

Case # T3-2022-16220

Response to Exhibit I.83 Ekstrom Oral Testimony

Regardless of the “non requirement” of a spray buffer zone, any responsible farmer considers drift. Concerning the building (valve station intertie) and open vents, having to spray pesticides near them causes a disruption to our normal farming practices. It will also cause the farm spray program to have to coordinate with PWB on application days and Re-entry times when chemicals are applied. This takes added time and planning and will add cost to our operation. Spray applications are very weather dependent and sometimes are implemented within a 24-hour period. I doubt the residents of Portland would be comfortable knowing that dangerous chemicals are being applied in a close proximity to their water source. The mere fact that the water would be on site causes added stress and anxiety to pesticide applicators. Just because a buffer zone is not required does not eliminate these issues. One issue that has not been addressed is the Nursery’s need for fumigation. Every year our practice is to fumigate ground for disease control in areas that we plant and grow Japanese Maple grafts. When fumigation is done it requires a buffer zone. This will limit what we can do with our farmland and what we can grow on it.

Response to I.80 42-43

When the test pit that was dug at the Ekstrom & Schmidt property it was under wet conditions. It basically created a mud hole. The mixing of soils was not evident until the soil had time to dry through the later months. It is now obvious that the disturbance of soil and settling is an issue.

Regarding the construction easement on the field side; stating that .43 acres of land is small and insignificant is outrageous and offensive. I suppose for a large entity like Portland Water Bureau with a billion-dollar project, it probably is, but to a small rural farmer it’s a lot. That calculates to 4000 plants that will not be able to be planted for the 3-year cycle. It will force us to have to plant these plants in another location. This directly impacts our farm practices. Portland Water Bureau does not know our farming practices and how greatly they will be affected.

Response to I.80 43

Dr. Mengel is hired by Portland Water Bureau and seems to be one-sided. Not once did he attempt to contact us regarding our soil or farming practices. He has never visited the site where the pipelines are planned to go at our farm. We as farmers know the ground that we grow plants on better than someone from out of state who wrote a report on practices that have never been proven to work in our area or soil. There are many conflicting reports available that testify to the disturbance of farmland by pipelines. We submitted these in our last rebuttal and no response was made.

Response to I.80 44

Regarding the access to our field from Dodge Park Blvd. instead of Lusted Rd. It is correct that we have access to the farm, but we are not able to turn our truck and trailer around for exit. We must enter Dodge Park Blvd. and exit Lusted Rd. Alternate routes traveling down 302nd to our main farm would be hazardous with large equipment due to the steep hills between Pipeline road and Division.

Response to I.81 comment 2

Regarding Horsetail Rush weed not propagating from seed but from rhizomes. If rhizomes are present in the lower soil layers and are brought up to surface there is a definite probability that they could re-establish. Mr. Ekstrom has witnessed this personally from previous pipelines in the area. He has been farming nursery stock in the community since the early 1970s.

Response to I.81 comment 3

It was surprising that Jim and Steve Ekstrom had to come out to the property to consult with the contractor. If he was implementing the practices described in Dr. Mengel's report, then there should be nothing to be concerned about.

Responses made by:

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Rebuttal to PWB responses

1 message

Ekstrom & Schmidt <ekstrom.schmidt@gmail.com>
To: LUP-comments@multco.us

Wed, Sep 6, 2023 at 11:53 AM



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RE: Case # T3-2022-16220

Attached is a rebuttal to the Portland Water Bureaus response.

Ekstrom & Schmidt Nursery



503-328-6680



Ekstrom & Schmidt Nursery Responses.docx

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