

## Cynthia Flora

These variances are akin to putting the fox in charge of the hen house, something we as Americans have had to swallow over and over during the past few years. And the charade is to continue for twenty years no less!

If you think it would be okay to let Ecology agree that polluters can decide what level of pollution THEY think is acceptable...that is bizarre. WDOE must be allowed enough time to mount a vigorous, complete examination of the effects of this proposed action, otherwise WDOE will be abdicating their responsibilities to protect the health and future ecological well-being of the Spokane River and by extension enjoyment thereof by of the citizens of the state. You would impair our relationship with the Spokane Tribe and knowingly diminish their resources as well.

Citizens must be allowed reasonable time to comment. Why this is all scrunched into three weeks in the summer when you have had a year to come up with this pretense of regulation? This is typical modus operandi when an organization is trying to ignore the wishes of the electorate.

I agree with the well crafted thoughtful requests of people commenting before me based on forward thinking science rather than a desire to return to blind polluting of waters that belong to all citizens of our state.

- (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 over pumping 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 (these countervailing decisions make NO sense) ?
- (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 AT MINIMUM 60 days to fully understand the issues before being asked to comment.

Please keep me updated on this issue.