



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 3 2019

OFFICE OF WATER

Mr. Justin R. Parker
Executive Director
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission
6730 Martin Way East
Olympia, Washington 98516-5540

Dear Mr. Parker:

Thank you for your August 29, 2019 letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requesting an extension of the public comment period on the proposal to withdraw certain federal Clean Water Act (CWA) human health criteria for waters under the State of Washington's jurisdiction, published in the federal register on August 6, 2019 (Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2015-0174).

The EPA has considered your request. The EPA considers the 60-day public comment period appropriate and therefore is denying the request for an extension of the comment period. This rule was proposed because on May 10, 2019, the EPA approved, after reconsideration, the human health criteria water quality standards that Washington State originally submitted to the Agency in 2016. The EPA determined that the State's criteria are protective of its designated uses, are based on sound science, and are consistent with the CWA.

Your letter conveyed important points and perspective related to the proposal. We will consider the information you provided and ensure your letter is entered into the Administrative Record for this rulemaking. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact Dan Opalski, the Region 10 Water Division Director at (206) 553-1855 or opalski.dan@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Ross".

David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator

cc: Chris Hladick, Regional Administrator, EPA Region 10