

Sarah Fitch

Hello,

I recently learned from friends living in Ellensburg that Washington is the only state in our nation that allows Limited Purpose Landfills and that there is seemingly no regulation or no enforcement of any existing regulation or oversight of hazardous waste dumping. I'm told that "anything" can be dumped and has been. Serious concerns over hazardous flammable waste in an area already impacted and at risk for wildfires.

Hazardous products have been dumped that can leach into groundwater and that there has been no water quality health department monitoring on record in over two years (?). Is there any concern for local wells?

There are obvious harmful environmental impacts to air and water quality in an area that has a fragile ecosystem with ongoing activities such as burning tires and dumping toxic chemical waste.

In addition to the laments from personal friends living in Ellensburg, I appreciate the comments from Wendy Wickersham who states quite clearly the same issues with LPLs as friends had stated to me and advised me on the opportunity for public comment.

"Hi! I live in Yakima County, where two limited purpose landfills are now MTCA sites and I am a neighbor to one of those sites; have ongoing underground fires (and have for years), and keep having issue after issue. Both landfills struggle with accepting waste that is NOT deemed acceptable for a limited purpose landfill. Some examples from Yakima County's LPLs (from health dept and or DOE photos and docs plus newspaper) are accepting 3,000 tons of tires, medical waste, 18 to 30 semi loads of ground up mystery Canadian waste (literally ground to a powder) a working day since 2019, incinerator ash, aluminum plant waste, port o potties, waste that brings in dozens upon dozens of crows and ravens (what construction and demolition waste do they eat?)...the list could go on and on...

My point is that these laws need major revising, clear definitions, clear expectations, shorter timelines for reporting issues (seriously 30 days to report an issue is acceptable?), and major work needs to be done to ensure public safety!

If 100% of LPLs in Yakima County are in MTCA and have underground fires, what issues do LPLs around the state have?"

Wendy Wickersham's comments make it easy for me to understand what is at issue and I appreciate the clarity she offers to the Department of Ecology.

The Department of Ecology has offered public commentary on Solid Waste Facilities Rule making and I hope that the valid concerns of the public are addressed with regulation and enforcement of rules that are written with clarity that keep environmental safety and public health a priority.

Sincerely, Sarah Fitch