

Spokane River Stewardship Partners

Working every day for a healthy river

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August 9, 2010

Via US Mail and e-mail

Mr. Ted Sturdevant, Director
Washington Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
(email: ted.sturdevant@ecy.wa.gov)

Subject: August 23, 2010 Spokane River and Lake Spokane DO TMDL implementation stakeholder meeting

Dear Mr. Sturdevant:

The Spokane River Stewardship Partners (SRSP) look forward to participating in the August 23, 2010 stakeholder meeting regarding implementation of the Spokane River and Lake Spokane Dissolved Oxygen Total Maximum Daily Load (DO TMDL) and development of the associated bi-state water quality trading program. We would appreciate receiving the agenda and any associated background documents or proposals at least a week prior to the meeting so we can be prepared for the meeting.

In anticipation of the meeting, we have identified a few issues that we hope will be addressed by the agencies during the meeting. These include:

1. How will information in the "U.S. EPA Review of the Spokane River Dissolved Oxygen (DO) TMDL", dated May 20, 2010, which is attached to EPA's approval of the DO TMDL, be used and/or considered by the agencies during implementation of the DO TMDL?
2. During development of the bi-state water quality trading program, what type of collaborative process between the stakeholders and regulatory agencies is planned? How will Ecology, EPA and IDEQ work together?
3. Have the agencies considered developing a water quality trading pilot project for the Spokane River Watershed to implement the DO TMDL?
4. What details can you share about how bi-state trading between Washington and Idaho would work?
 - How do the agencies envision the program will be structured?
 - What trading options will be available for Idaho?
5. What is the status of Ecology's efforts to control/reduce nonpoint sources in the Spokane River tributaries consistent with the pollutant loadings assigned to the tributaries?
 - Who will determine when nonpoint sources meet the assigned loadings such that the dischargers can undertake additional measures as part of a water quality trading program? How will this determination be made?
 - What happens if the assigned nonpoint reductions are not achieved?
6. What language will be included in the NPDES permits (both WA and ID) to authorize the use of water quality trading and offsets?

7. What language will be in the NPDES permits (both WA and ID) regarding phosphorous bioavailability?
8. Will pollutant equivalency within individual plants continue to be an acceptable method for compliance with NPDES permits?

In addition, we would like to schedule a follow up meeting with agency representatives in September 2010 so we can respond to any new information presented on August 23rd and continue our dialogue and collaboration. We appreciate your consideration of these questions and requests and look forward to participating in the August 23rd meeting.

Sincerely,



Executive Committee Members
Spokane River Stewardship Partners

Signed by Sarah Hubbard-Gray, Hubbard Gray Consulting Facilitator for Spokane River Stewardship Partners, on behalf of the Executive Committee members, which include:

Dale Arnold - City of Spokane
Sid Fredrickson – City of Coeur d’Alene
Ken Windram – Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board
Tom Agnew – Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District
Terry Werner – City of Post Falls
Speed Fitzhugh – Avista
Doug Krapas – Inland Empire Paper Company
Bud Leber – Kaiser Aluminum
Bruce Rawls – Spokane County

CC: Dennis McLerran – EPA Region 10 Administrator
Christine Psyk – EPA Region 10
Laurie Mann – EPA Region 10
Brian Nickel – EPA Region 10
Tom Laurie – WDOE HQ
Grant Pfeifer – WDOE ERO
Jim Bellatty, WDOE ERO
Dave Moore – WDOE ERO
Ginny Darrell – WDOE ERO
Toni Hardesty – IDEQ Director
Dan Redline – IDEQ
John Tindall – IDEQ
Barry Burnell – IDEQ
Doug Conde – IDEQ