



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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711 for Washington Relay Service • Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341*

November 16, 2020

Simone Anter
Staff Attorney
Columbia Riverkeeper

Margie Van Cleve
Sierra Club - Washington State Conservation Chair

RE: Washington Department of Ecology Letter sent to Rye Development

Dear Simone Anter & Margie Van Cleve:

I am writing in response to your letter (October 23, 2020) asking for clarification on an April 28, 2020, letter the Washington Department of Ecology sent to Rye Development, LLC related to an application for a potential cleanup agreement at the site of the former Columbia Gorge Aluminum Smelter in Klickitat County.

You are correct in stating that the April 28, 2020 letter is not a letter of support. The letter was sent to Rye Development in response to their December 2019 application for a Prospective Purchaser Consent Decree (PPCD). The purpose of Ecology's letter was to convey the outcome of our review of the application, specifically:

- Ecology's finding that the project and the proponent appeared to be eligible for a PPCD based on the information in their application;
- Ecology's willingness to initiate work toward a PPCD.

We will clarify the intent of the letter with FERC and with Rye Development and reinforce that we are a neutral party in the permitting process. My role in this project is to coordinate the permitting and will act as the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) responsible official for the environmental review.

Columbia Riverkeeper
Sierra Club
November 16, 2020
Page 2 of 2

We are still very early in the process. The public comment period for the 401 certification application ended on November 9 and I expect the SEPA review process to begin very soon. We will keep you, FERC, the public, tribes and others, apprised of our processes and welcome your participation when environmental review is underway. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sage Park", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sage Park
Central Regional Director
SEPA Responsible Official

cc Laura Watson, Director
Heather Bartlett, Deputy Director
Laurie Davies, Solid Waste Management Program Manager
Garin Schrieve, Cleanup Project Manager

SMP:TJB (201102)