

## Aimee Hamilton

Adding my voice to others also requesting that the Department of Ecology require the City of Everett Water Pollution Control Facility and its industrial users do more to reduce three main pollution streams that are known to be harmful to aquatic wildlife and humans.

Discharges of PBDEs (polybrominated diphenyl ethyls): These chemical compounds used in flame retardants in consumer and industrial products including textiles, foam, insulation, and plastics are known to persist in the environment and accumulate in the bodies of wildlife and people. While many uses of PBDEs have been largely phased out, these chemicals continue to be found in discharges from the plant and its industrial users. Scientific research has identified a hot spot of these chemicals in the lower Snohomish River that is harming salmon by suppressing their immune systems and increasing their susceptibility to disease. Decreased salmon populations in turn affect orcas, whose main prey is Chinook salmon.

Contamination from PFAS or "forever chemicals": Wastewater treatment plants across the country have been identified as a primary source of PFAS releases. PFAS is short for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, which includes thousands of chemicals found in a wide range of consumer, commercial, and industrial products. Some of these compounds are linked to human and animal harm, including increased cancer risk, higher cholesterol levels, and negative effects on the liver, thyroid, immune system, and fetal development.

Nutrient Pollution: The Everett plant is one of the largest sources of nutrient pollution in Puget Sound. Nutrient pollution can increase algal growth, which reduces levels of dissolved oxygen and can cause toxic algae blooms, both harmful to aquatic life. Parts of Puget Sound, including the lower Snohomish River, have been found to have impaired water quality due to low oxygen levels.

Please require new measures to monitor and reduce discharges of these three pollutants and thereby prevent further water quality violations to protect salmon populations and, by extension, protect the vulnerable Orca population.

Thank you