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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION FOR

DESTRUCTOR ATTOM OF THE POWER OF

RESTORATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT (CARE), a Washington non-profit corporation,

No. CY-98-3021-EFS

Plaintiff,

CONSENT DECREE

DERUYTER BROTHERS DAIRY, a Washington proprietorship and JAKE DERUYTER, owner and operator of DERUYTER BROTHERS DAIRY,

V.

Defendants.

WHEREAS, plaintiff Community Association for Restoration of the Environment ("plaintiff") filed this action on February 20, 1998 against DeRuyter Brothers Dairy, a Washington proprietorship and Jake DeRuyter, owner and operator of DeRuyter Brothers Dairy ("defendants"); and

WHEREAS, the action is a citizen-suit alleging various counts and allegations under the federal and state Clean Water Act ("CWA") and alleging violations of terms and conditions of Washington General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. WAG-01-5000 (hereafter "the permit") for Dairies relating to an animal feeding operation within a dairy located in Outlook, Washington; and

WHEREAS, defendants deny liability for all counts and claims alleged by plaintiff in this action; and

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WHEREAS, plaintiff and defendants have agreed that settlement of this matter is in the public interest and in the best interests of the parties and that entry of this Consent Decree ("Decree") without additional litigation is the most appropriate means of resolving this action; and

WHEREAS, plaintiff and defendants and their respective attorneys have consented to entry of this Decree, without trial, adjudication, or admission of any issue of fact or law herein and without admission of any fact, allegation, or legal argument contained in plaintiff's sixty-day notices, complaint, or amended complaints in this action;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED as follows:

- 1. This Court has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this action pursuant to Section 505(a)(1)(A) of the Clean Water Act, 33 USC § 1365(a)(1)(A).
- The provisions of this Decree shall apply to and be binding upon the parties to this
   Decree and their principals, officers, directors, successors and assigns as now or hereafter constituted.
- 3. Defendants shall comply with the dairy's Washington General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for Dairies No. WAG-01-5000 (the "permit") and all terms contained in its Dairy Waste Management Plan, including its winter application requirements, during the term of this Decree. After entry of this Decree, Plaintiff shall have the right to have two (2) representatives visit and inspect DeRuyter Brothers Dairy up to but not exceeding four (4) times per year, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. During these visits, Plaintiff shall have the right, at its expense, to take winter soil temperature and moisture tests from dairy fields to which solid or liquid manure is applied for purpose of determining compliance with the winter application requirements of the dairy's Dairy Waste Management Plan. Prior to the site visits, Plaintiff's representatives shall sign liability waivers releasing defendants from liability in connection with the site visits. Plaintiff shall be accompanied on the site visit by defendants' representatives. Plaintiff shall provide advance notice to Jake DeRuyter, in writing, at least 24 hours prior to the site visit,

 except visits on Saturday or Sunday shall require notice by 10:00 a.m. the preceding Thursday. If plaintiff's representatives observe any conditions that they reasonably and in good faith believe indicate non-compliance with terms of the permit or winter application requirements of the Dairy Waste Management Plan, they shall advise Jake DeRuyter or Larry Carlisle of such conditions as soon as is reasonably possible, but in no case later than 10 days after making such observation or otherwise learning of such conditions. In such event, the parties shall make good faith efforts to resolve the issue. If resolution is not reached, then either party may invoke the Dispute Resolution Clause contained in paragraph 7.A. below. Both parties agree that it is their desire to mutually resolve any concerns that may arise regarding defendants' compliance, either as a result of the site visit or otherwise, without the necessity of involving the court.

4. Defendants shall pay the sum of \$200,000 to the Heritage College, or another entity to be agreed upon by the parties, for a groundwater study, which is a supplemental environmental project in the lower Yakima Valley. The money shall be used by Heritage College or the parties' alternative designee for work regarding southeast Zillah, Zillah, and the Grandview area of Washington, all within the Yakima Basin. The project shall be designed to collect existing groundwater data, establish monitoring stations for regular groundwater sampling and to determine hydrological movement of contaminants, if any, over time. Should the data so indicate, and if funds remain, such funds may be used to research and implement remedial measures. Heritage College or the parties' alternative designee shall prepare a project protocal to be provided to the parties and USEPA within 30 days of the entry of this Decree. Heritage College shall provide the the parties and USEPA an annual progress report on fund expenditures and analytical results along with projected activities for the following 12 months.

