

Nina Denson

STATEMENT TO DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

My name is Nina Denson, I live in Custer, WA, and I am an exempt well property owner.

I have been to two public hearings. I have heard the figures and calculations the Rule Committee have

used to make their arbitrary rule for new exempt well owners. The rule makers are not taking into consideration that the planning units recommended a 3,000 gal a day withdrawal for exempt wells. Ecology has chosen an arbitrary figure of 500 gallons a day of withdrawal.

Whatcom County is at a disadvantage because our County Council couldn't make the decision unanimous so they kicked the can down the road to Ecology to make the decision. Even though many

people in Whatcom County spent a year studying the issue and had a unanimous decision with all the

planning units, we are now stuck with Ecology making an arbitrary decision for us. This hardly seems

fair.

Ecology's "rule making" affects many rural residents as to how they can live on their land. 500 gallons a

day per household is an arbitrary number and is restrictive to rural land owners. It appears to me that

rural owners are being punished for not living in the city.

I find it curious that in no where in the rule making is there provisions for conservation. It seems to me that would be a logical step to suggest conservation measures.