



**DATE:** November 13, 2007

**TO:** Mrs. Shara Trantum

**FROM:** Chris Butler, Water and Fish biologist

**RE:** Washington Department of Ecology, comments pertaining to: 4  
NPDES permits on the Spokane River.



## Spokane Tribal Natural Resources

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Rudy Peone, Director

**From:** Chris Butler, Water and Fish Biologist

**Date:** October 29, 2006

**Subject:** Comments pertaining to the draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Discharge Permit” (NPDES) that is being done for the Spokane River dischargers.

cc: Brian Crossley, Program Manager

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Both EPA and DOE have issued draft NPDES permits prior to an adopted D.O. TMDL. This tactic appears to overwhelm both the public and those involved for comments. We do not have the resources to ensure that Tribal waters will be protected based on these NPDES permits. It appears that Idaho dischargers will get a loading amount, becoming “natural background” at the border and then allowing Washington dischargers another 0.2 mg/L over that background. Another concern of the Water and Fish program is how the draft NPDES permits are addressing PCB’s when the PCB TMDL has not been released.

I recommend that the Spokane Tribes comment should be; The NPDES permits should not / cannot be submitted for public review prior to an **approved** D.O. TMDL and an explanation of how the PCB TMDL will be incorporated with the D.O. TMDL. In addition, the Spokane Tribe should reserve the right for comments on the annual renewal of the NPDES permits.