



July 24, 2014

Honorable Jay Inslee, Governor  
Office of the Governor  
P. O. Box 40002  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002

RE: Spokane River

Dear Governor Inslee:

We are pleased to hear your recent announcement regarding toxic reduction in Washington State waters. The work of the Spokane Regional Toxics Task Force (SRRTTF) is in direct alignment with many elements outlined in your proposal. The SRRTTF's innovative approach support your goals of identifying and removing toxics sources. We are writing to request your continued support of the SRRTTF. A wide variety of stakeholders in the Spokane River basin are collaborating on a unique approach to reduce PCBs and dioxins in the river. This collaborative, direct-to-implementation, strategy has helped us identify and reduce pollutants in the most efficient way possible. This innovative approach allows us to improve water quality using the resources and expertise of a diverse group of stakeholders in the watershed. By being united toward a common goal, the SRRTTF is able to overcome differences and focus on the work that needs to be accomplished. The SRRTTF is pleased to be able to report important outcomes to date:

- PCB removal reported from City of Spokane as well as other point source discharges;
- Tertiary treatment installation providing additional removal of PCB's to the watershed;
- Cutting edge technical studies helping to define sources of PCB's and design removal approaches; and
- Influence on Ecology's PCB CAP, state purchasing legislation and city purchasing legislation.

The SRRTTF continues to coordinate with the Department of Ecology and EPA to accelerate cleanup actions and address toxics in the Spokane River. PCB pollution is diffuse and difficult to trace. We know it isn't coming from a few point sources. A PCB Source Assessment prepared by the Department of Ecology leaves many unanswered questions about the true sources of PCB's. The SRRTTF is currently working to identify the unknown sources of PCBs and dioxins in the Spokane River and developing a cleanup plan to help meet applicable water quality standards.

The next phase of the SRRTTF work will:

- Identify the most effective means by which to reduce the identified sources
- Determine best management practices and implementation plans to reduce PCBs and dioxins with the goal of meeting applicable water quality standards
- Additional field monitoring, lab analysis, and data processing to further our knowledge of source contributions to the watershed.


As a part of the collaborative approach to both funding and toxic reductions, particularly PCBs in the Spokane River, the SRRTTF and the City of Spokane are partnering to obtain an extended payment grant of \$5,000,000 per year for 20 years. The City of Spokane has committed to pay to the SRRTTF \$400,000 per year from these payments.

These funds will allow us to not only complete the next phase of the SRRTTF work, but also allow for activities which directly reduce toxics in the Spokane River. The City's Integrated Clean Water Plan identifies projects which will provide measurable progress towards reducing toxics in the Spokane River. The largest of these is the mitigation of stormwater which flows from the Cochran Basin. Eliminating stormwater from this large basin alone will reduce a significant amount of the total PCBs that contribute to the watershed.

What we are doing in Spokane is unique and precedent setting. Thank you for your consideration of support for this important work.

Sincerely,

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

Dale Arnold

ACE Director/Appointed Representative of SRRTTF