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January 3, 2024

Kittitas County CDS

Jamey Ayling
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N Ruby St., Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Subject: Project File Number CU-23-00001 3 BR Custom Cuts

Dear Mr. Ayling,

I am writing again to voice my concern over the proposed commercial slaughterhouse, located in the residential area off Wilson Creek Road. The latest revision indicates that, in addition to the 10,000 square foot building, they have now included a three-million-gallon lagoon. How can the current zoning authorize this change? How is this continuing to get pushed through the system?

Are there any studies being completed to analyze the impact of the following?

1. **Traffic:** Increased truck and cars into the facility will cause safety issues on Wilson Creek. The trucks will have to cross the center line, to get into the facility, as there isn't a turn lane. In addition, there are no shoulders, but there are many bus stops.
2. **Air Pollution:** The smell of the lagoon, according to many studies, will cause health risks to neighbors. The following gases, NH₃, SO₂, and more, from the lagoon could be responsible for those health risks. The lagoon isn't the only air pollutant. The increased number of cows and their excrements, will create a stench in the neighborhood and the entire valley. Especially, during times of extreme heat, dense fog and low inversion.

A Smoke House is also included in this proposal, how can that work, when our area is constantly under Burn Bans and affected by low inversion weather patterns?

3. **Noise Pollution:** Refrigeration equipment, cow haulers coming in at all times of the day and the general sounds of a major factory will echo throughout the entire area.
4. **Water Pollution:** It should be extremely obvious that this will be a nightmare for our water systems. From fecal matter, urine, animal by-products, getting into our local creeks and then the Yakima River should raise many concerns. This particular property floods yearly, which will also cause everything to run into the tributaries. In addition, the amount of water that will be necessary is the equivalent of 40 homes. This will severely impact the aquifers for our existing homes and any new development. This area is also a recharge zone, for the City of Ellensburg, and their wells.

In addition, it is proposed that by-products, of the operation, will be pumped out of the lagoon, for irrigation purposes. KRD also delivers water to these fields. How does the KRD and the applicants hope to keep all these contaminants out of the canal, Lyle Creek, Wilson Creek, the Yakima River, and all the adjoining property owners?

5. Lagoon Failure: Plastic lined lagoons have a known history of failure. The failures can result from weight and/or cleaning out of the sludge that develops on the bottom of the lagoon. Rocks and impeded materials, in the bedding process, pose failure risks. If a failure happens, who is responsible for this event. Is it the county or the property owner? It would cause a huge problem for our wells and aquifers.
6. Self-Monitoring: The proposal states that everything will be monitored by the applicant, from testing the lagoon, to pumping the lagoon onto the fields. How can we be assured that our domestic water systems, streams, creeks, rivers, and property values will not be compromised?

And again, it is my understanding that the conditional use permit can only be granted if there is absolutely no impact on the neighbors, environment, and the greater community.

This proposal is causing incredible stress upon our neighborhood. It's especially difficult to see the strain, on our older neighbor's mental health. They're seeing their quiet and peaceful neighborhood being destroyed. In addition, their most important investment, their homes, losing value. This is their future – many are depending on it for their retirement. How can we let such a destructive operation come to fruition?

Please do everything to stop this operation in this area. I'm sure there is plenty of space, elsewhere, in the valley that is better suited for everyone. Encourage them to work with the other proposed slaughterhouses and come up with a beneficial solution for our entire valley.

Sincerely,



Deborah Whitman