Message

From: Kevin.Ryan@deq.idaho.gov [Kevin.Ryan@deq.idaho.gov]
Sent: 1/21/2020 9:14:11 PM
To: Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C) Peak, Nicholas [Peak.Nicholas@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Map of Waterways affected by Wilder Feedlot

See answers below in GREEN

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Our mission is to protect human health and the quality of Idaho's air, land, and water.

From: Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C) [mailto: Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C)
Sent: Sunday, January 12, 2020 7:38 PM
To: Kevin Ryan; Peak, Nicholas
Subject: Map of Waterways affected by Wilder Feedlot

RE: **Map of Waterways affected by Wilder Feedlot**

Hi Kevin and Nick –

This is a follow-on to the email I sent you recently about the old Canyon County Dump site. Attached is a map from Canyon County archives showing all the State/Federal waterways near, on, and down-gradient from this feedlot property. Some of these waterways have been tiled and may not show up on current-day maps but, as the aquifer flows, they are certainly pathways for toxic waste from this feedlot to flow directly into the Snake River.

I got the map marked "A" from the Plat/Map Room at Canyon County a few years back when they would take apart the old record books and copy pages for anyone. They don't do that anymore, so maps "B", "C", and "D" were recently taken with my digital camera. That's why B, C, & D are bigger pictures than A.

In the original archive book at the County, the West side of Fish Road is on one whole page and the East side of Fish Road is on another. These 2 pages are next to each other in the book but there is a binding between both so you can't get one big picture of this area without piecing it together as I've done here. At any rate, just lay out the maps as I've shown and try to connect the colors (blue, orange). You will see how these waterways are down-gradient from all these Runoff Pools the new feedlot owner wants to install. Also attached are copies of the maps without color coding in case you want a clean copy.

On map "D" you will see I've circled the "Weeks Lateral". It is located up-gradient from the color-coded maps attached here. Weeks runs through the middle of this feedlot and into the cement box with 2 head gates on upper Fish Road Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C) Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C) headgates this canal runs under Fish Road and keeps going downstream to other users. The County made the first owners tile the open canal through their feedlot, but I wonder how much of their toxic pollution from these sitting pools of waste water are spreading downstream. Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C) Weeks headgate and every year the water leaves a hard white film all over our windows. (I wonder what it is!).

(Kevin – has DEQ ever tested where water comes out from this feedlot into open canals to see if any contamination is spreading downstream? These new owners are using earth movers other there. I wonder if they even know about the tiling or have breached any of this tiling Not the I'm aware of)

I've also attached several other pictures (JPG attachments 009, 014, 016, & 017). from last year showing what one of these pools of waste looks like (again, these aren't "lined" or even "lined leaky" pools – they're pools of waste that cattle urinate and defecate in and drink out of that have been allowed to leak into the aquifer for 30 years). **(Question to both of you: are there any State or Federal laws or regs that require State or Federal inspection first and clean-up of a feedlot before it changes ownership?** Not that I'm aware of) Previous years of pools have been 2x-3x larger than these pictures. Pools have been in their front corral every winter and Spring Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C) On the rare occasions when old Marv Patten from the Dept of Ag has come out here to look at this he just says, "this looks ok to me, I don't see anything wrong, it's in keeping with Best Management Practices, nothing to see here, move along". Case closed. Nothing done. Whether it's waste pools, flies, horrendous smells, or dust, its the same thing from the Dept of Ag. There are many, many other pictures taken by other neighbors in the County files with neighbors imploring the County to enforce their own CUP and get the owners to clean it up, to no avail. The files with complaints from homeowners, stacked, I'm sure are several feet high. The new feedlot owners have not cleaned up this "pool" area either. They have just moved cattle into the corral.

I'm sure I don't need to remind you, in light of what I've already sent you, that this feedlot was never a County-sanctioned location for a feedlot in the first place, not to mention a legitimate feedlot. County records show that, in Administrative Hearings, two County prosecuting attorneys told the owners that they were and had been operating illegally, once in 1994 and again 10 years later (if you want copies of these Administrative Hearing minutes from 1994 and 2004, let me know).

Also attached, from the County file on this feedlot (CU2008-48), is a copy of the July 16, 2008 letter from Boise Project telling the owners that they only had 8.09 acres of surface water that cannot be used on their entire 113 acres (acreage before the new proposed expansion), otherwise it would be considered water spreading. It was to be used for sprinklers on every corral to keep down the dust – just another condition on their CUP that the old owners never did. That was when the CUP allowed them 6,000 head. Now the new owners want 15,000 head.

When asked at their neighborhood meeting where their water sources were, they pointed out 2 wells on their map. Can you water 6,000 or 15,000 head of cattle with 2 wells? A neighbor who lives close to those well sites was very alarmed that his well might run dry when the new owners start drawing water out of these two wells. Where are his rights? What if that happens to him (or anyone else nearby)?

Our aquifer flows from the top of the hill (Peckham and Fish road area) under the open-for-20-years-and-never-cleaned-up old Canyon County dump, 300 feet down to the valley below and directly into the Snake River. Toxic waste from **ALL SIX** of their proposed "Runoff Containment" cesspools and "Runoff Diversion" canal will run downhill, travel in and along open or tiled canals, and right into the Snake River, after, of course, it has contaminated everybody's wells.

The original 113 acre feedlot on top of the hill sits above (up-gradient) all these waterways (on color-coded maps) that empty into the Snake River. The new owners' proposed, 6 (six) (**count them, 6!**) "RUNOFF CONTAINMENT (what a joke – we all know these things leak – just ask the people who lived near the Sunnyside feedlot in Weiser.)" "cesspools" and 2 (two) COMPOSTING AREAS" are above (up-gradient) and below (down-gradient) from these waterways that empty into the Snake River. And what about their "RUNOFF DIVERSION" canal (see map "B"). What the heck is that! This is another disaster waiting to happen. The Love Canal doesn't have anything on this bunch! This thing is a disaster on so many levels!

I've also attached copies Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C) domestic well lab test results. His domestic well is now contaminated with nitrates! Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C) Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C) Nitrates cause cancer. What can be done for him?

How would you like to come home every night and take a shower and brush your teeth in contaminated water especially when you've tried for 17 years to get your County elected officials to do something about it and they've chosen to look the other way? And what about all the families with children who live near this feedlot. Besides cancer, nitrates also cause blue baby syndrome that kills children.

This feedlot should never have been located or allowed in this location and the whole thing should be shut down (or maybe the State or Feds could relocate it way out in the desert somewhere where there aren't hundreds of people – including families with children - living all around it).

Note to Kevin – I've also attached a few pictures taken today. Looks like they're ignoring your letter. They are now beginning to run cattle right on top of the old dump. They will be attached to a second email after this one, because I am out of space to copy more pictures to this email.

Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C)

Will send you further updates as I get them, Feel free to call me if questions.

Thanks,

Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C)

Attachments:
Scanned doc with colored maps & 1 original map "A"
JPG docs – original digital docs
- 009, 016, 017 (2/2019 feedlot waste pool pics)
- 006 (map "D")
- 012 (map "B")
- 014 (map "C")

Copies of lab test results for Ex. 6 PP / Ex. 7(C) nitrate-contaminated domestic well
Nitrate article
- 001 – 004 pics of cattle on top of dump site (attached to second email due to space)