

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: January 22, 2015

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Initial Biosolid Spill Testing Results are Available

The Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) has determined that it is no longer necessary for humans and animals to avoid contact with Swauk Creek after a semi-truck overturned on January 19, 2015, and spilled Class B biosolids. Initial water sample tests indicate very low levels of fecal coliform in the water, which can occur naturally in surface waters.

Water sampling will continue throughout the week to monitor Swauk Creek. Samples are taken in multiple locations both above and below the spill site and tested for fecal coliform, nutrients, and heavy metals. Additional test results are pending and will be shared when available.

KCPHD, the United States Forest Service, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Health, and King County will continue to work together to ensure environmental and health impacts are sufficiently measured and mitigated for.

“Our initial concern was direct contact by people and livestock with high levels of fecal coliform. The first test results show this not to be the case.” states Holly Myers, Environmental Health Supervisor for KCPHD. If additional test results indicate a cause for health and safety concerns, KCPHD will issue additional media messages.

For more information or questions about water sampling and results, please call the Kittitas County Public Health Department at (509) 962-7515.

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