



#0313

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600 • Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000
TTY 711 or 800-833-6388 (For the Speech or Hearing Impaired)

March 21, 2005

Ms. Terri Jamison
4527 Rd. 6.5 N.E.
Moses Lake, WA 98837

Dear Ms. Jamison:

Thank you for your public comment letter received on November 22, 2004, regarding the water quality assessment for phosphorus in Moses Lake. While we are still reviewing the comments we received on the overall statewide assessment and will be providing a general response to comments, I wanted to respond directly to some of your concerns regarding the listing of Moses Lake.

We received several comment letters on the Moses Lake listings, to which I asked our Environmental Assessment Program staff to respond. They are included in the five attachments to this letter and explain why we considered segments of the lake as opposed to treating the lake as one listing. It is important to keep in mind that the purpose of the 303(d) list is to identify problem areas so that further study can be done to determine what is needed to keep the water healthy. Further study of the lake for related problems and contributing sources would be done through a lake management plan or TMDL.

This assessment resulted in describing three portions of Moses Lake better where the phosphorus levels are a concern, and one portion at the south end of Parker Horn where the data indicates impairment.

On a positive note, the City of Moses Lake finds the current listing process for Moses Lake appropriate and reasonable. In addition, the city has expressed an interest in taking a lead role in improving the waters of Moses Lake. We are currently working with them and other interested stakeholders to conduct the necessary monitoring to determine what further work needs to be done. Moreover, the proposed Columbia River Initiative contains some features that, if implemented, would result in additional flows of high quality irrigation project waters through the lake. I believe these efforts fit well with your suggestions for work that needs to be done to improve the water quality of Moses Lake, and I encourage you to remain involved.



Ms. Terri Jamison

Page 2

March 21, 2005

In the meantime, the Moses Lake TMDL has been put on hold and we do not plan to revisit the priority of this project until the next scoping session for that given area, which will be in 2006.

If you have any further questions about Washington's Water Quality Assessment, please contact me at 360-407-6414, or by email at subr461@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Braley".

Susan Braley
Unit Supervisor
Water Quality Management

Enclosures:

1. Response to general questions on Moses Lake
2. Revised map of Moses Lake Listings
3. Revised Table of Moses Lake Listings
4. Analysis Summary of phosphorus data
5. Memo from Dean Momohara of Ecology's Manchester lab