



Our Vision - The Regional Toxics Task Force will work collaboratively to characterize the sources of toxics in the Spokane River and identify and implement appropriate actions needed to make measurable progress towards meeting applicable water quality standards for the State of Washington, State of Idaho, and The Spokane Tribe of Indians and in the interests of public and environmental health.

VIA EMAIL: SER Self-Nomination for PCB Use Authorizations Update Rule

RE: Support for the self-nomination of Rick Eichstaedt, Executive Director of the Center for Justice

The Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (SRRTTF) leads efforts to find and reduce toxic compounds in the Spokane River. A collaborative group of governmental agencies, private industries and environmental organizations have signed a Memorandum of Agreement that forms the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force.

Participants on the task force include representatives of small business (Inland Empire Paper), environmental organizations (the Spokane Riverkeeper, a program of the Center for Justice), governments (Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District), Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other local governments, businesses, and organizations.

The goal of the task force is to develop a comprehensive plan to bring the Spokane River into compliance with water quality standards for PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). These pollutants exceed water quality standards in several segments of the river. These segments are on a list, known as the 303d list, which identifies lakes, streams and parts of rivers that fail to meet Washington's water quality standards.

Because the current use authorizations and exclusions under the Toxic Substances Control Act are contributing to violations of our water quality standard for PCB, all governments, organizations, and businesses (large and small) are impacted by the "PCB Use Authorizations Update Rule."

The Spokane River is not unique. In fact there are almost 5600 water bodies in the United States listed as impaired for PCB. Water quality programs throughout the country are unable to address this issue as evidenced by the fact that only 500 water quality implementation plans have been written.

Rick has participated on the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force since its inception and can adequately speak to the concerns of environmental interests and local communities regarding concerns about PCBs. There is up-to-date evidence since the rulings inception of specific health related impacts and subsequent health related costs pertaining to PCB levels in fish. Of greatest concern is the health and economic impact toward those segments of the population who practice subsistence fish consumption.

The Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force supports Rick's participation on the Small Business Advocacy Review Panel.