

June 1, 2021

Chris Hadick
U.S. EPA, Region 10
Park Place Building, Ste 155
1200 6th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101



RE: Spokane Regional Toxics Task Force

Dear Chris,
The Kootenai Environmental Alliance, also representing the Waterkeeper Alliance as the Coeur d'Alene Lake Waterkeepers, announces our decision to resign from the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (SRRTTF), effective immediately.

KEA cannot continue, at the moment, due to the following:

1. KEA has limited staff time and cannot support an effort with criteria that does not meet KEA's and the EPA's criteria for clean water as defined by the Clean Water Act. KEA is the Waterkeeper organization for Lake Coeur d'Alene. KEA cannot hold one set of criteria and standards for clean water in Lake CDA and a different standard in the Spokane River.
2. The methodology is insufficient for KEA to stand by results and defend scientific practices. As others on the Task Force have indicated, a TMDL is necessary from all point sources of pollution into the Spokane River. Please refer to the June 4, 2020 resignation letter of the Spokane River Waterkeepers.
3. SRRTTF has no authority to do anything about violations of Clean Water Act. There is no regulatory authority and no standards of criteria on which to base violations without a TMDL and an approved set of standards. Point source pollutants are not identified, in some cases, as outside the accepted levels of TMDL and those polluters may even sit on the Task Force - without consequence for polluting by the Task Force. This is clearly a conflict of interest.

The KEA Board of Directors reviewed involvement in SRRTTF at the February 2021 Board meeting, and we determined at that time not to continue. I had issued an email to Lara Floyd, an SRRTTF spokesperson in Spokane, who recommended I send this letter of resignation to you. I hope this helps clarify our conundrum and recent stepping away from SRRTTF.

Sincerely,

Shelley Austin, Executive Director
Kootenai Environmental Alliance
206 E. Indiana Ave. Suite 112
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814