This payment shall be made within thirty (30) days from entry of the Decree. The check shall be sent to Heritage College, 3240 Fort Road, Toppenish, WA 98948. A copy of the cover letter and the check shall be sent simultaneously to CARE's counsel, Charles Tebbutt, Western Environmental Law Center, 1216 Lincoln Street, Eugene, OR 97401. The parties agree that

Defendants have received credit in the amount of \$250,000 against Plaintiff's initial settlement demand for undertaking or having undertaken the various obligations described in Section 5 below.

- 5. Defendants have or shall implement the following measures, some of which may exceed current requirements under the Clean Water Act and/or the dairy's Permit and Dairy Waste Management Plan.
- A. To avoid off-site tracking of manure on public roadways, defendants shall continue to use, if necessary, a self-propelled sweeper, shovel, and a truck wash. Manure that is spilled on the roadway shall be cleaned up as soon as is reasonably practicable. Defendants' efforts to avoid manure tracking shall be included in the dairy's educational program, which is described in paragraph 5.G below.
- B. Within six (6) months from entry of this Decree, weather permitting, defendants shall construct a 6" wide x 18" tall concrete berm across the front of the cattle pens number 13 and 22 (approximately 752'), which front on Van Belle Road, which shall be sunk below grade 6".
- C. Any new lagoons constructed by the dairy shall be in the interior of the Dairy and shall be set back a minimum of 15 feet from any property line fronting on public property. Any new cattle pens constructed by the dairy shall be set back a minimum of 20 feet from any outside property line fronting on public property.
- D. By December 1, 1999, weather permitting, defendants shall remove the underground concrete drain generally located northeast of Lagoon No. 3. Defendants warrant that the drain has previously been severed and backfilled with concrete and the standpipes have been previously removed.
- E. By October 31, 2000, defendants shall construct a new lagoon (Lagoon No. 4) with capacity between 8-10 million gallons. The lagoon shall be clay lined, certified by NRCS, and certified as to design and as-built by a licensed, professional Washington engineer. The lagoon shall also be certified by Dam Safety.

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F. Within 30 days from the date of entry of this Decree, Lagoon No. 1 and Lagoon No. 2 shall be certified as structurally sound by a licensed, professional Washington engineer.

- G. Once each year, for a period of four years from the date of entry of this Decree, defendants shall conduct employee education and training in proper implementation of defendant's Dairy Waste Management Plan for those employees who are involved with waste handling at the dairy. New employees involved in waste handling shall be trained within 30 days of employment. The training program shall include, but not be limited to, written instructions on avoiding tracking manure on the road and complying with the waste handling practices for solid and liquid manure management as outlined in the Dairy Waste Management Plan. For four years following entry of this Decree, either the owner or the facility manager for DeRuyter Brothers Dairy shall certify in writing by December 31<sup>st</sup>, that covered employees have received the training discussed in this paragraph and shall identify those employees who have received such training. A copy of the training format shall be provided to CARE, which may provide any comments to Defendants within 30 days.
- H. No later than 30 days from the date of entry of the Decree, defendants shall increase the height of the berm located along the Yakima Valley Highway at DeRuyter Brothers Heifer Ranch by increasing the berm height to 18" above existing grade, with a minimum base width of three feet and side slopes of 1:1, for a distance of approximately 1300 feet running westerly from the east edge of the Heifer Ranch. Defendants shall use their best efforts to maintain the integrity of the berms, particularly following land application, although the parties agree that the dairy is not responsible for acts of vandalism or destruction by third parties over which the dairy has no control, upon which defense the Dairy shall have the burden of proof.
- I. Defendants agree to continue to have Soil Search Labs conduct the soil sampling program they are currently conducting for the dairy for a period of four years from entry of this Decree. Additionally, defendants shall take six (6) random samples per year of the manure that

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is applied to the Dairy's farm fields. The samples shall be taken during the application season, and be sent to Soil Search Labs for analysis. A copy of that analysis shall be provided to plaintff. As discussed in paragraph 3 above, defendants shall comply with the winter application requirements contained in their Dairy Waste Management Plan. In particular, defendants agree that wastes shall not be applied to saturated, frozen, or snow covered soils.

