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STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

7171 Cleanwater Lane, Building 8, P.O. Box 47710 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7710

October 12, 1992

TO: Bob Barwin
Water Quality Program, Central Regional Office

FROM: Dale Davis *DD*
Toxics, Compliance and Ground Water Investigations Section, EILS

SUBJECT: Nitrate-Nitrite Level in Glade Creek

On May 31 of this year, we took water samples from Glade Creek as part of the Washington State Pesticide Monitoring Program. Glade Creek is in Benton County, draining most of the Horse Heaven Hills into the Columbia River. We took our samples near the mouth at Highway 14. Most results were within the range expected, but the level for nitrate-nitrite was 34.5 mg/L. To confirm this result, I had the sample reanalyzed and the result was 33.24 mg/L.

Since these levels are over three times higher than the EPA Water Quality Criteria of 10 mg/L (for domestic water supplies), we thought we should bring this to your attention.

I doubt that Glade Creek is a direct drinking water supply for anyone, but most of the water in this creek comes from ground water seeps. I have observed that the flow of Glade Creek increases substantially in the summer, obviously from crop irrigation. I do not think much of this is from direct run-off. Anyone with a shallow well could be affected by the high nitrate-nitrite level.

If you need any further information, please contact me at SCAN 321-7124.

DD:krc

cc: Bill Yake
Art Johnson
Jim Prudente