

Anonymous Anonymous

Jeremy Schmidt, jeremy.schmidt@ecy.wa.gov
4601 N. Monroe St., Spokane, WA 99205

Regarding the Agreed Order (AO) Re DE 24355

Key principles laid out in WA Department of Ecology's 2/25/26 presentation materials regarding the Spokane International Airport PFAS site (Polluter Pays, Permanent Remedies, Public Participation, Bias toward Action, and Innovation) are promising insofar as they represent a departure from City of Spokane and Spokane County's inaction toward and suppression of critical PFAS health information from the affected public.

Though the AO clearly is a roadmap document, not an interim/final remediation plan, there are two points to consider when developing and enforcing remediation plans based on the AO:

1) (Task 1B Investigation for PFAS) Soil sampling only appears to have been conducted at Fairchild Airforce Base and not on soil of the well-watered properties within the West Plains sampling area. Given the number of years this contaminant is believed present in the well water, the 20x or higher PFAS levels found in many wells, and the known persistence/bioaccumulation of this class of chemicals, soil sampling should be done to determine the health risks posed by inhalation/ingestion exposure routes. Spokane climate is dry and dusty, and many residents have residential gardens, making these exposure routes probable.

2) (Task 2 Remedial Investigation) Bias seems to be toward Point of Use (POU) filtering systems which will allow continued soil contamination and long-term use of point-of-entry treatment (POET) filtering systems, rather than providing connections to city water. Filtering systems are not a long-term solution as they frequently fail, require costly monitoring and maintenance, and further shift the burden to the affected community. It is unlikely given the past behavior of Spokane City and County government that these filtering systems will be properly maintained. Moreover, the short-term approach and burden-shifting filtering systems are in direct contradiction to the WA Department of Ecology's stated principles.

My father built my childhood home in Spokane on with his own hands. He was not a rich man, so he built it as he could afford it, bit by bit, room by room, and we still keep the meticulous plans he drafted as family heirlooms. That property was his pride and joy, and we only hope that the Department of Ecology will be able to restore the home he loved.