- J. Within 30 days after entry of the Decree, defendants shall maintain records of liquid and solid manure that is land applied or sold to third parties in the form attached as Exhibit "A."
- K. For a period of four (4) years from entry of the Decree, except as otherwise in subparagraph (iii) below, defendants will pay for Cascade Analytical, Inc., to sample and analyze the water in joint drain 32.0 for the following parameters: TKN, BOD, fecal coliform, and ammonia. The sampling shall follow the following protocols:
  - (i). Sampling shall occur at two points along joint drain 32.0: one at the manhole immediately west of Fordyce Road near the northeast corner of the dairy (point "A") and the other at the manhole in the southwest corner of the dairy near the intersection of Van Belle Road and Chute Road (point "B"). Cascade Analytical shall take and analyze all samples and then fax and send the sample results to the parties at the following addresses:

Jake DeRuyter DeRuyter Brothers Dairy P.O. Box 338 Outlook, WA 98938 FAX: (509) 839-2678

AND TO

Lori A. Terry Preston Gates & Ellis, LLP 5000 Columbia Center 701 Fifth Avenue Seattle, Washington 98104-7078 FAX: (206) 623-7022

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## AND TO

Helen Reddout CARE P.O Box 367 Outlook, WA 98938 FAX: (509) 854-2645

## AND TO

Charles M. Tebbutt Western Environmental Law Center 1216 Lincoln Street Eugene, OR 97401 FAX: (541)485-2457

The sampler and testing laboratory shall bill DeRuyter Brothers Dairy directly for their services.

The parties agree that if the test results from point B show a minimum (ii). "threshold" increase from those at point A a second set of samples shall be taken within 48 hours. A "threshold" increase shall be defined as: (a) an increase in the level of fecal coliform of at least one order of magnitude if the level at point A is equal to or less than 1,000 colony forming units (cfu's) per 100 ml, or of at least five (5) times as great if the level at point A is greater than 1,000 cfu's per 100 ml, together with (b) increases in the concentration levels of TKN and ammonia at point B that are greater than 150% of the concentration levels at at point A [A + (A/2)]. If the second sample also shows a "threshold" increase between points A and B, the defendants shall have 72 hours to attempt to identify the source or cause of the increase, and to resolve the same if it is from the Dairy. Defendants shall provide to Plaintiff a written detail of their investigative efforts no later than 72 hours after the second test results are received. If defendants are unable to determine the cause of the increase, then, at defendant's expense, a mutually agreed upon Washington Engineer shall conduct an evaluation to determine the cause(s) of the increase.

Defendants shall provide a copy of the Engineer's investigative report to Plaintiff upon receipt. If the cause of the threshold increase is, in the engineer's professional opinion, a discharge of manure waste from DeRuyter Brother's Dairy, then defendants shall implement reasonable measures to eliminate the source or cause of the increase. Within five days of completion of any corrective action, Defendants shall provide a written report to Plaintiff detailing any measures taken. If the source or cause of a threshold increase is not DeRuyter Brothers Dairy, or if the source or cause of the threshold increase cannot be determined with reasonable certainty under appropriate professional standards, then no further evaluation or action is required.

The parties also agree that there are several known third party sources of water into the drain between points A and B which could affect the sample results at point B. If any of those sources are running at the time of sampling, Defendants may request that a sample be taken from one or more of them. If such a sample indicates that the third party source water contains Fecal Coliform, ammonia and TKN at concentrations which would exceed the threshold standards set forth in the preceding paragraph of this subparagraph (ii), exceedance of the threshold at point B shall not trigger a second sampling event.

