

## Brian Richardson

I have been employed as a wastewater operator since 1983, in that time I have seen other states and countries surpass Washington in treatment methods that would protect our waterways and as a result protect the wildlife that resides there. Europe and China have advanced their treatment technologies well beyond most areas of the United States yet engineers and managers in our state are hesitant to embrace these many proven technologies. Ecology is on the right track with process optimization as many facilities are not doing all they can within their own design. Process optimization should be the first step and mandatory for all facilities regardless of size and include the requirement of hiring a process control specialist to ensure any changes are appropriate and effective. The Federal Clean Water act of the 70s was a huge step in water quality improvement in the US, however its time for a new and improved Clean Water Act to meet todays technology and take the next step to close in on 100% treatment with direct reuse. Washington can be a leader in this endeavor with its own Clean Water Act Legislation. Nutrient and Pharmaceutical removal from WWTP is critical to keeping our water ways clean. Another large component that is actually far worse than wastewater discharge is storm water run off, bioassay testing of storm water shows a much higher and faster mortality of study specimen's such as fat head minnows. A wholesale change in the treatment of storm water needs to take place along with restoration of shoreline habitat that will assist in the natural cleaning of our waterways. On a more broader scale the state needs to take a hard look at industry and consider the environmental impacts in decisions to allow large industry with the potential to pollute into our state. The current public comment provisions to allow public participation is not well advertised and is often inconvenient for the majority of the public to attend. Likely the only reason I received this public notification is because of my participation in watching the nutrient forum workshops. A system should be set up such as a well advertised public website where people can go to provide public comment for any proposals related to the protection of the environment. The website could be broadcast on local news networks and also commercials and social media. Todays generation will participate if its in a format they can access via a smartphone or tablet. In summary I would like to say that we have kicked the can down the road far enough and its time take the lead. When traveling people always ask where your from and when I tell them Washington their first comment is its so beautiful there and their right, but there's an ugliness under the surface that we can't ignore anymore, the fish and the orca's are calling our bluff!!!