

**WA Dept. of Ecology's Public Hearing on  
Multiple Revisions to WAC 173-201A  
Water Quality Standards for Surface Waters of the State of Washington**

**Oral Testimony from Lehman Holder, Individual  
Received 9-16-2019 in Vancouver, WA**

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Transcription was provided by PostCAP LLC in Olympia, WA.

Okay. Next is it looks like Lehman Holder from the Sierra Club.

Hi, welcome.

>> Hi.

>> Please state your name clearly for the record.

>> My name is Lehman Holder. I live in Vancouver.

My remarks today on the spill are relatively simple. I'm not a scientist but I know that juvenile salmon need to survive in order to get to the ocean and grow into adults. I also know that orcas eat all kinds of salmon but prefer chinook, which are large, fat and nutritious.

So there's a close relationship between chinook salmon and orca survival.

The issue, as I understand it, is that when total dissolved gases or TDG which occur when water spills over dams stay at about 125%, it's very positive at ensuring safer upmigration of juvenile salmon and other species by directing them away from turbines at dams. Higher levels of TDG, 130% or above result in negative impacts such as gas bubble disease, much like a diver getting the bends. Lower levels of TDG, 110 to 115%, do not provide enough flow to pull salmon away from turbines; 125% TDG, the currently standard being proposed, is good and is supported by Sierra Club.

None of us want to see southern resident orcas disappear. They are an iconic species in the northwest and they need our help. Your support of 125% TDG would be a very positive step at ensuring their survival, by helping juvenile salmon reach the ocean safely; 24,000 Sierra Club members in Washington State ask you to take that step. Thank you.