

Ms. Julie Dalsaso
P.O. Bx 5053
Coeur d'Alene, ID. 83814

Attention: Mr. Dave Knight
Spokane River Dissolved Oxygen
Water Quality Improvement Plan

Department of Ecology
4601 N. Monroe St.
Spokane, WA 99205

RECEIVED

OCT 09 2007

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
EASTERN REGIONAL OFFICE

Comments are submitted from oral testimony presented at the Public Hearing on 10/3/07 at Spokane Falls Community College. They were hand written at the time, and so I have enclosed them in written form for the record.

I live at the headwaters of the Spokane River, a culturally significant confluence point, where Lake Coeur d'Alene flows West toward the State of Washington. Spokane River decision makers must include representation from the Spokane Indian Tribe and other significant indigenous peoples within the area. The confluence was fished heavily prior to the Avista Dam being built in 1922, which today impacts flows and fish populations negatively.

I'm troubled by the unchecked development in Idaho, especially impacts within the unregulated sections of the Spokane River within the Superfund Site, including shorelines of Lake Coeur d'Alene.

Two examples:

1. Blackwell Island proposed dredging, located at the headwaters of the Spokane River, originally, 220,000 cubic yards is to be removed from the Lake bottom, disrupting toxic metals, potentially discharging some downriver. The purpose of dredging, is to build an artificial private Yacht basin, including excavation of flood plains, wetlands, and riparian areas. It's expansionism is located within the sensitive aquifer boundary.

Tribal people have suggested a moratorium on dredging the South end of Lake Coeur d'Alene, until there is an enforceable Lake Plan.

2. Powderhorn Bay on Lake Coeur d'Alene near Harrison- 1300 homes on steep hillsides are proposed, with surface water contamination and run off issues poorly evaluated. The project has proposed three- 18 hole golf courses, with concerns about phosphate loading. The Harrison sewer system is at capacity now.

If Avista were not authorized to keep the Lake at artificially high levels for longer periods, shoreline development would not be as sustainable, possibly lessening unintended impacts sent down river.

While the State of Washington, may not be in the position to stop these projects, certainly impacts relate to the pollution load increasing from Idaho. As this

improvement plan is to prevent further degradation, unchecked non-point discharges from unprecedented growth needs to be addressed within this Water Quality Plan. Worsening the cumulative impacts, is the recent EPA mistake made in signing on to allow three wastewater treatment plants in Idaho, to effectively double the amount of pollution they discharge directly into the Spokane River.

Lastly, the draft could be improved by including stormwater impacts more extensively. Fertilizers, boating fuels, and waste from poorly maintained septic systems are but a few of these poorly quantified impacts.

Also, heavy flooding has impacted migration of toxic metals on a cyclical basis in the Coeur d'Alene and Spokane River watersheds. Seasonal rain on snow events, also trigger flushes from this Superfund Site.

As an Idahoan, I see an irresponsible pattern established, which makes me want to try harder to improve the harm being done to the Spokane River. If the EPA is unable to step up, maybe the State of Washington will have more measurable success. The TMDL plan can be salvaged, with some serious bistate issues being further addressed. I appreciate all the hours and hard work to bring the plan this far.

Thank-you for the opportunity to submit comments.

Julie Balsaso