



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10

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RECEIVED

SEP 23 2013

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY  
EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE  
OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

SEP 20 2013

Mr. Bart Mihailovich  
Spokane Riverkeeper  
35 West Main Avenue, Suite 300  
Spokane, Washington 99201

Dear Mr. Mihailovich:

Thank you for your letter of August 26, 2013 regarding the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force. Your letter requests that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency participate more consistently and actively in the important and challenging work of the SRRTTF. Your letter was timely, as we had been working to resolve that very situation.

Last year, the EPA designated Mary Lou Soscia to be our representative on the SRRTTF. She has realized her existing duties along with our limited travel funds have not permitted her to be consistently engaged in the work of the SRRTTF. To rectify this situation, I recently asked Tom Eaton, Director of Region 10's Washington Operations Office, to become the EPA's primary representative on the SRRTTF. Tom's significant experience in toxics reduction strategies and Spokane River water quality issues position Tom to represent the EPA very well on the SRRTTF. While our continued limitations on travel funds may prevent him from attending all the meetings in person, he will be actively engaged on the issues most important to the EPA.

Your letter also requests that the EPA sign the Memorandum of Understanding to form the SRRTTF. The EPA still plans to sign the MOU once we finalize the NPDES permits for municipal wastewater treatment plants in Idaho discharging to the Spokane River. These permits are currently out for public review and are expected to be finalized early next year. Even though we are not planning to sign the MOU immediately, we are planning to be actively and substantively engaged in the work of the SRRTTF in the meantime.

Thank you for your letter and your work to improve the Spokane River. Please feel free to contact Tom Eaton at 360-753-8086 if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. McLerran  
Regional Administrator

cc: Maia Bellon  
Director, Department of Ecology

Adriane Borgias  
Department of Ecology, Eastern Regional Office

SRRTTF Members