

Knight, David T. (ERO) (ECY)

From: Peter Ojala [pojala@lawschool.gonzaga.edu]
Sent: Monday, October 01, 2007 4:05 PM
To: Knight, David T. (ERO) (ECY)
Subject: Public Comment on: Spokane River Dissolved Oxygen Water Quality Improvement Plan-

I attended the public hearing Sep. 12, 2007(?) at the Spokane Falls Community College.

One issue I would like to comment on is the perceived fairness of Ecology in the Water Quality Improvement Plan, especially when before the public at a hearing.

1. To ensure Ecology is perceived as fair, please be careful about personal opinion statements by Ecology reps/leaders:

"I want this river cleaned up as much as the rest of you"

"I love this river"

While alone, these seem fairly benign, in the context of the meeting, and made by agency officials, the public perception could be that Ecology is biased in favor of a more stringent clean up plan than the law requires [CWA s. 303/305]. I understand the delicate nature of Ecology's role and there is a need for perceived and actual fairness (critical).

2. On the Ecology publication 03-01-018 (revised 8/07) Environmental Improvements On The Spokane River, change the word "Trick" to "Task"

when describing the process Ecology must follow to the clean up of the river. Trick implies slight of hand. We don't want that.