

Terry Carten

I wholly disagree with these proposed rule changes for new household wells. The proposed restrictions by Ecology are exactly what the Legislature wanted to avoid when they created the new state watershed planning process last year. There is no scientific justification to back up this proposed rule change and thus the DOE needs to stop creating law that will effectively halt rural development. Rural private wells are not a problem in Whatcom County. There is ample water to retain the suggested 3000 gal per day (and likely the 5000 gal per day should remain the law) because Whatcom County families, farms and businesses in rural areas are not using too much water!

Over 95% of the water drawn from this type of well is returned to the ground through septic tanks and other vectors. Again, there is no scientific justification for reducing water use to 500 gallons per day. DOE rulemaking should be based on REAL science, not political idealism and pressure.

Thank you for your consideration.