

May 31, 2005

Mr. S. S. Rupp
Head, Environmental Division
Department of the Navy
Puget Sound Navel Shipyard
1400 Farragut Avenue
Bremerton, WA 98314-8001

Dear Mr. Rupp:

Thank you for your public comment letter received on December 17, 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>.

You requested that the department consider moving listing ID #8713 to Category 4B because of the Record of Decision (ROD) and consequent Remedial Action that is occurring for cleanup of PCB contaminated sediment in Sinclair Inlet. After reviewing this information, and taking into account that several sediment listings have also moved to Category 4B for Sinclair Inlet for the same ROD, we concur with your request and have moved this listing to Category 4B.

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