



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL
ADMINISTRATOR

AUG 19 2013

Mr. Ken Johnson
Weyerhaeuser
PO Box 9777
Federal Way, Washington 98063

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for your letter dated July 24, 2013, which expresses concerns about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's June 21, 2013 letter to the Washington State Department of Ecology regarding Washington's current human health criteria. Specifically, you raised concerns about the EPA's statement regarding the protectiveness of Washington's human health criteria, which were derived using a fish consumption rate of 6.5 grams per day.

The EPA shares your interest in having a public conversation about human health water quality criteria for toxics that is technically accurate and provides an appropriate context; the EPA remains committed to working with Ecology as they move forward with their rulemaking. This includes consideration of available regional and local sound scientific data to inform and support decision-making. These available regional and local data clearly document consumption rates well above 6.5 grams per day among high fish consumers. Therefore, we believe a discussion on how to protect all Washington residents, including higher fish consumers, is an important part of the rulemaking process.

The EPA's commitment to support Washington's process is consistent with the EPA's strong preference to support states in their development of water quality standards that are protective of designated uses. Part of the EPA's role in the state process is to provide feedback to Ecology so they can use that information to develop rules for adoption of both human health criteria and implementation tools. Ultimately, the EPA has the responsibility to review state and tribal water quality standards for approval or disapproval and the EPA must ensure that criteria are based on a sound scientific rationale consistent with 40 CFR § 131.11(a).

I appreciate your input and look forward to our continued work together on this important issue for the health and protection of Washington residents. If you would like to discuss these issues further, please contact me or Dan Opalski, the Director of the Region 10 Office of Water and Watersheds, at (206) 553-1855.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. McLerran", written over a horizontal line.

for Dennis J. McLerran
Regional Administrator