



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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Aug. 7, 2018

Mr. David Ross, Assistant Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters
William Jefferson Clinton Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

RE: The Petition to reconsider Washington's Human Health Water Quality Criteria and Implementation Tools

Dear Mr. Ross:

I have received your letter to Ms. Shamblin representing the Counsel for Utility Water Act Group, which grants its request for reconsideration of Washington's human health water quality criteria and implementation tools. The standards proposed two years ago by Washington State were protective and our preferred approach, but we chose not to challenge EPA's stricter standards.

I am writing to clearly state that I oppose changing course now, more than a year and a half after the current standards took effect.

What Washington State's communities and businesses need the most right now is predictability, certainty and flexibility to meet clean water requirements.

We are well on the path of providing just that. We have been engaging with wastewater dischargers since last year to ensure these complex new standards work on the ground, striving to develop clean water permits that are both protective and practical.

In places like Spokane, where the standards require strict limitations on PCBs, we've been diligently pursuing solutions with the current rules in place.

I am proud of my agency's strong record of working to find reasonable solutions for challenging regulatory situations. And we will continue these efforts.