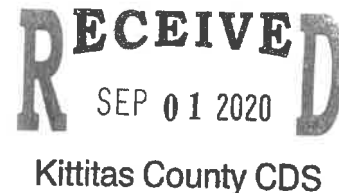


Clinton Van de Venter
430 Mansperger Rd
Ellensburg, WA 98926

August 28, 2020

Kelly Bacon
Designated Permit Coordinator
Kittitas County
Washington State

RE: Project Brown & Jackson
File # SE-20-00003
Tax Parcel # 295134



Dear Ms. Bacon and whom else this may concern:

I am writing in opposition the proposed project by Brown & Jackson of the placement of two (2) storage septage ponds. The receiving of septage is not a consistent usage of zoned Agriculture 20 land. How did the county come to the conclusion to permit this proposed usage that is clearly not agricultural in purpose or nature? I am disappointed to see this project appears to be being fast tracked through the permitting process. The residents of Kittitas County were given just 2 week to comment to the siting of this potentially devastating project. This is a very short window to complete a well thought out response especially when the county requests 5 weeks to produce additional documentation I requested about the project. However I was able to draft this letter while working 148 hours, farming, and raising 3 kids.

In reading the county codes I see where sewage is mentioned as a permitted use based on it being a utility. Nowhere in the county code does it appear septage receiving or ponds are a utility or permitted use for any property. The definition of a utility is an organization supplying the community with electricity, gas, water, or sewerage. Sewerage or sewage as defined is refuse liquids or waste matter carried off via sewers. In a septic system, sewage would be the material that comes from a household and into the septic tank with the affluent exiting to the drain field. Septage is highly concentrated fecal matter and other refuse received through sewage. Septage has extremely different properties than sewage, which is why the sewer treatment plant cannot and will not accept septage. Therefore I do not believe septage receiving or ponds are classified a as utility or a permitted use within the county.

Another issue I see with this project is there has not been a FEMA flood area survey done in the area. It is known by local residents in the area that this property floods due to spring run off on a regular basis. This is important as there are three (3) branches of DNR type 2 fish

baring streams that run through the property in question. This should be a fatal flaw for the project do the nature of the material the site will be accepting and spreading on the surrounding acreage. If an accidental release happens and pollutes one of these fisheries that are part of the Yakima River Watershed and the Columba River tributary system the devastation could be catastrophic.

In looking though the SEPA some questions and concerns have arrived:

- 1 The applicant appears to use septage and biosolids interchangeably. This item as defined by Department of Ecology although have some similarities are not interchangeable. This makes me question the applicant's knowledge on the processes they are proposing and what it takes to operate the site.
- 2 A.9 states "wastewater can be land applied for irrigation."
Is this in addition to the contents of the septage ponds being applied yearly? This is important information due to the fact that the application of this liquid waste will increase the odor off gassing area. How do they intend to apply the wastewater? How will this wastewater be treated?
- 3 A.11 "sources around the grater Ellensburg and Kittitas area" does this mean they will not be utilizing these ponds for waste from the greater Cle Elum area or any were in the upper county, Vantage, or Thorp? Looking at their website it shows they service Yakima, Naches, and Selah areas also, where will all this waste be disposed of? Adding all of this area will considerably increase the operating zone that they proposed in the SEPA.
- 4 B.2.a states "stored septage can give an odor"
This statement is completely miss leading as septage unlike sewage is received after spending years in an anaerobic state. When the anaerobic material is aeriated as it enters the pond it gives off an extremely foul odor. If they really believe this to be true why didn't they place the ponds by their house where it would have affected less people in a 2 mile radius then the proposed site they chose?
- 5 B.2.c "Biosolids will be incorporated into the ground to help control the odor and the pond will be kept aerobic to further reduce the odor. The stored septage will be contained and not mixed, to minimize odor. Additionally, the septage will be land applied via truck and disked into the land only once a year."
I would first like to know how they plan on keeping the ponds aerobic without mixing or the use of any kind of energy. Could you please ask for the technology they have found that can achieve this task. In addition as you bring in a stinky anaerobic product and make it aerobic the off gassing is very offensive and last for a few days. They will be adding stinky anaerobic septage to these ponds daily so the smell will never go away. Litter is known to make it past the required 3/8" bar screen so I would also like to know more on how they intend to control litter when land applying? How do they intend on managing fugitive dust (POO PARTICALS) in the 30 day that according to DOE they cannot enter the application area after applying? When incorporating the septage after it is spread on the fields what measures will be taken to control fugitive dust from exiting the property?

