing in nearby creeks of the macroinvertebrates present (water quality indicators) and bacteria samples from the silt need to be taken in areas near where bio-solids have already been dumped to get an accurate reading of how far spread these toxins are getting.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Carla Martinez

Perianth Herbs