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Skagit County Auditor

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**PETER BROWNING, DIRECTOR**  
**HOWARD LEIBRAND, M.D., HEALTH OFFICER**

700 South 2nd Street Room #301, Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
Telephone (360) 336-9380, Toll free 877-336-9380; Fax (360)  
336-9401

**Certified Mail Number 7004 1350 0003 7689 8823**

7 April 2006

Spencer Group LLC  
PO Box 914  
Anacortes, WA 98221

**RE:** Property located at 1517 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Anacortes, Washington  
Skagit County Parcel #, Tax ID: ~~P57647~~ P57467  
(Main House & basement)  
Legal Description: HENSLER'S 2ND TO ANA. W1/2 LT 31 TO 34 BLK 5

**Order Prohibiting Use Per WAC 246-205-560**

Dear Spencer Group LLC:

On 31 March 2006 I was contacted via telephone by Skagit County Inter-local Drug Unit (SCIDU) contacted Skagit County Public Health Department to inform us that a search warrant had been obtained on suspicion that a methamphetamine lab operation at 1517 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Anacortes, WA. Because of the presence of a child at the residence Skagit County Public Health Department decided to take swab samples from assorted locations

around the residence including the child's bedroom to determine the level of contamination/exposure.

Six composite swab samples (two swabs of 50 cm<sup>2</sup> areas per sample) in total were taken: Master bedroom, alcove bedroom, kitchen, 2<sup>nd</sup> bed room (child's area), basement-north and basement-south. Swabs were analyzed by Alturas Analytics for methamphetamine. On 7 April 2006 I received sample results. All swab results exceed the Washington State Department of Health clean up standard for methamphetamine of 0.1 ug/ 100 cm<sup>2</sup>. The composite samples came back at the following levels:

Master bedroom, at 23.7 ug methamphetamine /100 cm<sup>2</sup>

Alcove bedroom 6.89 ug methamphetamine /100 cm<sup>2</sup>

Kitchen at 123 ug methamphetamine /100 cm<sup>2</sup>

Bedroom 2 at 78.5 ug methamphetamine /100 cm<sup>2</sup>

Basement north 27.9 ug methamphetamine /100 cm<sup>2</sup>

Basement south 11.4 ug methamphetamine /100 cm<sup>2</sup>

Due to the findings methamphetamine from surface swabs over the state clean up level, contamination presents a potential immediate or long-term health hazard. The property at the above address is therefore designated unfit for use as of 7 April 2006.

**Use of all or portions of the main house and basement located at the address above is prohibited.**

**Penalties for Noncompliance:**

Noncompliance with this order can result in civil penalties levied against responsible parties by the Skagit County Health Department and any other legal action necessary to ensure compliance.

**Potential Health Risks:**

Potential immediate health hazards from exposure to an illegal drug lab include shortness of breath, cough, chest pain, dizziness, lack of coordination, chemical irritation and burns to the skin, eyes, mouth, and nose, and in severe cases, even death. Less severe immediate health hazards from an exposure may include headache, nausea, dizziness, and fatigue or lethargy.

Potential long-term health hazards include cancer, damage to the brain, liver, and kidneys, birth defects, and reproductive problems (such as miscarriages).

**Skagit County Health Department's Intended Course of Action:**

The Skagit County Health Department is required to notify all interested parties of the methamphetamine contamination found and that the property will require decontamination and follow up sampling or removal of the structure. Decontamination can include but is not limited to removal and destruction of all appliances, carpeting, heating structures, ventilation fans, all removable items within the structure. The property cannot be inhabited or rented until it is either properly decontaminated and released by the Skagit County Health Department as fit for reuse, or demolished and properly disposed.



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The property listed above was designated unfit for use by the Skagit County Health Department on 7 April 2006 per WAC 246-205-530, 540. The Skagit County Health Department will submit a contaminated property report to the Washington State Department of Health as per WAC 246-205-550.

The Skagit County Health Department shall:

- File a copy of this Order Prohibiting Use with the Skagit County Auditor
- Provide a copy of the Order Prohibiting Use to the City of Anacortes Building Department
- Provide a copy of the Order Prohibiting Use to the City of Anacortes Police Department
- Provide a copy of the Order Prohibiting Use to the Skagit County Inter-local Drug Task Force

This Order Prohibiting Use will be served, either personally or by certified mail, return receipt requested, to all known:

- Occupants
- Persons having an interest in the property as shown upon the records of the Skagit County Auditor's office.

A copy of this Order Prohibiting Use will be mailed to each person or party having a recorded right, title, estate, lien, or interest in the property.

**Decontamination Measures (per WAC 246-205-570, 580):**

Contamination reduction is required to be supervised by an authorized contractor.

Before starting contamination reduction, the property owner is required to have a written work plan to reduce contamination of the property prepared by the contractor and approved by the Skagit County Health Department.

The work plan shall outline the contamination reduction and waste disposal procedures the contractor intends to use. The property owner and the contractor shall follow the Washington State Department of Health contamination reduction guidelines or other more stringent procedures as deemed appropriate by the Skagit County Health Department.

The property owner is:

- Financially responsible for any property testing required to demonstrate the presence or absence of hazardous chemicals;
- Financially responsible for the property's contamination reduction and disposal expenses;
- Responsible for keeping records documenting contamination reduction procedures and submitting notarized copies of all records to the Skagit County Health Department;
- Responsible for requesting the Skagit County Health Department to review the decontamination reduction records and release the property for use.

Within ten working days of a request for review of contamination reduction records, the Skagit County Health Department:



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- Shall review the documentation to verify reduction of contamination to acceptable levels for reuse as stated in WAC 246-205.
- May visit the property site to assess the thoroughness of the contractor's cleanup;
- May require the property owner to provide more extensive testing and assessment of the property site by an independent laboratory or firm qualified to perform such testing and assessment.

If, after review of the information in the preceding paragraph, the Skagit County Health Department determines the property had been decontaminated, the Skagit County Health Department shall within ten working days:

- Record a notice in the real property records of the Skagit County Auditor indicating that to the best of their knowledge, the basis upon which the property was originally declared unfit for use has been addressed by decontamination in accordance with Board of Health and Washington State Department of Health rules and guidelines.
- Send a copy of the notice to the property owner.
- Send a copy of the notice to the Washington State Department of Health.
- Send a copy of the notice to the City of Anacortes Building Department

#### Hearing

Be advised that:


- A hearing before the Skagit County Health Department Board shall be held upon the request of a person notified of this order as required under WAC 246-205-560;
- The Person's request for a hearing shall be made within ten days of the serving of this order
- The hearing shall then be held within not less than 20 days or more than 30 days after the serving of this order;
- In any hearing concerning whether property may be released for reuse, the property owner has the burden of showing that the property has been decontaminated in accordance with RCW 64.44 and WAC 246-205.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the Skagit County Health Department.

Sincerely,

Matt Kaufman  
Environmental Health Specialist

cc: Carolyn Comeau, Washing State Department of Health  
Skagit County Auditor  
City of Anacortes Building Department  
City of Anacortes Police Department  
Skagit County Inter-local Drug Task Force

  
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