

Denise Attwood

To Washington State Department of Ecology,

I kindly request that you do not grant any variances to industries who are dumping PCBs into the Spokane River.

If variances are allowed, 5 major polluters, will be exempted from meeting the lawful state standard for pollution which has been put in place to protect our states bodies of water and our states residents and wildlife. It is the state that should determine the level of discharge that is safe and not the dischargers.

The Spokane River is a recovering river ecosystem that still has a long way to go before becoming the clean and pristine system that it needs to be for it to survive. If we allow 5 regional dischargers a 20-year pass to dump as much as 140 times the legal limit for pollution into the Spokane River then the health of the river ecosystem and those that engage with it will decline. This is not the intent of the DOE's mission to "Protect, preserve, and enhance the environment for current and future generations".

The variances in question will also enable those dischargers to avoid federal pollution limits which protect the health of local residents and the health of our fish and those animals and humans that rely on them. The variances also ignore the purpose of the Clean Water Act by letting polluters propose how many toxins they would like to dump into the Spokane River.

Granted it is difficult to come up with the technology to limit the PCBs but then again it is difficult to restore a healthy river ecosystem that has been heavily damaged by past pollution. In the end the state will have to pay the cost if more PCBs are dumped into the river. Eventually taxpayer dollars will be needed to clean up the pollution or to provide healthcare for those who become sick due to the toxins. Better to let the polluters figure out how to deal with the costs of their own waste rather than making the state have to clean up after them.

Please do not allow for variances.

Thank you for your time.