



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

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

REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

October 8, 2009

Mr. Rhett Lawrence
Policy Analyst
Save Our Wild Salmon
20131 SE Belmont St.
Portland, Oregon 97214

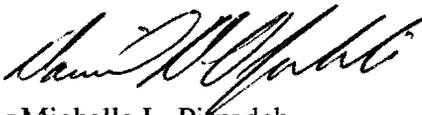
Dear Mr. Lawrence:

Thank you for your September 10, 2009, letter regarding a petition you filed with the Washington Department of Ecology about the total dissolved gas (TDG) water quality standards for the Columbia and Snake Rivers, which was denied.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified the Columbia River Basin as a regional and national priority. EPA is committed to protecting and restoring the Columbia River ecosystem, of which water quality is a critical element. Given this, over the next several months my staff will engage with our state, Tribal, and federal partners regarding the state water quality standards for TDG in the Columbia and Snake Rivers. We will notify Save Our Wild Salmon on the outcome of these discussions.

Please feel free to contact either Mary Lou Soscia, at (503)326-5873, or John Palmer, at (206)553-6521, if you have any questions on this letter. Thank you for your participation and interest in resolving these challenging water quality issues.

Sincerely,


for Michelle L. Pifzadeh
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Ms. Polly Zhem
Washington Department of Ecology

Mr. Dick Pedersen
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. Bruce Suzumoto
National Marine Fisheries Service