UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
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OFFICE OF
WATER AND
WATERSHEDS

January 17, 2017

Mr. Bill Moore, Manager, Program Development Services Section
Water Quality Program
Washington State Department of Ecology
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, WA 98503-1274 (sent to: bill.moore@ecy.wa.gov)

Re: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Permit Quality Review (PQR) Report - Draft for Review

Dear Mr. Moore:

As you are aware, EPA Region 10 staff, assisted by EPA headquarters staff, conducted a Permit Quality Review (PQR) of the Department of Ecology (Ecology) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program on August 29 through 31, 2016. Please find enclosed the Draft PQR Report dated January 2017. We are offering Ecology the opportunity to review the PQR Report and provide comments by Tuesday, February 21, 2017.

PQRs are a key review mechanism for the EPA to promote national consistency, identify successes in implementation of the NPDES program, and describe opportunities for improvement in the development of NPDES permits. The primary focus of the PQR is an evaluation of a select set of NPDES permits to determine whether permits are developed in a manner consistent with applicable requirements established in the Clean Water Act (CWA) and NPDES regulations. The report includes general information about Washington's NPDES program; a discussion of findings for core permit reviews, national topic areas and regional topic areas; and action items developed based on the findings.

The EPA thanks Ecology staff and managers for their cooperation in preparing for the PQR and the time provided to us during our on-site file review. We appreciate your assistance with and participation in the PQR process and look forward to your input on this draft report.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at (206) 553-1855 or by email at lidgard.michael@epa.gov or you may contact Karen Burgess, of my staff, at (206) 553-1644 or burgess.karen@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Lidgard, Manager
NPDES Permits Unit

Enclosure: Draft PQR Report