

## Peterson, Lori J (DNR)

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**From:** Scher, Deanna (MDH)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 3:06 PM  
**To:** Townley, Jill (DNR)  
**Subject:** RE: Nolte Record of Decision

Hi Jill,

If it's still possible to make a change, I'd suggest the following edit, since several studies and meta-analyses have found associations between pesticide exposure and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma:

### My initial proposed text:

The commenter included data comparing Wadena county cancer rates to Minnesota rates overall and noted that the all cancer types combined exceeds the overall Minnesota rate. In response to community concerns about the use of pesticides in the area, MDH recently evaluated cancer rates and other health outcomes for the counties in the Central Sands region in a 2018 Community Health Profile. None of the Central Sands counties had a significantly higher or lower all-cancer rate as compared to the state (2009-2013). Wadena County did have statistically significantly higher colorectal cancer and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma rates than the state overall. For more information:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/biomonitoring/docs/centralsandsreport.pdf>

### Final Response to Comments:

The commenter included data comparing overall Wadena County cancer rates to Minnesota rates and noted that for all cancer types combined category Wadena County cancer rates exceed Minnesota rates. In response to community concerns about the use of pesticides in the area, MDH recently evaluated cancer rates and other health outcomes for the counties in the Central Sands region in a 2018 Community Health Profile. None of the Central Sands counties had a significantly higher or lower all-cancer rate as compared to the state (2009-2013). Wadena County did have statistically significantly higher colorectal cancer and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma rates than the state rates **but these cancers are not associated with the use of pesticides**. For more information please refer to the Minnesota Department of Health Central Sands Community Health Profile webpage.

### Suggested change:

The commenter included data comparing Wadena county cancer rates to Minnesota rates overall and noted that the all cancer types combined exceeds the overall Minnesota rate. In response to community concerns about the use of pesticides in the area, MDH recently evaluated cancer rates and other health outcomes for the counties in the Central Sands region in a 2018 Community Health Profile. None of the Central Sands counties had a significantly higher or lower all-cancer rate as compared to the state (2009-2013). Wadena County did have statistically significantly higher colorectal cancer and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma rates than the state overall. **Rates of individual cancer types tend to vary substantially over time within small geographic areas and it is not unusual to find that some cancers occurred more or less often than expected within a county over a period of years. MDH did not see a pattern of elevated non-Hodgkin's lymphoma or colorectal cancer in other Central Sands counties.** For more information:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/biomonitoring/docs/centralsandsreport.pdf>

Thanks,  
Deanna

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**From:** Townley, Jill (DNR) <jill.townley@state.mn.us>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 12:30 PM

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**Subject:** Nolte Record of Decision

Good Afternoon Nolte Interagency Team,

I'd like to start this message by expressing my gratitude for all the help you provided during the course of the Nolte Environmental Review process. The interagency effort was often demanding and up against tight timelines; yet I view it as a success. Thank you for all the long hours, quick responses and expertise provided along the way! We couldn't have gotten to such a great final product without you.

Below is the notification that the Nolte Record of Decision is complete, which concludes the environmental review process on this project.

(please share with anyone I might have missed, or may be interested)



**Date:** June 18, 2020

**From:** Jill Townley, Environmental Review Unit Supervisor

**Re: [Nolte Family Irrigation, Wadena County, MN; Record of Decision on Environmental Assessment Worksheet](#)**

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), as the Responsible Governmental Unit for environmental review of the Nolte Family Irrigation Project (Project), Wadena County, Minnesota, has issued the Record of Decision regarding the Need for an Environmental Impact Statement for the Project. The Project's Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) notice was published in the EQB *Monitor* on April 6, 2020 (Vol. 44; No. 14).

A copy of the Record of Decision is available online at the [DNR's Environmental Review webpage for this project](#).

The DNR has concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) **is not** required because the project **does not** have the potential for significant environmental effects. The justification for this determination is contained in the ROD. The Record of Decision Attachment A contains a summary of all comments received on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet during the 30-day public review and comment period.

Issuing this Record of Decision concludes the state environmental review process for this project according to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board rules, Minnesota Rules, part 4410.1000 to 4410.1700. This project can proceed to permitting and approvals.

For additional information or copies of the Record of Decision, please contact me at [Jill.Townley@state.mn.us](mailto:Jill.Townley@state.mn.us) or 651-259-5168.

**Jill Townley**

Supervisor | Environmental Review Unit

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