



*Nez Perce*

**TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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November 5, 2015

Paula Wilson  
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality State Office  
1410 N. Hilton  
Boise, ID 83706

**By electronic mail** (paula.wilson@deq.idaho.gov)

Re: Docket No. 58-0102-1201 – Idaho's Proposed Water Quality Standards

Dear Ms. Wilson:

The Nez Perce Tribe has consistently emphasized throughout IDEQ's negotiated rulemaking process that any water quality standards that are developed – and ultimately approved by EPA – must be protective of fish consumption levels and needs of our tribal members given the United States' treaty and trust obligations to the Nez Perce Tribe.

The Nez Perce Tribe is disappointed to find that Idaho's proposed water quality standards are orders of magnitude less protective than those of all other states in the Columbia River basin region, and are not protective of the fish consumption levels and needs of our members thereby resulting in unacceptable health risks to our members who rely heavily on fish.

The Tribe hereby incorporates by reference all of its prior comments and those submitted by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission as its response to Idaho's Proposed Water Quality Standards. The Tribe requests IDEQ to reconsider the draft rule and modify its fish consumption rate and cancer protections as set forth in the Tribe's prior comments.

Sincerely,

for  
Anthony D. Johnson  
Chairman

Cc: Dennis McLerran, Administrator, EPA Region 10  
Daniel Opalski, Office of Water and Watersheds, EPA Region 10