- (iii). Sampling shall occur once per month for the first year on a random basis. Thereafter, sampling shall be decreased to quarterly for the following three years. However, if the sampling during the first three years does not trigger the engineering evaluation discussed in subparagraph 5.K(ii) above, sampling shall be discontinued after the third year.
- (iv). The parties agree that they do not intend this sampling to generate additional litigation, but rather to confirm whether or not DeRuyter Brothers Dairy is discharging contaminated wastewater into Joint Drain 32.0. For this reason, the parties agree to work together to resolve any issues that may develop during

implementation of this provision of the Decree. Plaintiff agrees that it shall not seek stipulated penalties for a discharge discovered pursuant to this sampling program unless Defendants have failed to implement reasonable measures to eliminate the cause of the increase.

- (v). The parties further agree that the data generated by this sampling program shall be shared only with the parties, their experts, and counsel, except as disclosure by the Dairy may be required by law or is otherwise required by this Court after notice to the parties.
- L. Defendants shall install one Orkin walk through fly control trap or other similar type of fly control trap, for use in one cattle alley of the dairy. The trap shall be used for a period of six (6) months during one fly season (May through October).
- M. Defendants shall not increase herd size at the dairy above 10% of the herd size identified in their Dairy Waste Management Plan unless a licensed, professional Washington engineer certifies that there is sufficient storage and land to handle the additional waste generated from the increased herd size.
- N. Defendants have previously installed two agitators in the dairy's lagoons to aid in odor control and solids settling. Additionally, for a period of three years following entry of the Decree, defendants shall sample Lagoons No. 1, 2, and 3 for BOD and TSS. The sampling shall occur quarterly for the first year and semi-annually for the second and third year. Sampling shall be conducted by the independent sampler that is mutually agreed upon by the parties. The independent sampler shall send the test results to both plaintiff and defendants at the addresses set forth in Section 5.K(i) above. The sampling results shall be shared only with the parties, their experts, and legal counsel, except as disclosure by the Dairy may be required by law or is otherwise required by this Court after notice to the parties.

O. Defendants warrant that they have located and removed all known drain tiles within the dairy property. Any other drain tiles discovered during the term of this Decree shall be filled or removed within a 30 days after they are discovered, at defendants' option.

- 6. The parties agree that enforcement of this Consent Decree by a motion for contempt, or, alternatively, by application for payment of the following stipulated penalties, shall be the plaintiff's exclusive remedy for alleged violations of the Consent Decree, the Clean Water Act or the dairy's NPDES permit during the term of this Decree:
- A. Upon a failure of defendants to comply with the terms of this Decree, which failure results in a discharge of pollutants to JD 32.0, the Snipes Lateral or any other ditch or conveyance which leads to JD 32.0 or the Snipes lateral or another Joint Drain, defendants shall make stipulated payments as set forth below:

First Violation –	\$3,000
Second Violation	\$7,500
Third Violation	\$21,250
Fourth and Subsequent	\$27,500

Provided, however, that if the Defendants have only a single violation, and then go 24 months or more without another violation, this payment schedule shall revert to the "First Violation" level for purposes of determining the payment amount for a subsequent violation.

B. Upon a failure of defendants to comply with the terms of this Decree which does not result in a discharge of pollutants to JD 32.0, the Snipes Lateral or any other ditch or conveyance which leads to JD 32.0 or the Snipes lateral or another Joint Drain, defendants shall make stipulated payments as set forth below:

First Violation	\$1,750
Second Violation	\$3,750
Third Violation	\$10,000
Fourth and Subsequent	\$17.500

For purposes of this subsection, escalating payments shall only result from repeat violations of the same provision of this Decree. If the Defendants have only a single violation of any provision, and then go 24 months or more without another violation of that provision, this payment schedule shall revert to the "First Violation" level for purposes of determining the payment amount for a subsequent violation of the provision.

