Message

From: King, Carol [King.Carol@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/24/2020 6:34:02 PM
To: Pollins, Mark [Pollins.Mark@epa.gov]; Denton, Loren [Denton.Loren@epa.gov]; Theis, Joseph [Theis.Joseph@epa.gov]
CC: Rausch, Heidi [Rausch.Heidi@epa.gov]; Wilson, Dane [Wilson.Dane@epa.gov]
Subject: Petition for SDWA 1431 for Nitrate Contamination in Lower Umatilla Basin in Oregon
Attachments: 2020.01.16 FINAL Petition for Emergency Action Pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act.pdf; RE: Petition for SDWA 1431 for Nitrate Contamination in Lower Umatilla Basin in Oregon

Hi Mark, Joe and Loren,

As a follow-up to an action item from the 2/18 WED General, below is a proposed email for you or Rosemarie to send Larry answering his 2/4 questions (see attached email from Rosemarie and Kristin) and reflecting the latest we have based on calls with Region 10. For ease of reference, we've also attached the 1/16 petition in case you'd like to include it again when you email Larry.

Our next call with Region 10 and OGC is scheduled for 3/5.

Thanks,
Carol, Heidi and Dane

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Larry,

Region 10, OGC and WED are still reviewing the January 16 petition for SDWA Section 1431 action in the Lower Umatilla groundwater management area (GWMA) in Oregon. For now, we have some preliminary feedback in response to the questions you raised earlier this month. First, yes there is a significant amount of data spanning three decades that indicates the groundwater in the area has elevated levels of nitrates; these elevated levels are due to a combination of commercial farming practices and other additional sources of nitrates. While the regulated public water systems within the GWMA appear to have taken actions to address the contamination or are currently working with the state to lower nitrate levels in the water they provide, the private wells are a continuing concern. Region 10 has engaged the multiple state agencies involved and, according to the Region, the state acknowledges it has blind spots when it comes to data for the private wells in the Lower Umatilla Basin. The information that *is* available regarding the underground source of drinking water supplying private wells suggests there are public health impacts -- a significant percentage of those wells that have been tested were above the maximum contaminant level for nitrates.

Second, Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP) However, WED staff also appreciates Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

WED continues to monitor this situation closely and is assisting in any way possible.