

**Trantum, Shara-Li (ECY)**

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**From:** Al Leech [al-leech@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 13, 2007 10:16 PM  
**To:** Trantum, Shara-Li (ECY)  
**Subject:** water discharge  
**Attachments:** Fish and weeds JPG; muck on water JPG

To whom has the power to improve this:

My family has been boating on Long lake for 15 years. The reasons we moved to Spokane from Minnesota included the warmer weather, the beauty of the Spokane river through downtown, the mountains nearby, the great people, and wonderful lakes. We moved to the Indian Trail neighborhood so we could be within 10 minutes of Long lake for boating. We had heard it was a polluted lake that some people would not go to; but it didn't seem so bad to us.

Me and my family spent a lot of time on the water putting in our boat at the public boat launch in the Spokane river or at the Nine Mile resort launch. For the next 11 years we thought it improved in water quality every year.

However for the past 4 years, something obviously changed and there has been a very noticeable decline in the water quality. I typically ski about 25 times a summer and over the past 4 years I've had to cut it short in mid August because of something I'm now allergic to in the water. After the algae bloom occurs I have to quit skiing or I get stuffed up for about 3 days.

This year we moved to the lake. We live at 9624 W Ownby which is really still in the area where there is a slight current. I thought that would keep us out of the dead water muck but we had a horrible 3 weeks in mid August to early September. Please see attached photos. These are taken from our dock.

I also have videos of the water off our dock which I'll gladly share with anybody interested. The videos were taken when the water was even much worse. My boys were literally drawing their names in the water with a stick! and the names would remain for quite a while! There was some light colored green soup covering most of the water. A few days later ecology showed up to spray chemicals.

At one point in late August someone from ecology sprayed some chemicals on the lake and that made a huge positive difference. The water clarity change was incredible and we could go back to enjoying the lake for a week. However it didn't last long and the muck came back with a vengeance. It was so embarrassing we didn't want to invite friends over from town because the lake was down right disgusting!

It didn't go away until September when the water flow rate went from roughly 500 cfs to about 100 cfs. I was surprised how much 500 cfs seemed to make. The muck moved on out and the water color changed to a very dark and clear color almost overnight. It was a joy to wake up to since the muck was becoming very depressing.

Seems like a combination of bumping up the flow to a minimum of 800-1000 and lowering the phosphates would make all the difference!

Anyone that can say they helped make a difference in turning this lake around should be proud of themselves! Please help make a difference to make the changes needed to bring back this crown jewel. This lake bears our city name and should be cared for with pride!

The change from improving to deteriorating again clearly occurred about 4 years ago. I don't know if our population growth was the culprit and we all of a sudden hit some critical mass threshold but it's gotten really bad.

I work downtown and would be glad to assist in bringing in water quality samples on a daily or weekly basis if that will help someone.

We really need to start cleaning up our own lake if we are trying to be good stewards of the environment.

The Spokane river is a crown jewel and Lake Spokane should be one too.

If anyone wants to talk more about our experiences, feel free to call me at home or work.

I just want to be part of the solution and I have years of first hand knowledge spending time on the lake.

I love the river as well. I hear its polluted but it looks so clear and pristine so I'm more skeptical of the mercury, etc.

The lake however is an obvious mess.

Both my eyes and my plugged up synuses bear witness to that truth.

Sincerely,  
Al Leech  
ph: 467-6037  
work: 624-5212

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