

TO: Harvey L. Latham, Administrator      DATE: May 17, 1982

FROM: ~~M~~ Archie M. Mustard, Plans & Operations Officer

SUBJECT: Muddy Ranch, Wasco County ("Rajneeshpuram")

Following this mornings familiarization meeting, I decided to more fully research the potential for the occurrence of Flash Flood at Muddy Ranch, or Rajneeshpuram.

The planned festival is scheduled to take place during the identified Flash Flood hazard season.

The Muddy Ranch is located on Muddy Creek, below its confluence with Currant Creek (an additional, un-named, creek also joins Currant Creek above its junction with Muddy Creek and the ranch). This area has not been identified as being Flash Flood prone.

It should be noted that Flash Flooding is the most difficult to identify as to risk, location, or "if" such a flood may occur at a given location. It is usually NOT feasible to assign probability to such a flood (eg, 10, 50, 100, year flood, etc.)

The EMD 1979 Hazard Analysis states that "All of Oregon East of the crest of the Cascade Mountains is subject to Flash Flooding to some extent even though most historical occurances have been in the Northern half of that area." It should be noted that the Muddy Ranch lies in the area East of the crest of the Cascades, and North of the generally recognized Central Oregon area. Additionally, the Flash Flood hazard is usually more readily identified when it impacts on persons or residential type property. The Muddy Ranch, prior to the advent of Rajneeshpuram, would not have had a significant population "at risk". The planned festival, and projected 3,000 population, would place a significant population subject to Flash Flooding, in the event of significant rainfall in the area SW and South of the ranch.

It should be noted that the Muddy Ranch lies outside of the NWS established Flash Flood Spotter Network. Additionally, the Rajneeshpuram Plan re: Flooding, provides for establishment of a similar type of arrangement on three "lookouts" in the area; Stevenson Mountain, Muddy Reservoir Peak, and Rock Pile. These lookouts would be staffed by ranch residents. I do-not find reference to existing State/Local Warning Systems and/or recognition of the potential threat posed to festival participants by the Flash Flood hazard.

\* ARRASTRA CANYON

Contact with the Water Resources Department indicates that the Muddy Ranch is located in a Flash Flood Hazard Area, perhaps the most hazardous in the State (Newt Perry) and that the Muddy Ranch Reservoir IS-NOT operational at this time (Al Petska). Century West, Bend, is currently working on plans to rehabilitate the Muddy Ranch Reservoir - which had failed previously. These plans are expected to be entirely adequate to cope with potential hazardous conditions. This facility is-not, again, in use at this time.