

May 31, 2005

Mr. Dan Smith
Water Quality Coordinator
City of Federal Way
P.O. Box 9718
Federal Way, WA 98063-9718

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your public comment letter received on December 15, 2004, regarding Washington State's Water Quality Assessment for 2002/2004. The department received over 45 comment letters during this last review process and is appreciative of the time you took to review and comment on this assessment. We realize that there is an extensive amount of information in the Water Quality Assessment. The scrutiny given by you and other public reviewers has resulted in many changes and corrections that improved the accurateness of the final submittal to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Water Quality Assessment is being submitted to EPA as an "integrated report" to meet the Clean Water Act requirements of sections 305(b) and 303(d). EPA will only take approval action on Category 5 of the assessment, which represents the state's 303(d) list. The Water Quality Assessment can be viewed at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/index.html>.

Your comments were reviewed in the order given.

Hylebos Creek-#6792: Ecology reviewed the data submitted by the University of Washington naturemapping group and found that an error had been made in the quality assurance level of this data, which did not meet the minimum data requirement of having a quality assurance procedure plan in accordance with Water Quality Policy 1-11. This data has been removed from consideration for this assessment.

Steel Lake-#4689: Based on the information you provided, this listing has been moved to a Category 2.

Joe's Creek #15835: Listing #15835 is incorrectly identified as stream segment GV05FS0.000 and has been corrected as stream segment IN34MD0.076.

Mr. Dan Smith

Page 2

May 31, 2005

Redondo Creek #13985: The water body segment for listing #13965 crosses a municipal boundary. Water Quality policy 1-11, part 5 describes the 303(d) segmentation system. Department of Ecology uses township, range, and section as a starting point to investigate the extent of a pollutant in rivers and streams. This system is used consistently throughout the state and is independent of municipal boundaries.

Steel Lake #10717: The study cited (*Lake Bacteria Sampling Project, 2003, DOE, Maggie Bell-McKinnon*) was assessed in the 2004 303(d) listing cycle. However, the data in this study consisted of grab samples collected from specific beaches in Pierce and King County. These data represent the conditions of these swimming areas and do not represent whole-lake conditions. This is noted in the basis remarks of category 5 listings which resulted from this study. (Also listings ID#12613, #6316, #10719, #12160, and #6118.) This listing also includes data from King County in 1998 and 1999 which showed excursions of the geometric mean.

Hylebos Creek #17518: Based on information provided by Federal Way citing errors in testing in 2001 and 2002, the Federal Way data was removed from the basis. Data on this listing from the University of Washington Naturemapping has also been removed because it did not meet minimum quality assurance requirements. Therefore, this listing has been inactivated.

Hylebos Creek #15887: If the city of Federal Way has newer data showing that fecal coliform is being met, we could consider removing this listing from the 303(d) list. However, since newer data has not been submitted to verify improvements, we are unable to make a change at this time.

Thank you again for taking the time to provide comments to Ecology. If you have questions regarding the above responses, or would like further clarification, please feel free to call me at 360-407-6414.

Sincerely,



Susan Braley
Unit Supervisor
Watershed Management Section