- 6 B.3.a.4) It appears in the drawings provide that surface water runoff will be diverted around the ponds. Has this been looked at how this might affect the flows to surrounding surface waters and possible erosion issues that could come along with the diversions?
- 7 B.3.a.5) In looking at the FEMA FIRM mapping it appears no current surveys have been completed for this property. Examining the mapping it appears surveys stop at the Vantage Hwy or all flooding just stops at the Vantage Hwy. When looking at the LIDAR there are some obvious flooding zones. This is something that should be looked into before approval of this project.
- 8 B.3.b.1) This response is interesting; how do they intend on cleaning their screens without a well or utilizing surface water? Not having water has been a constant complaint from Tyler and Dan about the current county site.
- 9 B.3.b.1) Could it be expanded on to show the scale of this operation? How much waste do they plan on applying onto the land? How much land do they expect to apply waste on? Maybe separate out how much of each waste they receive and plan on applying? I am worried about grease being applied to the land as this can reduce the ability for water to infiltrate the soil.
- 10 B.3.c.1) Although the area only receives 9" of rain a year the area is known to flood regularly in the spring do to snow pack water runoff. The project is at the base of many square miles of drainage. Their mapping fails to capture the seasonal stream coming from to east canyon. Again a study needs to be done to be sure proper setbacks are established for the area.
- 11 B.3.c.2) The whole point of this project is to introduce waste into the ground which could lead to contamination of surface or ground water. Will there be any monitoring wells or other testing completed to insure waters are not affected? Will the waste be tested before application due to the potential of contaminating waters?
- 12 B.4. It does not appear a proper assessment of wildlife in the area has been observed. I know the elk herd frequencies the property in question and have caught trout out of the Parke Creek. Just visiting the site will not do justice to the wildlife present throughout the year. In addition how do they plan on controlling vectors on site that will be drawn to the waste?
- 13 B.6.a) Earlier it is said the ponds will be kept aerobic. How is this achieved without power? I am really concerned about the validity of this company if they are going to aerate the ponds without mixing and or use of energy.
- 14 B.7.a.1) I do not see where potential flooding of ponds or application area is addressed in there spill response plan. It is also not addressed if inspections were performed for their "existing creek crossing" that they just installed this summer. I think after any water event there should be a third party inspection of the abutments for the newly installed crossing.
- 15 B.7.a.3) Are there different design requirement for ponds holding septage vs. biosolids? These ponds will be holding septage not biosolids. Septage is way more hazardous. In addition what type of testing will be required and to what agencies will it be reported? What agencies will have oversight and do inspections of the project and operation of the site?
- 16 B.8.a Contrary to what the applicant states there are 8 properties with residents, along with a trade school and community facility providing Cognitive Behavioral

Treatment services to youth with an onsite school that do directly border the parcel in question. Not to be unprofessional but have the applicants even been to the proposed site? Have they looked at an aerial photo of the sites surroundings? The applicants seem very detached and unfamiliar of the area looking at their answers to the SEPA question stating not much wildlife and surrounding properties are vacant. With this project it will be more than just bordering properties that will be affected and this needs to be a concern of the county.

- 17 B.8.e. Again, how does this project fit in to the currently classified zoning definition and uses?
- 18 B.8.g Has this property been included or surveyed for the shoreline master program yet?
- 19 B.8.h Has this property even been surveyed for critical areas?
- 20 B.8.j I believe this project could displace many people do to the negative impacts it will present on our quality of life and potential health hazards. Not only will it displace us but will greatly reduce the value of our property.
- 21 B.12.b To answer this question as “no” when DAHP states “an archaeological study is highly recommended” for the area is very concerning. I hope if the project is approved this will be a requirement. It concerns me that the applicant appears to have zero regard for the area yet we are to trust them to responsibility dispose potentially hazardous waste on the site.
- 22 B.16.a I state again, have the applicants even been to the site? There is spur off the main powerline running onto the site to provide electricity
- 23 Looking at the drawings provided of the proposed pond locations and application fields it appears they might lie in an area affected by seasonal flooding and run off. With the ponds at the base of a slope and canyon is it a concern of how they will affect run off? It also appears one of the seasonal streams and wetlands are not on the provide drawings.

If you feel you must approve this project please consider the following contingencies along with the ones stated above:

- No construction can take place until a proper Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) is conducted to identify flood hazards, assess flood risks, and provide accurate data to guide stakeholders in taking effective mitigation actions that result in safer site utilization. This does not appear to have been ever done and the only time any type of flood analysts had been done was in 1981.
- Limit them to a ramp up schedule requiring them to prove they can control odors, fugitive dust, litter, vectors, and anything else that might come as a part of running this type of business. (Maybe limit to only 200k gallons a year for the first 3 years increasing it by 100k every other year thereafter. In this time they must apply as they normally would to show they can keep control during the whole process.)
- Please require financial assurance to cover the reclamation of the site along with retribution if a release were to happen, contaminating ground water, personal wells, water ways and the surrounding land. Brown and Jackson is a small local company

and could fold up operations leaving a mess for us, the residents of Kittitas County, to clean up the site along with the millions in financial burden that comes with it.

- Ponds must be electrically inspected by a 3rd party after every time the pond contents are applied to fields (said to be yearly) or at least yearly, do to the close proximity to residents and streams.

Sincerely local resident and affected party,



Clinton Van de Venter