

Barry Chapman

May 2, 2022

To: Washington Department of Ecology:

RE: NPDES permit for Inland Empire Paper

I am a long time resident of Spokane and reside a five-minute walk from the river. I take that walk frequently and then continue it along the river, upstream or down, in all seasons. By walking along the river, sometimes swimming in it, sometimes floating on it, I can feel its connection to the mountains of north Idaho upstream, and downstream, to the waters of the Columbia and the Pacific.

I am submitting the following comments on behalf of myself and the Spokane River. The comments are for the draft NPDES permit for Inland Empire Paper Company. I care deeply about the Spokane River, its fish, and its ecosystems. I also care that all communities can use the River in a healthy way and that those uses are not degraded by pollution from this facility.

1. This permit should include a "reopener clause" or definite language that will trigger an absolute reopener when the state standard for PCBs is revised to 7 pg/L and/or the PCB TMDL is approved in 2024 and requires a Waste Load Allocation (limit) for the facility in question.
2. End the mandatory participation of this pollution discharger in the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force as it is no longer a community-based process.
3. Include language that insures testing for PFAS toxics in the pollution effluent coming out of the discharge pipe(s) of this facility.

The Spokane River and the abundant life it supports deserve the highest possible standards to protect it. Thank you for taking my comments into consideration during this process of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting.

Sincerely,
Barry Chapman