

Elizabeth Williams

Please accept the following as my comments for Ecology's scoping process for adopting a variance to lower water quality in the Spokane River.

I live just a mile from the Little Spokane River which feeds into the Spokane River. On my way to and from work, I cross over the life giving waters of the Spokane River. This issue hits very close to home for me and I am appalled it is even being considered! I have some questions for you:

- (1) What are the impacts of de-listing redband trout as a designated use of the Spokane River, thus degrading and possibly destroying the redband fishery?
- (2) What are the social, economic and ecological impacts of not reducing PCB concentrations in the Spokane River, particularly when summertime flows fall to dangerously low levels due to overpumping and climate change?
- (3) Explain why letting polluters off the hook for cleaning up PCB contamination is more important/valuable than public and ecological use of the Spokane River.
- (4) Explain why, after more than 40 years of knowing about the public health dangers posed by PCBs, the state has never required Spokane River polluters to control the PCB pollution coming out of their pipes, thereby failing to meet the Clean Water Act goals of a fishable, swimmable river.
- (5) Explain why the State of Washington is suing EPA for rolling back standards for PCB pollution elsewhere in Washington, while at the same time proposing to roll back PCB standards for the Spokane River?
- (6) Please make the polluters' applications for variance available to the public before asking for scoping comments, and extend the deadline for scoping comments, to allow the public adequate time to fully understand the issues before being asked to comment.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the scoping process to adopt a variance for lowering water quality – a move that threatens the ecological health of the Spokane River. Please keep me informed about further developments related to this proposal.