

Knight, David T. (ERO) (ECY)

From: Heather Kaschmitter [hkaschmitter@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2007 4:51 PM
To: editor@spokesman.com; Knight, David T. (ERO) (ECY); ricke@cforjustice.org;
spokaneriver@earthlink.net; hkaschmitter@hotmail.com
Subject: Draft Water Quality Plan
Attachments: River.doc

Please see the attached letter. It is my comment on the draft water quality plan proposed by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Thank you!

Heather Kaschmitter

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October 8, 2007

From floating down the Little Spokane to attending the fireworks concerts at Riverfront Park, the Spokane River has always been part of my life. That is why I was shocked and saddened to hear that it "was named America's 6th most endangered river" (Spokane River Currents; Issue No. 5, July 2006). I do what I can at home to conserve and protect the water I use, but I felt I had to do something more. I had heard about a plan that was being drafted by Washington State's Department of Ecology, and I felt immediately supportive. I wanted to know more about what was being done.

After attending Ecology's open house at SFCC on October 3rd and reading *The Inlander's* article "Go With the Flow" and publications by the Sierra Club, I feel sufficiently informed to write this letter.

I see several problems with the Department of Ecology's draft water quality plan (TMDL):

- While *Washington law* gives polluters 10 years to upgrade their treatment plants to implement river cleanup strategies, the *draft plan* gives polluters 20 years to achieve the final cleanup limits—a move that Rick Eichstaedt of the Center for Justice calls illegal.
- The plan fails to consider all sources of phosphorus, including Avista's dams (particularly Long Lake Dam).
- There seems to be no attention paid to the fact that the Spokane Indian Reservation is downstream of Long Lake Dam.
- The scientific model for the plan assumes (falsely) that zero pollution is coming across the state line from Idaho.

As a registered voter, river user, and a longtime resident of Spokane, I am afraid I cannot support this plan. I am fully aware of the bureaucracy and tedium involved in creating and implementing a plan that will protect both the river and those that depend on it for their livelihood. That being said, I will only give my full support to a plan that is legal and conscientious of all the residents in the area. As an African proverb from Cameroon states, *rain does not fall on one roof alone*.

Sincerely,

Heather R. Kaschmitter
711 W. Austin Rd.
Spokane, WA 99208
(917) 623-2525