From: Gina Mulhern
To: Mary Anne Nelson
Subject: Docket No. 58-0117-2601
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Great news regarding the topic of recycled water is up for discussion this year.

However the adding of the words “new, renewed, modified” can/will have unexplained exceptions. I can understand using the example of a renewed application that was previously exempt from information that is being redundant, but this would not be the case in a new application.
In a world where transparency is in demand and at the forefront for public information and scrutiny why would a change to OMITTING information be ok? It feels like information is being purposely hidden. A new application being exempt from anything on the list under section 300.03 without any criteria or stated guidelines then opens the door to any interpretation and thus a lack of accountability to the people. No bueno.

It seems unwise to loosen an already vague and broad allowance for exceptions of required information for a permit application. What are the guidelines in this section as to why omissions can be allowed? Is it then completely at the discretion of staff as to for example if whether something like hydrology studies are relevant? This will be like taking steps backwards and public trust is further eroded.

I am very concerned there is no mention of the issue of CEC’s contaminants of emerging concern since they are the subject of so many national, and regional and local news stories. Multiple US states are already actively monitoring, regulating and removing CEC’s from their ground water and drinking water systems. With three Treasure Valley water companies already testing positive for PFAS contamination why wouldn’t we begin the monitoring process? Idaho citizens deserve to know what is in their water whether it’s irrigating their cows pasture for consumption, dairy for milk, chickens for eggs and further consumption and food crops. With the length of time it takes for governmental organizations to make improvements and changes Idaho citizens should not have to worry about DEQ having their backs especially to avoid future superfund sites. Mere dilution of CEC’s is not the way forward due to its accumulative nature especially in our children who this will affect the most. We already know of the hazards to our health and the litigation history. Idaho can choose to join the other states already protecting their citizens by monitoring and regulating and REMOVING CEC’s.

I am extremely concerned about the environmental effects both long and short term to our food and water supply regarding the use of recycled waste water and the hazards to our health in our food supply and in it’s conveyance in open shared canals near property owners wells and private yards including the unwitting FUD shareholders and families in subdivisions. Unregulated substances are not being regulated in the ground water and this is a major concern.

The current very hotly contested Farmers Union Canal/ Eagle Sewer District agreement is a terrible way to force families who have absolutely no say and find themselves forced to accept treated sewage water onto their front and backyards offered no education, with no notification thus no consent. This is an incredibly hot topic for the citizenry of Star who already pay into their own wastewater system permitted for discharge into the Boise River who now must deal with the neighboring larger and more wealthy town of Eagle’s treated sewage on their Star properties. I myself a former Eagle property owner find this disgusting and shameful for Eagle Sewer District to shove down the throats of their own and Star’s residents again with no notification, no consent.

I am concerned too many issues exist in the FUD/ESD agreement. Communication is paramount and the agreement is hotly contested with 78% of the shareholders not wanting the change to their 103 some years of Boise River water changing to adding in Class A treated sewage. Nampa used a citizen advisory committee among other things to alert their users. Even so, more people exist that are affected by the Nampa change in their irrigation water quality than people who are informed. This can pose a safety hazard.

DEQ states public comment is important and matters. Thank you for your consideration. There are many who are concerned about loosening the DEQ regulations and the affects of unregulated contaminants.

Gina Mulhern
Sent from my IPad