



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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November 14, 2014

The Honorable Glen Nenema, Chairman
Kalispel Tribe Business Council
PO Box 39
Usk, WA 99180

Dear Chairman Nenema:

In 2012, the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) established the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (Task Force) as a collaborative effort to reduce toxic inputs (specifically PCBs) to the Spokane River. The Task Force operates under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), signed by five waste water dischargers, three government agencies, and three environmental groups.

A major milestone was reached on October 6, 2014, when the Environmental Protection Agency reissued wastewater permits under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System to the three Idaho cities located on the Spokane River (Coeur d'Alene, Post Falls and Hayden area). With the issuance of the permits, these three cities will formalize their relationship with the Task Force and become signatories to the MOA.

I believe that the participation of the Kalispel Tribe in the Task Force lends great value to the collaborative process and I invite the Tribe to consider formalizing its relationship with the Task Force.

The MOA is currently open for comment until November 17, 2014: <http://srtrtf.org/?p=3532>. Ecology invites the Tribe to have a seat at the table during focus group discussions of the proposed revisions. This activity is expected to happen in early December 2014, and culminate in a recommendation to the Task Force.

I am extending this invitation in order to achieve a common goal – a clean, healthy, Spokane River. Please feel free to contact me or our Task Force lead, Adriane Borgias at adriane.borgias@ecy.wa.gov or (509) 329-3515, in order to discuss the progress the Task Force has made to date, and answer any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Maia D. Bellon
Director

Cc: Deane Osterman, Executive Director of Natural Resources
Tom Eaton, Washington Operations Office Director, USEPA

