



COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

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October 24, 2024

Filed via online portal

Marla Koberstein
WA Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47696
Olympia, WA 98504-7696

RE: Washington Ecology Adoption of Existing Federal Human Health Criteria Pollution Limits

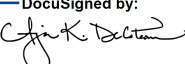
Dear Ms. Koberstein:

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) has long supported the adoption of regionally consistent water quality standards that will protect the health of tribal people that consume fish caught in the Columbia River watershed. CRITFC supports Washington's formal adoption of the existing federal human health criteria for state water quality standards. This action will continue to protect people, particularly those who eat fish and shellfish and drink untreated water, from experiencing long-term health effects of pollution in rivers, lakes, and marine water in Washington.

The Washington Department of Ecology is proposing to formally adopt the existing federal water pollution limits intended to protect human health. These standards are calculated using a tribal-based fish consumption rate of 175 g/day and a cancer risk level equal to one-in-one-million, consistent with Oregon's human health criteria parameters. We appreciate that Ecology initiated this rulemaking at the rule proposal phase and support its adoption in November 2024.

If you have any further questions, please contact me or Dianne Barton, Water Quality Coordinator at (503) 238-0667.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Aja K. DeCoteau
Executive Director