- C. For the purposes of subparagraphs A and B of this Section 6 each day of violation shall constitute a separate violation except as otherwise provided herein. For purposes of subparagraph B of this Section 6, a delay in compliance with the timeline requirements of subparagraphs F, G, and J of Section 5 of this Decree, which failure does not result in a discharge of pollutants, shall count as "separate" violations as follows: a delay in compliance of three (3) days or less shall count as a "first" violation; a delay of four (4) to seven (7) days shall count as a "second" violation; a delay of eight (8) to fourteen (14) days shall count as a "third" violation, and a delay of fifteen (15) to twenty-one (21) days shall count as a "fourth" violation.
- D. Stipulated payments shall bear interest at the then current federal rate for prejudgment interest from the due date until paid. The Court shall have continuing jurisdiction to enforce any such payment obligation.
- E. Nothing herein shall prevent the simultaneous accrual of separate stipulated payments for separate violations of this Consent Decree. Any agency enforcement action for any of the violations listed in this paragraph which results in imposition and payment of penalties prior to the date on which stipulated payments would be due shall be offset against the payment amounts referenced in this Section.
- F. Defendants shall notify CARE in writing of any violation of the Consent Decree for which stipulated payments may be due as soon as defendants have knowledge of such violation. Defendants shall make the stipulated payment to Heritage College in the manner specified in Section 4 of this Decree within 15 days of the date the payment

obligation becomes final, whether by agreement or order of the court, together with a letter to CARE summarizing the violation(s) for which the payment is made.

- G. CARE may demand payment of a stipulated payment upon a good faith determination by CARE that a violation described above has occurred. Upon receipt of such demand, Defendants must make the stipulated payment within thirty (30) days of receipt of CARE's written demand for payment, unless defendants invoke the Dispute Resolution procedures set forth in Section 7 below.
- H. The parties agree that a discharge which does not constitute a violation of the Dairy's permit or the Clean Water Act, will not constitute a violation of this Decree.
- 7. The parties agree that any disputes as to the meaning, application or enforcement of this Decree shall be resolved in accordance with the following subsection A, which shall be the exclusive mechanism to resolves such disputes.
- A. Any dispute that arises with respect to the meaning, application or enforcement of this Decree shall initially be subject to a period of informal negotiations, which period shall not extend beyond thirty (30) days from the date the dispute arises, unless the parties otherwise mutually agree in writing to an extension of the period. A dispute shall be considered to have arisen on the date a party receives written notification from the other that a dispute has arisen, which notice shall specifically reference this Section of the Decree. In the event the parties are unable to resolve the dispute informally, the Party invoking the dispute resolution process shall serve a written statement of its position upon the other party. That statement shall be considered final and binding unless, within thirty (30) days after receipt of the statement, the other party shall file with the Court and serve upon counsel for the other party a petition for judicial resolution of the dispute. The petition shall refer to this Section of the Decree and shall set forth the nature of the dispute, the efforts made by the parties to resolve the dispute, the evidence upon which the party's position is based (if any), and a proposal for its resolution. Within thirty (30) days following receipt of a

petition the other party may file a responsive memorandum, setting forth that party's position, the evidence upon which the party's position is based (if any), and a proposal for its resolution. The party filing the petition may file a reply memorandum within fifteen days after receipt of the responsive memorandum. Each party shall bear the burden of proving any disputed fact upon which it bases its position by a preponderance of the evidence. The filing of a petition for dispute resolution shall not, in itself, relieve either party of its obligations under this Decree.

- 8. Defendants shall pay plaintiff's reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in this matter in the amount of \$57,500, which sum includes oversight fees and costs through the termination date of this Decree. Defendants shall make this payment within thirty (30) days from entry of the Decree. The check for said fees and costs shall be made payable and sent to the Western Environmental Law Center, 1216 Lincoln Street, Eugene, OR 97401.
- 9. This Decree is intended to be and shall constitute the exclusive remedy and a complete and final settlement of any and all claims which have or might have been alleged against defendants or DeRuyter Brothers Heifer Ranch by plaintiff, its members, officers, and directors under state and federal Clean Water Act law up to and through the termination date of this Decree. Enforcement of this Decree shall be the exclusive remedy of the plaintiff, its officers, directors, and members for any alleged violations of its terms.
- 10. This Decree is determined to be in the public interest and an appropriate resolution of the allegations in plaintiff's complaint and amended complaints.
- 11. This Decree is a settlement of disputed facts and law and shall not constitute an admission or adjudication with respect to any allegation in the 60-day notices, the complaint or amended complaint, or an admission or evidence of any wrongdoing or misconduct or liability on the part of defendants. This Decree shall not constitute evidence for any purpose in any court or other proceeding or be introduced as evidence by any person in any court or other proceeding

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without permission of all parties, other than a proceeding before this Court concerning this Decree.

