



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600 • Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

711 for Washington Relay Service • Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341

November 14, 2014

The Honorable Rudy Peone, Chairman
Spokane Tribe Business Council
PO Box 100
Wellpinit, WA 99040

Dear Chairman Peone:

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 Spokane 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://srrttf.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.

In addition, I would be happy to meet with you directly or with members of your Council to discuss the progress the Task Force has made to date, answer any questions and concerns of the council, and discuss ways we can reduce toxics in our environment and achieve our common goal – a clean, healthy, Spokane River.

Sincerely,

Maia D. Bellon
Director

Cc: BJ Kieffer, Spokane Tribe Department of Natural Resources
Tom Eaton, Washington Operations Office Director, USEPA

