



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

7272 Cleanwater Lane, LU-11 • Olympia, Washington 98504 • (206) 753-2353

M E M O R A N D U M

August 12, 1982

To: Carl Nuechterlein  
From: Lynn R. Singleton   
Subject: Mill Creek Discharge Limitations During October and November

I have reviewed the proposed limitations for the discharge points of the Walla Walla STP effluent. Although I lack the data to quantitatively address all impacts resulting from this plan, I can say that the plan to eliminate the discharge during October and November will improve the water quality of Mill Creek during these low-flow months. The option of wasting all water to sites 4,5 and 6,7 on your map has advantages. Blalock Lake (sites 6 and 7) will probably provide more dilution water for the discharge than Doan Creek; however, your field survey will be a better indicator of this. I was unable to find flows or volumes for these waters.

Both Doan and Coal creeks ultimately enter Mill Creek. The NOD impact to Mill Creek at their entry points will be much less than the single STP discharge upstream because the wastewater will have flowed through creek beds for more than six miles. Both Doan and Coal creeks have shallow channels with a good potential for satisfying much of the NOD. During the time of year in question, they quite probably have as much or more water in them as Mill Creek has. Dilution is therefore greater under this diversion plan.

Equal quantities of water could be wasted to each site or the exact proportion could be determined by the relative volumes each creek had when diversion was initiated. The water quality of Coal and Doan creeks will probably not be substantially altered as they presently are maintained by groundwater, irrigation return flow, and wasted Walla Walla STP effluent. These creeks also do not support an anadromous fishery. Mill Creek, on the other hand, stands to benefit greatly by this plan.

LRS:cp

cc: John Bernhardt  
Section Files