- 12. This Court shall retain jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Decree and to resolve any disputes arising hereunder until the Decree has been terminated.
- 13. This Decree may be modified only upon the written consent of the parties and approval of the Court.
  - 14. This Decree shall take effect on the date that it is entered by the Court.
  - 15. This Decree shall terminate four (4) years after the Court's entry of the Decree.
- 16. Defendants shall comply with all requirements of this Decree within the time periods specified herein. If any event occurs that is outside of the reasonable control of defendants (a "force majeure event" as further defined below), which causes a delay in performing tasks required by this Decree, the delay shall not constitute a failure to comply with the terms of this Decree, provided that defendants have submitted written notification to plaintiff no later than fifteen (15) days after the date that defendants first conclude that such event has caused or will cause non-compliance, describing the length or anticipated length of non-compliance, the precise circumstances causing non-compliance, and the measures taken or to be taken to prevent or minimize non-compliance, and a schedule for implementation of the measures to be taken. Defendants shall have the burden of establishing any such force majeure.

A force majeure event shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- A. Acts of God, war, insurrection, or civil disturbance;
- B. earthquakes, landslides, floods;
- C. unanticipated breakage or accident in machinery, equipment, or lines of pipe that occur despite reasonably diligence maintenance and which are not caused by a lack of proper maintenance, or any fire or explosion, despite the exercise of reasonable diligence by defendants;
  - D. adverse weather conditions or unusual delay in transportation;

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- E. restraint by court order or order of public authority;
- F. inability despite Defendants' best efforts to obtain necessary permits, authorizations, easements, licenses, or approvals;
- G. challenges or appeals of necessary authorizations, easements, licenses, permits, or approvals or any other litigation, arbitration, or mediation that causes delay;
  - H. delay caused by applicable statutes or regulations.

Provided that defendants comply with the notice provision of this section, then in the event that defendants fail to comply or anticipate failing to comply with the requirements of this Decree because of a force majeure event, defendants' failure to comply shall not be a violation of this Decree and shall not result in any liability or other sanctions. In such event, the milestone date(s) shall be extended for a reasonable period of time following the force majeure event.

- 17. The parties agree that this Decree is subject to the notice requirements of 33 USC § 1365(c)(3); 28 CFR § 50.7; and 40 CFR § 135.5 and shall not be entered until at least forty-five (45) days after the date of lodging with the Court.
- 18. The undersigned representative of each party to this Decree certifies that he or she is fully authorized by the party he or she represents to enter into the terms and conditions of this Decree and to legally execute and bind such party to this Decree.
- 19. Each party acknowledges and represents that they have relied on the legal advice of their attorney, who is the attorney of their own choice and that the terms of this Decree have been completely read and explained to them by their attorney, and that the terms are fully understood and voluntarily accepted. Plaintiff has been represented by Charles M. Tebbutt of the Western Environmental Law Center and Corrie Yackulic of Schroeter, Goldmark & Bender. Defendants have been represented by Lori A. Terry and John R. Nelson of Preston Gates & Ellis, LLP. The rule of construing ambiguities against the drafting party shall not apply to this Decree.
- 20. If, for any reason, the Court should decline to approve this Decree in the form presented, this Decree and the settlement embodied herein shall be voidable at the sole discretion of

1	either party. The parties agree to continue negotiations in good faith in an attempt to cure any
2	objection raised by the court to entry of this Decree.
3	WE HEREBY CONSENT TO ENTRY OF THIS DECREE.
4	DATED this 2/ day of January, 2000.
5	0 0 1 1 1 1 1
6	Jake DeRuyter for DeRuyter Brothers
7	Dairy
8	DATED this day of, 2000.
9	PRESTON GATES & ELLIS LLP
10	O THE STATE OF THE
11	By.
12	John Ray Nelson (Lon A. Terry
13	Attorneys for DeRuyter Brothers
14	Dairy
15	DATED this 27 day of January, 2000.
16	
17	Helen Reddout for C.A.R.E.
18	DATED this 313 day of January, 2000.
19	, 2000.
20	WESTERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER
21	
22	By: Chenter Mi Tabling
23	Charles M. Tebbutt Attorneys for C.A.R.E.
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