



February 16, 2012

Mr. James M. Bellatty
Section Manager
Water Quality Program
Washington Department of Ecology
N. 4601 Monroe Street
Spokane, WA 99205-1295

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DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Dear Mr. Bellatty:

I am writing to express Avista's support of and interest in participating in the Spokane River Regional Task Force (Task Force). As you noted in your February 7, 2012 letter, the Task Force established a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which memorializes the intent of the required participants. Avista agrees to participate in the task force and abide by the key concepts of consensus and mutual respect in communications; however, we do not believe it is necessarily appropriate for us to be a signatory party to the MOA itself.

Even though we are foregoing the opportunity of being a voting member of the MOA, we look forward to working with the Task Force as a community participant, and will look for opportunities to coordinate our efforts with those of the Task Force. This is especially important, given the wide range of ongoing work related to the Spokane River that we are all involved in.

We wish Ecology the best in continuing its efforts with and through the Task Force, and again are happy to continue our work together. Please feel free to call me at (509) 495-2941 if you have any questions or wish to discuss our decision pertaining to our role in the Task Force.

Sincerely,

Bruce Howard
Director, Environmental Affairs