



94TH DISTRICT
STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 90014
LANSING, MI 48909-7514
PHONE: (517) 373-0837
FAX: (517) 373-3589
E-MAIL: tkkelly@house.mi.gov

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TIM KELLY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TO: Sarah (517) 241-7401 DATE: 5/9/13

FROM: Kyle FAX #: _____

Number of pages (including cover): 5

MESSAGE:

If you could provide us with some information
to assist Mr. Weigandt with, that would be
greatly appreciated.

Thank
you
Kyle

04-24-2013

State Representative Tim Kelly

Dear Mr. Representative my name is Bob Weigandt, I sat next to you at the Taymouth Township Monthly Meeting. I hope I did not give you the Impression of being a radical person just tired of being told what to do by know nothing poltticians. If at all possible I would like to know if you can help me with my biggest concern and that is the health of our future generations. I am now and have been for quite some time trying to find out how polluted the Flint River is that runs through our Township and water being used to irrigate the crops that are produced for human consumption. With very little help from the Bay City Branch of the E.P.A which governs our section of the river. One farmer has told me he does not let water touch his skin when he is cleaning out the inlet to his irrigation system but he is putting it on the crops we consume. It is my understanding that Michigan is one of the States that have no quality requirements for water being put on our crops, not to mention what it may due to our well systems my home is already showing low levels of radon gas with more long term testing going on. The field next to my home is irrigated by the Flint River. I have written the Secretary of Agriculture and received a reply that told me I could find a copy of a brochure that tells me what states and their requirements for watering crops for human consumption. I have been trying to access this site for over a month with no success. It is <http://waterreuseguidelines.org/>. The Flint River has two waste treatment plants downriver from Taymouth Township and I know for a fact that at least 30000 gallons of treated landfill runoff is processed daily and I for one do not believe you can filter out all chemicals from landfills. So what I am asking you can you tell me if any legislation is pending for water quality use for crops used for human consumption. Or can you try to start some for our future generations.

Thank You

Bob Weigandt

4700 McIntosh Rd.

Birch Run Michigan 48415

Cell (PPI)

Opt-Out:

03-15-2013

Dear Mr. Secretary OF Agriculture

My name is Robert I. Weigandt I am 66 years old and live in a small rural community in Birch Run Mi. I am not sure if I have my facts right or not and that is why I am writing to you for answers. MY home at 4700 McIntosh Rd. Birch Run MI 48415 is next to a farm field that uses an irrigation system to pump from Flint River. I am in the process of working with our local E.P.A. representatives to determine how polluted the River is for it has not frozen during the winter in over 35 years. It has over 30,000 gallons of treated land fill run off dally. And I am told that the State of Michigan and maybe even the Federal Government have no regulations to the quality of water than can be used to irrigate by the Saginaw County Michigan Board of Health. My homes only water supply is a deep well and now my home is beginning to show signs of low level radon gas. And i have already been diagnosed with lung cancer once back in 2004. But also a lifetime smoker. Farmer has told me himself that when he cleans inlet to irrigation system he keeps himself fully covered so water does not touch his skin yet he puts in on crops that the public is going to eat. So my question is are there any regulations anywhere that require some type of quality control over what water can be used to irrigate crops for human consumption?

Thank You

Sincerely

Robert I. Weigandt

4700 McIntosh Rd.

Birch Run Michigan 48415

Phone PPI

Opt-Out:



United States Department of Agriculture

March 26, 2013

Mr. Robert Lee Weigandt
4700 McIntosh Road
Birch Run, MI
48415-8740

Dear Mr. Weigandt:

Thank you for your letter of March 15th sent to Agriculture Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack. Because of the subject of your letter, I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Secretary.

In your letter you expressed concern about the quality of water used to irrigate crops for human consumption, and whether there are any regulations that require some sort of water quality control.

The use of recycled water for irrigation is regulated by the states. For example, California allows the use of recycled water on food crops as long as it receives certain levels of treatment. For root crops where the edible part of the plant comes in contact with the water the recycled water must be treated to an extremely high level. For crops where the edible portion is not contacted by the water a lesser level of treatment is necessary.

Water reclamation and reuse standards in the U.S. are the responsibility of state and local agencies—there are no federal regulations for reuse. The following EPA link contains information on a publication summarizing state regulations and EPA guidelines to the states:

<http://www.epa.gov/region9/water/recycling/pdf/water-reuse-guidelines-fact-sheet-2012.pdf>. I am also attaching a print copy of this document.

I hope you find this information helpful. Thank you again for taking the time to write to Secretary Vilsack.

I wish the best for you and your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stephen R. Crutchfield".

Stephen R. Crutchfield
Assistant Administrator
United States Department of Agriculture
Economic Research Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW, Mailstop 1800
Washington, DC 20520-1800

Enclosure

Economic Research Service
1800 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-5831
www.ers.usda.gov

Opt-Out:



Guidance Manual FACT SHEET

2012 Guidelines for Water Reuse

An updated authoritative reference for facilitating further development of water reuse programs

Chapter 1—Introduction

Discusses the objectives and overview of the guidelines, as well as the motivation for water reuse and the terminology.

Chapter 2—Planning and Management Considerations

The steps that should be considered in the planning stage as part of an integrated water resources plan are presented, followed by an overview of key considerations for managing reclaimed water supplies.

Chapter 3—Types of Reuse Applications

A discussion of reuse for agricultural, industrial, environmental, recreational, and potable supplies is presented, as well as an expanded discussion of indirect and direct potable reuse.

Chapter 4—State Regulatory Programs for Water Reuse

An overview of legal and institutional considerations for reuse, an updated summary of existing state standards and regulations, as well as suggested minimum guidelines for water reuse.

Chapter 5—Regional Variations in Water Reuse

Summarizes current water use in the U.S. and discusses expansion of water reuse nationally to meet water needs, and includes variations in regions. Case studies in the U.S. are also introduced.

Chapter 6—Treatment Technologies for Protecting Public and Environmental Health

Overview of the treatment objectives for reclaimed water and a discussion of the major treatment processes that are fundamental to the production of reclaimed water.

Chapter 7—Funding Water Reuse Systems

Discussion of how to develop and operate a sustainable water system using sound financial decision-making processes that are tied to the system's strategic planning process.

Chapter 8—Public Outreach, Participation, and Consultation

Outline of strategies for informing and involving the public in water reuse system planning and reclaimed water use. New social networking tools that can be tapped to aid with this process are also discussed.

Chapter 9—Global Experiences in Water Reuse

Describes the growth of advanced reuse globally, and provides information on principles for mitigating risks, enabling factors for expanding water reuse, and new case studies that can provide informed approaches.



Background

Recognizing the need to provide national guidance on water reuse regulations and program planning, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed comprehensive, up-to-date water reuse guidelines in support of regulations and guidelines developed by states, tribes, and other authorities. The *Guidelines for Water Reuse* debuted in 1980, and was updated in 1992, 2004, and now 2012. Water reclamation and reuse standards in the U.S. are the responsibility of state and local agencies—there are no federal regulations for reuse.

Need for Updated Guidance

As of the publication of the updated guidelines in September 2012, 30 states and one U.S. territory have adopted water reuse regulations. In addition, 15 states have guidelines or design standards that govern water reuse. The updated guidelines serve as a national overview of the status of reuse regulations, and clarify some of the variations in the regulatory frameworks that support reuse in different states and regions across the Nation.



EPA/600/R-12/618

Document Availability

This document is available via the internet:
<http://www.waterreusguidelines.org/>