



Upper Columbia River Group

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February 10, 2004

John Iani
Region X Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: Spokane River Dissolved Oxygen

Dear Mr. Iani,

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter transmitted to the Washington Department of Ecology two weeks ago discussing perspectives on the problem of dissolved oxygen (DO) in the Spokane River.

The Spokane River is in violation of water quality standards for DO, due to municipal and industrial wastewater inputs in Idaho and Washington. As a result, the river's trout and other fisheries are at risk. The Sierra Club looks to EPA's to fulfill its responsibilities under the Clean Water Act, including (1) review and oversight of the DO TMDL clean-up plan, (2) guidance and oversight of the Use Attainability Analysis recently proposed by Spokane River dischargers, and (3) issuance of NPDES permits to municipal dischargers in Idaho. Each of these activities is at issue in 2004 and will require active involvement by your offices to ensure that the Spokane River is protected and restored.

We understand that your offices are in discussions with Washington about its implementation of the Clean Water Act with respect to Spokane River DO. We trust that EPA will provide strong leadership to protect the River and avoid its further transformation into an industrial sewer.

Yours very truly,

John Osborn, MD
Conservation Chair
Sierra Club UCR