



MALHEUR COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2925 S.W. 6TH AVENUE, SUITE 2
ONTARIO, OREGON 97914

(541) 889-2588
FAX (541) 889-4304

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Andrea Matzke,
Oregon DEQ, Water Quality Division
811 SW 6th Ave
Portland, OR 97204

Rulemaking: Revising Health Water Quality Standards for Toxic Pollutants

Dear Oregon DEQ,

Revising Human Health Water Quality Standards for Toxic Pollutants sounds great in the beginning but when we are setting standards for a certain ethnic group, then we are setting ourselves up for continued changes based on a few, not the majority of Oregonians.

Most of the fish eaten by the tribes live in the ocean, and the toxins come from the ocean where Oregon toxic standards do not effect this equation. By raising Oregon health standards for toxins, we still will not meet the goal that Oregon DEQ is proposing to set.

What is the percentage of fish eaten by all Oregonians in a month to a year? Why does Oregon DEQ put neighboring state Washington's fish in this equation?

In eastern Oregon, with geothermal activity, historic volcanic activity, and gold, this all adds up to natural occurring arsenic and mercury levels that are above DEQ standards prior to any human activities.

To eastern Oregon, this a "No Net Environmental" benefit. This proposed revised standard could cripple the point-sources, and non-point sources such as cities and farming communities. Should the 90% of the population be jeopardized in order to protect the choices of 10% of the population?

Sincerely,

Tim Newton

Malheur County Soil & Water Conservation District Associate board member