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contamination, one of them being commercial fertilizers, and the other had to do with leaching in connection with irrigation, or what was that? How did you phrase that?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you yield, Senator Beutler?

SENATOR BEUTLER: There...there's just one source, Senator, and that's the commercial fertilizer. But the process by which the ground water is polluted, as opposed to surface water, is a process of the fertilizers, over time, sinking by stages below the root zone of the plants that use the fertilizer. And once they're past the root zone then, as each succeeding rainfall comes, they saturate deeper and deeper and deeper into the ground, until finally they hit the ground water, and then finally it spreads laterally and the ground water becomes polluted.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And how much area, if you can give any approximation, has been affected by this type of process in connection with the commercial fertilizers?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I'm trying to think of how to quantify this. Let me put it this way, that every NRD has a number of wells that are currently above the federal level.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Some NRDs have a large number of wells that are way above the federal level already.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Can you give any approximation of the number of wells, just a ballpark figure, or maybe I should say a swimming pool figure. Would it be more than 100?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Oh, way more than 100.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Several hundred then?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, several hundred at least,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay.