

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (April Westby)

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency is concerned that the draft regulation includes significant new tasks and responsibilities for local clean air agencies like ours without providing the funding necessary to carry them out. For example, the draft regulation states that local clean air agencies are to: help identify the greatest contributors of criteria air pollution in each identified community, help develop a draft list of high priority emitters, review submittal of emission monitoring plans from high priority emitters, provide emissions data submitted by high priority emitters in order to calculate emission baselines, review of submittal of emission reduction plans from high priority emitters and potentially issue enforceable orders. Local clean air agencies are the entities that possess the most relevant information and expertise about the emission sources within our jurisdictions. However, the tasks identified in the draft regulation require resources from local clean air agencies, and the proposal offers no associated funding to support this work. The state core grants provided by Ecology to local clean air agencies were recently cut by 65%. Such substantial funding reductions make it unrealistic for local clean air agencies like ours to continue taking on additional responsibilities with diminished financial support.