Linda Carroll

As a Spokane voter, property owner, and tax payer, as well as the daughter of a Rogers High School chemistry teacher who learned from an early age the damage that pollution does to our health and our environment, I submit the following comments for Ecology's scoping process for adopting a variance to lower water quality in the Spokane River.

(1) De-listing redband trout as a designated use of the Spokane River will degrade and possibly destroy redband fishery. What will the impacts of this be?

(2) Failing to reduce PCB concentrations in the Spokane River, particularly when summertime flows fall to dangerously low levels due to overpumping and climate change, will have social, economic and ecological impacts. What will they be?

(3) State the reasons for which you chose letting polluters off the hook for cleaning up PCB contamination as more important/valuable than public and ecological use of the Spokane River.

(4) State the reasons 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) Give a justification for 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) Make available to the public the polluters' applications for variance 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.

I 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 and perpetuates and potentially worsens health risks to Spokanites. Please keep me informed about further developments related to this proposal.