

February 26, 2014

Professor Larry Robertson  
Director of the Iowa Superfund Research Program  
University of Iowa  
Iowa City, IA 52242

Dear Dr. Robertson,

The Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (SRRTTF) supports the Iowa Superfund Research Program's application for renewal. 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 from Spokane County, the City of Spokane, the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District, Inland Empire Paper Co., Kaiser Aluminum, Spokane Regional Health District, Washington State Department of Health, the Spokane Riverkeeper (a program of the Center for Justice), the Lands Council, and the Lake Spokane Association. The Washington State Department of Ecology, US Environmental Protection Agency, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Colville Confederated Tribes and Avista have advisory roles.

We are interested in all sources of these compounds to our watershed. PCBs are of major concern because of measurements of PCBs in our water and fish that indicate higher than acceptable levels and a potential for adverse health effects. We have had the pleasure of meeting several ISRP researchers, including Dr. Andres Martinez and Dr. Dingfei Hu. Drs. Martinez and Hu have provided some advice and assistance regarding non-Aroclor PCBs and the relative importance of PCB sources from atmospheric deposition, inks, pigments and paint manufacturing, and solid waste disposal.

We hope for this exchange of ideas and advice to continue. We appreciate the offer from the Director of the ISRP Analytical Core, Dr. Keri Hornbuckle, to analyze occasional samples from our watershed using the methods her group has developed for non-Aroclor and congener-specific PCBs. We hope that personnel from the ISRP, including those with expertise on PCB sources, exposures, and toxicity, will be able to provide us with technical advice.

Yours truly,

Representatives of the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force