



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
4601 N Monroe Street • Spokane, WA 99205-1295 • 509-329-3400

December 20, 2019

Robert Lindsay, LHg
Water Programs Manager
Spokane County Environmental Services
1004 N. Freya St.
Spokane, WA 99202

RE: Spokane County Regional Water Reclamation Facility – Agreed Order for Permit WA0093317

Dear Robert Lindsay:

Thank you for the June 18, 2019, meeting with Ecology staff member Karl Rains to discuss the status of the Agreed Orders for the Spokane River Permits. We appreciate the opportunity to hear your concerns, as well as those shared by Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District and the City of Spokane.

In 2017, when we restarted the reissuance process for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, we believed that a variance rulemaking might delay their reissuance beyond our permitting goal date of 2021.

We considered using “a bridge” – Agreed Orders (AOs) that would document ongoing actions taken by permittees to find and reduce sources of PCBs to the Spokane River. The AOs would remain in place until Ecology completed the rulemaking and issued permits.

Since then, Ecology leadership has been able to adjust the rulemaking timeline so that we believe we can complete the variance rulemaking by 2021. This provides some assurance that NPDES permits will also be reissued in 2021.

We recognize that a permittee’s commitments and obligations under a current administratively-extended permit continue, whether or not an Agreed Order is in place. This includes the County’s ongoing obligation to continue identifying and removing sources of PCBs to the Spokane River. Therefore, we concur with Spokane County that an Agreed Order for the Spokane County Regional Water Reclamation Facility (WA0093317) is not needed at this time.

If you have any questions or if Spokane County determines that an Agreed Order is warranted, please contact me at (509) 329-3515 or abor461@ecy.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Adriane P. Borgias
Water Quality Section Manager
Eastern Regional Office

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APB:red

cc: Diana Washington, P.E., Ecology
Karl Rains, Ecology

