

May 31, 2005

Mr. Dick Thurnau  
1031 S.W. 112<sup>th</sup>  
Seattle, WA 98146

Dear Mr. Thurnau:

Thank you for your public comment letter received on November 13, 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>.

We appreciate your interest and concerns with regard to the water quality of Hicks (Garrett) Lake. As you noted in your letter to Dave Peeler, this lake is listed in Category 5 (also known as the 303(d) list) for both fecal coliform and total phosphorus. I also understand that this lake received a whole-lake alum treatment on April 11, 2005, and that the water quality data taken prior to treatment will be used to develop a TMDL.

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