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, Skagit County Auditor

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PETER BROWNING, DIRECTOR
HOWARD LEIBRAND, HEALTH OFFICER

700 SOUTH SECOND STREET #301, MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273, TEL (360) 336-9380, FAX (360) 336-9401

Certified Mail Number 7000 0520 0015 2764 9756

March 9, 2001

Kenneth and Linda Sorgen
3415 – 143rd Avenue SE
Snohomish, WA 98290

RE: Three travel trailers with vehicle identification numbers WN58981270, 527349172, ARV78S1767 located on the portion of Skagit County Parcel P49240 located east of State Highway 9 in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 13, Township 36 North, Range 4 East

Order Prohibiting Use Per WAC 246-205-560

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Sorgen:

On February 24, 2001 an illegal methamphetamine drug lab was confiscated by the Washington State Patrol and the Mount Vernon Drug Task Force while executing a search warrant at the above parcel.

Due to the chemical processes involved in the manufacture of methamphetamine, the chemicals and equipment removed from the property and the trailers, and information on the history of the use of these trailers, contamination presents a potential immediate or long-term health hazard. The travel trailers described above on the property are therefore designated unfit for use as of March 9, 2001.

Use of all or portions of the three travel trailers located at the above property is prohibited.

Penalties for Noncompliance:

Noncompliance with this order can result in civil penalties levied against responsible parties by the Skagit County Health Department.

Potential Health Risks:

Potential immediate health hazards from exposure to an illegal drug lab include shortness of breath, cough, chest pain, dizziness, lack of coordination, chemical irritation and burns to the

skin, eyes, mouth, and nose, and in severe cases, even death. Less severe immediate health hazards from an exposure may include headache, nausea, dizziness, and fatigue or lethargy. Potential long-term health hazards include cancer, damage to the brain, liver, and kidneys, birth defects, and reproductive problems (such as miscarriages).

Skagit County Health Department's Intended Course of Action:

The Skagit County Health Department is required to notify all interested parties that an illegal drug lab was confiscated, and that the property will require testing and decontamination or removal of the structure. The camping trailers on the property cannot be inhabited, moved or rented. The camping trailers on the property must be demolished and properly disposed.

The property listed above was designated unfit for use by the Skagit County Health Department on March 9, 2001 per WAC 246-205-530, 540. The Skagit County Health Department submitted a contaminated property report to the Washington State Department of Health as per WAC 246-205-550.

The Skagit County Health Department shall:

- File a copy of this Order Prohibiting Use with the Skagit County Auditor
- Provide a copy of the Order Prohibiting Use to the Skagit County Planning and Permit Center

This Order Prohibiting Use will be served, either personally or by certified mail, return receipt requested, to all know:

- Occupants
- Persons having an interest in the property as shown upon the records of the Skagit County Auditor's office.

A copy of this Order Prohibiting Use will be mailed to each person or party having a recorded right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the property.

Decontamination Measures (per WAC 246-205-570, 580):

Vehicle destruction is required to be done by a certified contractor or other persons approved by the Health Department.

Before starting the vehicle destruction, the property owner is required to have a written work plan to reduce contamination of the property prepared by the contractor and approved by the Skagit County Health Department.

The work plan shall outline the vehicle destruction and waste disposal procedures the contractor intends to use. The property owner and the contractor shall follow the Washington State Department of Health contamination reduction guidelines or other more stringent procedures as deemed appropriate by the Skagit County Health Department.

The Skagit County Health Department is ordering the destruction of the camping trailers for the following reason. The Skagit County Health Department would not allow these camping trailers to be released for use unless the entire interior surfaces and furniture of the trailers were removed and the trailers tested for continued contamination. The Skagit County Health Department obtained an estimate of the cost of this operation from a certified contractor. The cost exceeded \$17,000 for each trailer and the resulting value of the vehicle would be destroyed due to the added high cost of refurbishing the inside of the vehicle. For this reason the Skagit County Health Department is ordering the destruction of these camping trailers. The Skagit County Health Department is acting under the authority of RCW 64.44 in this matter.

The property owner is:



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- Financially responsible for the property's contamination reduction and disposal expenses, as well as costs incurred by the Skagit County Health Department resulting from the enforcement of WAC 246-205;
- Responsible for keeping records documenting vehicles destruction procedures and submitting notarized copies of all records to the Skagit County Health Department;
- Responsible for requesting the Skagit County Health Department to review the vehicle destruction and disposal records and release the property for use.

Within ten working days of a request for review of vehicle destruction and disposal records, the Skagit County Health Department:

- Shall review the documentation to verify vehicle destruction and proper disposal.
- May visit the property site to assess the thoroughness of the contractor's cleanup;
- May require the property owner to provide more extensive testing and assessment of the property site by an independent laboratory or firm qualified to perform such testing and assessment.

If, after review of the information in the preceding paragraph, the Skagit County Health Department determines the property had been decontaminated, the Skagit County Health Department shall within ten working days:

- Record a notice in the real property records of the Skagit County Auditor indicating that to the best of their knowledge, the basis upon which the property was originally declared unfit for use has been addressed by decontamination in accordance with Board of Health and Washington State Department of Health rules and guidelines.
- Send a copy of the notice to the property owner.
- Send a copy of the notice to the Washington State Department of Health.
- Send a copy of the notice to the Skagit County Planning and Permit Center.

Hearing

Be advised that:

- A hearing before the Skagit County Health Department Board shall be held upon the request of a person notified of this order as required under WAC 246-205-560;
- The Person's request for a hearing shall be made within ten days of the serving of this order;
- The hearing shall then be held within not less than 20 days or more than 30 days after the serving of this order;
- In any hearing concerning whether property may be released for reuse, the property owner has the burden of showing that the property has been decontaminated in accordance with RCW 64.44 and WAC 246-205.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Skagit County Health Department.

Sincerely,



Polly Dubbel
Environmental Health Specialist

cc: William McDonald, property occupant
Lew Kittle, Washing State Department of Health
Skagit County Auditor
Dick Viston, Skagit County Sheriff
Skagit County Planning and Permit Center
Mount Vernon Drug Task Force



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