



A program of the Center for Justice.



8/27/2012

Brandee J. Era-Miller
Washington State Department of Ecology
EA Program - Toxics Studies Unit
Phone: 360.407.6771
Email: Bera461@ecy.wa.gov

Mrs. Era-Miller,

On behalf of Spokane Riverkeeper and The Lands Council, we are writing to ask you to consider expanding the scope of the QAPP you are developing for the fish, water and sediment sampling you will be doing on the Spokane River this fall.

As founding members of the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force, Spokane Riverkeeper and The Lands Council are invested in the success of this effort and hopeful that the work done through the SRRTTF will result in reduced toxics in the Spokane River.

One of the first things that must be accomplished is a greater and broader understanding of the issue we're dealing with. Riverkeeper and The Lands Council applaud the Department of Ecology's commitment to the Task Force, and we are encouraged to read that Ecology will be doing sampling on the Spokane River. Good science is almost invaluable when dealing with the toxic identification and clean up efforts we're talking about. We understand money is tight and a limited focus is the outlook for this effort, but we see great value in gaining a deeper understanding of the toxic issues we are facing.

Because we are looking at solving a watershed-wide problem, it only makes sense to have a widened scope of sampling. Ideally sampling would occur from the headwaters of Lake Couer d'Alene to the Columbia River. Being that some state border issue may apply to that, we still think a widened scope of Washington sampling should occur.

It was discussed at the last SRRTTF meeting that Ecology could possibly do the collection now and analyze the fish later. At the least Riverkeeper and The Lands Council would like to see this in the final QAPP. But we'd also like to see Ecology actively pursue additional or supplemental funding to do the analyzing now. It's our understanding that funding sources exist, and I'm sure the SRRTTF would help out in this quest.

Riverkeeper and The Lands Council know this is a challenging issue, and we understand the complexities of government funding, however if an effort is going to be made it should be an effort of utmost quality and value. That's what all members of the SRRTTF are giving to this effort, so it shouldn't be unreasonable to expect Ecology to do the same.

Thank you,

Bart Mihailovich
SpokaneRiverkeeper



Mike Petersen
The Lands Council

