



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 • 360-407-6000

August 25, 2026

Scott Simmons
Spokane County Public Works
1116 W Broadway Avenue
Spokane, WA 99260

Re: Substantial progress review for the following site:

- **Site Name:** Spokane International Airport PFAS
- **Site Address:** 9000 West Airport Drive, Spokane, WA 99204
- **Cleanup Site ID:** 16774
- **Grant Application:** TCPRA-2729-SpCoPW-00037
- **Recipient Requested Amount:** \$23,680,000 Total Eligible Cost / \$17,760,000 State Share

Dear Scott Simmons:

Thank you for your commitment to cleaning up sites in your community.

In an effort to fund as many sites as possible, Ecology has implemented a new substantive review process for all Oversight Remedial Action Grant applications. This process, as outlined in our [public comment document](#)¹, takes into account legislative spending expectations, readiness to proceed, current spending, and any other factors needed to evaluate the funding level requested. This is in accordance with [WAC 173-322A-22](#)².

After reviewing your grant application, Ecology determined that no changes are needed to the requested funding level at this time. We recognize the significant impacts of PFAS-contaminated water and the importance of addressing this issue promptly to reduce community exposure. If funds are allocated by the legislature and the project moves toward an award, Ecology will request additional documentation to confirm the scope of work and associated costs.

We also wanted to make you aware of a few policies in the event your application is funded:

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2509043.pdf>

² <https://app.leg.wa.gov/WAC/default.aspx?cite=173-322A-220>

- **Environmental Justice Assessment³:** If funded, your grant application will have an additional step, as an award over \$12 million triggers a Significant Agency Action under the [HEAL Act⁴](#). Ecology will be in touch if funded on next steps for this process.
- **Retroactive Costs:** Your application appears to include substantial retroactive costs. These costs may be eligible for reimbursement under the grant based on the date negotiations began for the order or decree. Please be sure to review the most recent [Oversight Remedial Action Grant Guidance⁵](#) and [Ecology Yellow Book⁶](#) regarding backup documentation and cost eligibility requirements. If awarded funds, you will be able to work with your grant manager on a schedule to break up costs as needed to enable timely payment processing. We hope to have all grants with retroactive costs to be billed up to date within six months of grant activation.
- **Match Requirements:** We also recommend you review Section 4.4 of the grant guidelines regarding other funding sources. If the MTCA Capital allocation to Commerce is used as match it will need to be appropriately documented in EAGL with each Payment Request. This methodology will be determined by the grant manager assigned if the grant is awarded.

Your application is still in the process of being scored and ranked. Ecology will provide the ranked list to the Governor in Fall 2026. Applicants can expect to hear from Ecology regarding final decisions after the legislature passes the budget in May 2027. Please be sure to subscribe to our [email list⁷](#) for general updates throughout the process.

If you have questions, please contact Eastern Region Section Manager Nick Acklam at Nicholas.Acklam@ecy.wa.gov or Budget Analyst Michael Schuster at Michael.Schuster@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Nhi Irwin
Toxics Cleanup Program Manager

cc: Benjamin Brattebo, Water Reclamation Engineer, Spokane County
Heather Arnold, Grants Administrator, Spokane County
Nicholas Acklam, Eastern Region Section Manager, Ecology
Jeremy Schmidt, Site Manager, Ecology
Laurie Dahmen, Competitive Grants Unit Supervisor, Ecology
Michael Schuster, Capital Budget Analyst and Finance Officer, Ecology

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-assessments>

⁴ <https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/who-we-are/environmental-justice/heal>

⁵ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/documents/2609046.pdf>

⁶ <https://ecology.wa.gov/about-us/payments-contracts-grants/grants-loans/grant-loan-guidance>

⁷ https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WAECY/subscriber/new?topic_id=WAECY_110