



ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

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www.co.kittitas.wa.us/assessor

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Kittitas County Assessor
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DATE: July 20, 2010

REQUESTED RUN DATE: **Immediately**

The Kittitas County Assessor's Office has announced that a petition is now available to assist taxpayers that want to report how the Washington State Department of Ecology restrictions on managing underground water resources in Upper Kittitas County have limited the use of their property, resulting in a reduction in the value of that property. DOE's action has been referred to as a moratorium on the drilling of exempt wells.

The petition was developed pursuant to RCW 84.40.039, which states that property owners may petition the Assessor for a reduction in the assessed value of real property due to adoption of a restriction by a government entity. At this time, the petition is specific to Department of Ecology's groundwater rule in Chapter 173-539A WAC. Temporary emergency rules were ordered by D.O.E. on July 16, 2009, however, they have recently announced a permanent rule proposal for managing underground water resources in Upper Kittitas County.

Directions for completing the petition are included on the form. The Assessor's Office is asking that owners be very specific when completing the form. Petitions will be reviewed and, if new valuations are established for real property, the Assessor will mail Change of Value Notices to affected owners.

The following websites will provide additional information:

Kittitas County website: <http://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/response/200907-dogwwm.asp>

Department of Ecology website: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cro/kittitas_wp.html

A fill-in format of the petition is available on the Kittitas County website at www.co.kittitas.wa.us. You may also request a petition by calling the Assessor's Office at 962-7501. Upper County residents can call the toll free number 674-2584, extension #501.