



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

AUG 25 1999

Reply To
Attn Of: OW-134

Megan White, P.E., Manager
Water Quality Program
Washington Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, Washington 98504-7600

Dear Ms. White:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of the Washington Department of Ecology's (Ecology) 1998 §303(d) list, the Decision Matrix and other supporting documentation and information. Based on this review, EPA has determined that Ecology's 1998 list of water quality limited segments is largely complete and approvable. However, the list does not include certain water body segment/pollutant pairings required to be listed pursuant to §303(d) and EPA regulations. Therefore, by this order, EPA hereby partially approves and partially disapproves Ecology's 1998 §303(d) list (list). EPA approves Ecology's decision to include each of the water body/pollutant listings identified by the State in its list, and disapproves the State's decision not to include certain additional waters/pollutant pairings.

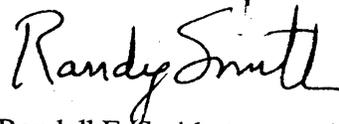
EPA's approval of Ecology's water body/pollutant listings extends to all water body segments on the list with the exception of those waters that are within Indian Country, as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1151. EPA is taking no action to approve or disapprove the State's list with respect to those waters. EPA, or eligible Indian Tribes, as appropriate, will retain responsibilities under Section 303(d) for those waters.

The enclosure describes the statutory and regulatory requirements for developing §303(d) lists, summarizes the rationale behind EPA's decision, and provides EPA's review of Washington's compliance with each requirements.

EPA appreciates the substantial effort Ecology has committed to its §303(d) listing process. It is evident by the number of data records considered in its 1998 listing process, that the State is engaging a large audience to ensure broad participation and accurate representation of the current quality of the State's waters.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss our decision, please do not hesitate to contact Tim Hamlin at (206) 553-1563 or Alan Henning at (206) 553-8293.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy Smith".

Randall F. Smith
Director
Office of Water

Enclosure

cc: Steve Saunders, Ecology
Alison Beckett, Ecology