

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SEPT. 3, 2017

### **Citizen Committee Opposed to Dumping of Sewage Sludge on Agricultural Land Calls Press Conference**

Contact: Morton Alexander, Mill Canyon resident <a href="mailto:mortonalexander@sisna.com">mortonalexander@sisna.com</a> (509) 624-6855 or (509) 725-6638, will also be available for interview at event.	Timothy Pellow, Mill Canyon farmer, available for interview at press conference.
Chrys Ostrander, former Mill Canyon resident <a href="mailto:farmrchrys@gmail.com">farmrchrys@gmail.com</a> (914) 246-0309 voice or text, will also be available for interview at event.	

“Protect Mill Canyon Watershed,” a citizen committee opposed to dumping of sewage sludge on agricultural land, has called a press conference for Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 3pm at Department of Ecology Building in Spokane. A Major announcement regarding the Department and sewage sludge is scheduled.

Residents who live in an area near Davenport, Washington called Mill Canyon feel threatened by a proposal to spread municipal sewage sludge on nearly 900 acres of nearby agricultural land uphill from where they live, garden and farm. The area in question includes their natural watershed. Local citizens are alarmed and are organizing to prevent permit applications to dump the sludge from being approved by the Washington State Department of Ecology. Pollutant contaminants from the sludge would cause contamination of their drinking and irrigation water supplies, mobilize via water and wind erosion, and migrate into the canyon.

Canyon residents, with support from the Sierra Club, the Columbia Institute for Water Policy and the Northwest Fund for the Environment, have formed a committee called “Protect Mill Canyon Watershed” to publicize the crisis they are facing. They have asked the Department of Ecology to deny the permit application to apply sewage sludge near their homes.

Rapidly developing events compel the citizens’ committee to call an impromptu press conference at which they will make a major announcement related to the Mill Canyon sewage sludge permit application and the Department of Ecology’s “biosolids” program. The press conference will be at 3:00pm on Wednesday, Sept. 6 outside the Spokane Department of Ecology office at 4601 N Monroe St, Spokane, WA 99205. Participants will gather on the sidewalk on the west side of the building, on Madison Street.

Links:

Protect Mill Canyon Watershed has compiled a document that details their objections to the permit application which is available on their website, here:

<http://www.protectmillcanyon.org/details-regarding-protect-mill-canyon-watersheds-objections-land-application-sewage-sludge-neighboring-farm/>

Protect Mill Canyon Watershed website: <http://www.protectmillcanyon.org/>

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