

May 31, 2005

Mr. Raymond Lam  
Environmental Manager  
Boise Paper Solutions  
P.O. Box 500  
Walla, WA 99363-0500

Dear Mr. Lam:

Thank you for your public comment letter received on November 12, 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>.

I asked our Toxics Cleanup Program staff to verify that the WRIA 28 sediment bioassay listing on the Columbia River was properly placed in Category 5. This site is different from the Boise Cascade sites that Sharon Brown reviewed and reported on in her memo of July 21, 2004 with regard to your earlier comment letter. After reviewing the bioassay data for the WRIA 28 site, she confirmed that there were four points allocated to the SQS or CSL hits for this site, thus confirming that it should remain on Category 5.

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