PENGAD 800-631-6989
AQD EXHIBIT
5c

Butt, Neal T.

From: Butt, Neal T.
Sent: Monday, December 06, 2010 8:56 AM
To: 'Robert Gherardi'
Cc: Stonesifer, Jeff W.; Tavarez, Isreal L.; Nieto, Margaret ; Stebleton, Matt B.; Rocha, Dario W.; Reyes, Damon R.; Kearny, Adelia W.
Subject: RE: Open Burning rule

Mr. Gherardi,

I apologize for the incorrect date of the hearing. It is scheduled for March 9, 2011, this Wednesday we will be presenting proposed amendments to Fees and GHGs not Open Burning (see http://www.cabq.gov/airquality/aqcb/events/December-8-2010/).
The proposed amendments to the Open Burning rule will be in stakeholder review until 12/20/10; it will then be in public review until the hearing. Anyone wishing to present technical testimony at the hearing must file an NOI by 2/22/11.

Thanks,

Neal

"Full fathom five thy father lies;
Of his bones are coral made;
Those are pearls that were his eyes:
Nothing of him that doth fade,
But doth suffer a sea-change
Into something rich and strange.
Sea-nymphs hourly ring his knell:
Ding-dong.
Hark! now I hear them—Ding-dong, bell."

William Shakespeare - The Tempest - Ariel's Song

From: Robert Gherardi [mailto:rgherardi2@comcast.net]
Sent: Wednesday, December 01, 2010 8:59 PM

To: Butt, Neal T.
Cc: Stonesifer, Jeff W.; Tavarez, Isreal L.; Nieto, Margaret ; Stebleton, Matt B.; Rocha, Dario W.; Reyes, Damon R.; Kearny, Adelia W.
Subject: Re: Open Burning rule

Thanks for your reply. As long as there is flexibility in the burn dates so we can adjust for wind, moisture etc, I am not opposed. I didn't read that flexibility when I read the proposal. As long as that can be worked into the language I'm OK.
What time is the meeting on the 8th?
Thanks,
Robert Gherardi

----- Original Message -----
From: Butt, Neal T.
To: Robert Gherardi
Cc: Stonesifer, Jeff W. ; Tavarez, Isreal L. ; Nieto, Margaret ; Stebleton, Matt B. ; Rocha, Dario W. ; Reyes, Damon R. ; Kearny, Adelia W.
Sent: Wednesday, December 01, 2010 2:09 PM
Subject: RE: Open Burning rule

Mr.. Gherardi,

Thank you for your comments. Using integrated pest management, and/or prescribed burning instead of pesticides and herbicides is commendable; as such, the Air Quality Division is not opposed to the burning of agricultural fields to rid them of unwanted plant or animal species. However the Air Quality Division does have concerns with the possibility of an un-permitted open burn event of 5-acres of agricultural fields. Therefore we are opposed to the burning of agricultural fields without a permit. As you know, the permitting process in not onerous, and should not prevent you from managing your fields in the most efficient and environmentally friendly way. I believe that once you are granted an open burn permit, that you have some flexibility of which exact day you need to burn so that atmospheric and safety conditions can be taken into account. The Air Quality Division will be presenting this proposal to the Albuquerque - Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board on December 8th, if you would like to attend and/or provide testimony.

regards,

Neal Butt

Environmental Health Scientist

Air Quality Division

(505) 768-2660

"Only when the last tree has been cut down,

Only when the last river has been poisoned,

Only when the last fish has been caught,

Only then will you find that money cannot be eaten."

—Cree Indian Prophecy

From: Robert Gherardi [mailto:rgherardi2@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2010 6:00 PM
To: Butt, Neal T.
Subject: Open Burning rule

Mr. Butt,
I would like to see a provision that allows burning of limited agruicultural acerage (under 5 acres) under the same exemptions as allowed for residential burning of weeds. (limited dates from Oct. thru March and times) THere are many small farmers in the Alb/ Bern. County area that this would help without increasing the pollution.
Burning of residual forage off of alfalfa fields kills wintering insects and noxious weeds. This allows famers to avoid spraying pesticides. On my farm we have tried to avoid pesticides and herbicides on alfalfa that will be consumed by cattle that are later eaten by humans. The last few years without burning the fields (as my father and grandfather did) we have been inundated with alfalfa weavil and weeds. Many of my alfalfa fields have been destroyed and have had to been re-planted after a relatively short life of 4 to 5 years. In the past when we burned our fields, alfalfa would last about 10 years. As a result I have had to resort to spraying toxic chemicals on my land. These poisons end up in the food chain and in the water table.

Surely a little smoke on a clear day with a little breeze is much less toxic to the enviroment than continually spraying chemicals onto our food and ground. Additionally it is almost impossible to request a permit for a specific date as one never knows when the dryness of the field and wind intensity and direction will be just right. Please exempt small farmers from having to get a permit and then burn on a day when conditions prevent an efficient burn of the field. It is impossible to predict the day when conditions will be right.

Please consider adding an exemption for small farm burning.

Fell free to contact me if needed.
Thanks you for your consideration,
Robert Gherardi
(505) 821-8400 H
(505) 417-3106 Cell.