

Lauren Davidson

From: Perry Huston
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 3:49 PM
To: Angela Hubbard; Lauren Davidson
Subject: FW: Marijuana farms in Okanogan County

From: Patricia Richey [<mailto:stevepatrichey@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, April 04, 2016 3:49 PM
To: Perry Huston
Subject: Marijuana farms in Okanogan County

I live and pay property taxes in Okanogan County. I have concerns about the power and water required to operate indoor pot facilities.

We live on property adjacent to a 365/24/7 indoor operation. Since we are on a well, we are concerned how this will impact the underground water tables as well as irrigation water. A quote from this New York Times article: <http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2011/04/11/11greenwire-study-pot-growers-inhale-1-of-us-electricity-e-62219.html>. *"Water consumption is also an issue when it comes to environmental impact, with each marijuana plant said to need between 3 and 5 gallons of water per day to grow to fruition."*

The other major concern is the impact on power consumption as well as greenhouse emissions. Another quote from above article: *"Researcher Evan Mills' study notes that cannabis production has largely shifted indoors, especially in*

California, where medical marijuana growers use high-intensity lights usually reserved for operating rooms that are 500 times more powerful than a standard reading lamp.

The resulting price tag is about \$5 billion in annual electricity costs, said Mills, who conducted and published the research independently from the Berkeley lab. The resulting contribution to greenhouse gas emissions equals about 3 million cars on the road, he said."

Another interesting article from the Washington Post: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/03/23/one-surprising-downside-of-marijuana-legalization-major-energy-use/>. A quote from Evan Mills: *"One average kilogram (2.2 lbs.) of final product is associated with 4,600 kg of carbon dioxide emissions to the atmosphere, or that of 3 million average U.S. cars."*

PUD put in added poles and lines to accommodate the adjacent marijuana farm. This is an indication of the increased power these farms require. Also added, were 4 large propane tanks.

Hopefully the commission is not only looking at the financial aspects of the marijuana farms but also environmental impacts to the land, air and water. Were there any independent environmental impact studies conducted or are there any planned?

● Respectfully,

Pat Richey

