

FEA 1

projectmail

From: NORMAN MEEK [nmeek@verizon.net]
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2006 10:00 AM
To: fireea
Subject: Chemical content of phoscheck

Dear Administrator,

A few years ago I analyzed the trace element content of soils on the Arrowhead landmark in the San Bernardino Mountains. I examined 20 common elements to try and figure out if the landmark is a natural or manmade vegetation feature. My analysis showed elevated levels of phosphorus and lead in the landmark (statistically significant at >.05 level). The elevated P level suggested to me that the elevated P might be due to Phoscheck. There is a newspaper report of a direct dosing of the landmark on August 12, 1975 to try and preserve the landmark's vegetation. I haven't been able to explain the elevated Pb though.

I contacted some forest service representatives about the precise content of Phoscheck, but I was told the information is proprietary.

The point of this letter is to inquire if the "coloring agent" in 1970s era (and perhaps today's) Phoscheck contains lead. If it does, that could be an important environmental concern that should be part of the public debate on this matter.

I'd appreciate a response regarding this question. I have not published my scientific report because I want to know if my findings of elevated P and Pb levels could be due to Phoscheck before I speculate on the matter in print. I have been planning on collecting a vial of the material and having it analyzed for lead, but a simple response from an agency looking into the environmental safety of the material would be preferred.

Best wishes,

Norman Meek
Professor of Geography
CSU San Bernardino

8/11/2006