



SVENA

Skykomish Valley
Environmental & Economic Alliance

April 26, 2016

Forest Practices Board
1111 Washington St. SE
PO Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98504-7012

RE: Petition for New Forest Practices Rule (RCW 34.05.330; WAC 222-08-100) Related to
Notice and Disclosure for Aerial Spraying of Forest Chemicals

Dear members of the Forest Practices Board,

My name is Inessa Pearce. I live and work in Snohomish County of Washington State. My education includes a master's degree in chemical technologies engineering. I have professional experience in Siemens Medical and Boeing Commercial, and volunteering experience with GHTC (an international annual IEEE event). I currently own a recreational lodging business Rocky's Retreat in Sultan, WA. I am also the president of SVENA (Skykomish Valley Environmental & Economic Alliance).

SVENA is a local non-profit organization in Snohomish County of Washington State. It is supported by local residents, homeowners, businesses and other non-profits. Our mission is to protect an environmentally and economically sustainable future of the Skykomish River Valley. We are working towards a safer, cleaner, healthier and more beautiful place to live and to visit. Tourism and recreation bring big economic value to the Skykomish Valley. Our group promotes growth and development of this industry. We also represent the interests of hikers, kayakers, river rafters, rock climbers, mountain bikers, campers, berry and mushroom gatherers, hunters, and other recreational visitors. Please visit [SVENA website](http://SVENA.org) for more information.

Our non-profit organization was founded after, and because of, the massive aerial spray application of toxic herbicides on over 1,000 acres of commercial forestlands, which occurred above our homes in September of 2015. For more data, please see [Chemical Spraying](#) page at our website. We had no warning or advance notification that the spray was going to happen. We were horrified and afraid as we watched the helicopters spraying toxic chemicals for several days in our neighborhood. That is why the proposed rule change is important to the members of SVENA and to over 100 local residents, homeowners and business owners. We are deeply disturbed about possible effects of the spraying on our health, and on the quality of our drinking water, which is mostly supplied by shallow wells located below the areas that were sprayed.

With advance notification, we would be better informed, and more prepared to protect ourselves, our children, livestock, pets, farms, homes, gardens, and woodlots.

With follow-up monitoring, we would have more information about whether the current forest practices rules are being followed and whether they are protecting resources, as they are intended to do.

SVENA strongly supports the adoption of the proposed change to the Forest Practices Board Rules.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,

Inessa Pearce
President
SVENA (Skykomish Valley Environmental & Economic Alliance)
svena.org