

Herbicide probe ordered by A-G

The B.C. attorney-general's ministry has asked the RCMP to investigate last June's proposed B.C. Hydro herbicide project on the Sooke-Jordan River right-of-way, which was cancelled after complaints about inconsistencies in Hydro's spraying application.

J.W. Anderson, regional crown counsel in the attorney-general's ministry, said in a July 29 letter to Sooke resident John Willow, "We are in receipt of your letter of June 17, pertaining to possible prosecution of B.C. Hydro pursuant to the Pesticide Control Act.

"... Assuming B.C. Hydro to be the accused, and the individuals named on Page 2 of your correspondence to be witnesses for the prosecution, it will be necessary to call on the RCMP to interview these people, to interview you and other witnesses to the alleged untruths in the application ...

"By a copy of this letter to the RCMP, I am requesting that the necessary investigation be commenced."

Willow's July 17 letter to crown counsel said, in part, that Hydro's application

stated there were no streams within 10 metres of the proposed 2,4-D treatment area, but that "numerous streams," some of which serve as sources of domestic and irrigation water, are crossed by the power line.

Willow's letter also says Hydro's application states that the nearest well or water intake is more than 500 metres away, but "there are over a dozen situations where domestic and irrigation water sources are just as close or closer than those on Springford and Dyer-Holstein properties (on Young Lake Road).

"My wife, I and many other water-users are deprived of the protection of our own and our animals' health, as guaranteed by the Pesticide Control Act.

"We believe it is up to the courts to deal with the offenders against the Pesticide Control Act.

"That is why we request that, under section 22 of the Pesticide Control Act, you will prosecute the B.C. Hydro and Power Authority and those of this corporation's employees who signed and approved this application."

BC Hydro and pesticides



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