



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

15 W Yakima Ave, Ste 200 • Yakima, WA 98902-3452 • (509) 575-2490

April 29, 2008



Your address
is in the
**Upper
Yakima**
watershed

Trudie Pettit
Kittitas County Community Development
411 N. Ruby St., Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear Ms. Pettit:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during the optional determination of nonsignificance process for the Lookout Large Lot subdivision of 235.10 acres into 11 lots, proposed by Frank and Judy Raglund [LL 08-03]. We have reviewed the documents and have the following comment.

Water Resources

Any ground water withdrawals in excess of 5,000 gallons per day or for the irrigation of more than ½ acre of lawn or noncommercial garden will require a permit from the Department of Ecology.

Chapter 173-150 WAC provides for the protection of existing rights against impairment, i.e. interruption or interference in the availability of water. If water supply in your area becomes limited your use could be curtailed by those with senior water rights.

The Attorney General's Opinion, (AGO 1997 No. 6) regarding the status of exempt ground water withdrawals, states that a group of wells drilled by the same person or group of persons, at or about the same time, in the same area, for the same purpose or project should be considered a single withdrawal and would not be exempt from the permitting requirement contained in RCW 90.44.050, if the total amount withdrawn for domestic use exceeds 5,000 gallons per day or if a total of more than .5 acre of lawn and garden are irrigated.

The Attorney General's opinion suggests that caution should be used in finding developments to be exempt from needing a water right permit if the possibility exists that the development of the project will result in the ultimate withdrawal of water in excess of 5,000 gallons per day or the irrigation of more that .5 acre of lawn and garden.



Ms. Pettit
April 30, 2008
Page 2 of 2

There is a concern about irrigation with a single groundwater exemption, which only allows up to ½ acres. With the proposed lot size, irrigation could easily be over 0.5 acres. If irrigation water is available through an irrigation district, know that the water purveyor is responsible for ensuring that the proposed use(s) are within the limitations of its water rights. If the proposal's actions are different than the existing water right (source, purpose, the place of use, or period of use), then it is subject to approval from the Department of Ecology pursuant to Sections 90.03.380 RCW and 90.44.100 RCW.

If you have any questions concerning the Water Resources comments, please contact Breean Zimmerman at (509) 454-7647.

Sincerely,



Gwen Clear
Environmental Review Coordinator
Central Regional Office
(509) 575-2012