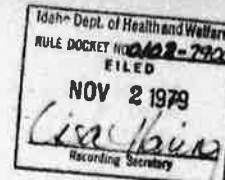


PUBLIC MEETING ON
WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho
September 26, 1979



AL MURREY: We would appreciate it if everyone would sign in before they leave the meeting tonight. First of all, I'd like to take testimony or comments on the standards and then once we do that and complete that process, then we would like to open ourselves to answering any of your questions that you might have. Primarily we want to get the input that you might give into the standards this evening, but also if we can clear up any things in regard to our proposal, we'd be happy to try to do that. So, who would like to be first?

JOHN BARKER: I come from Buhl, Idaho so it is a long ways to come to a hearing and there is a hearing next Tuesday, next Wednesday, I believe, in Twin Falls. I happen to be scheduled to be in Seattle for another meeting that evening so I won't be there. That's the reason I wanted to make this statement here, glad to respond to questions. Regarding the proposed water quality standards.

My name is John Barker, my address is Route 4, Buhl, Idaho. As a water-user, served by the Twin Falls Canal Company, part of the water I receive comes from impoundment behind the newly rebuilt American Falls Dam. I have been a director for 21 years of the American Falls Reservoir District and have served for 12 of these years as president. I want to make the following observations both as a water-user and as representative of the American Falls Reservoir District and the 34 space-holder, and I emphasize water-user groups who comprise that district and contract users of water stored behind that dam. The proposed regulation calls for dissolved oxygen concentrations exceeding 6 milligrams per liter, better known as 6 parts per million, below the American Falls Dam. While paragraph .05, and that would be in 1-2250.05, calls for salmonid spawning area below the American Falls Dam and that the dissolved oxygen concentrations should exceed 6 milligrams per liter or 90 percent of saturation, whichever is greater. I have been told that this is a misprint and that only 6 parts per million is proposed. Would you get a clarification of that, perhaps?

The American Falls Reservoir District board is well aware that the water quality standard below the dam was amended in 1974 to accommodate the proposed replacement dam. The best available technology at that time indicated that introduction of pure oxygen into the water passing through the three new penstocks would increase the oxygen content to 6 parts per million. The annual cost was estimated at from \$10,000 to \$62,000 for the water-users per year, and the initial construction cost not to exceed \$500,000. By late 1978 cost estimates showed that the introduction of pure oxygen was much more costly. In fact, the system cost was to be one million more than the 1974 estimated cost of half a million, and the logistics of getting liquid oxygen to the penstocks was determined not an efficient method. In fact, the 1970 estimate for operation doubled the 1974 cost.

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AL MURREY: By the way, you know, any of the designation or standards aren't set in concrete. They can be changed and one of the major keys to an outstanding resource water designation is that the public, you know, support that designation. I think that's, you know, a major part of that because it seems to me, the Board of Health is going to be somewhat reluctant to provide that kind of protection unless they feel like, you know, the general public or the publics that are most affected by it, you know, along that stream segment want that kind of designation.

In the initial setting up of these things, there is not really too much comment on whether they are or whether they aren't. It may be in the future, such as when a municipal system expands or is needed to expand because of growth of population that some of these concerns may be brought up. Somebody will start saying, you've got to do that much more treatment because it is an antidegradation-type stream. It is a concern that I have in the back of my mind, not so much now, but in the future and how much you can penalize some of the communities that are having a hard time meeting meet the standards now.

HESTER PULLING: Yes, in the old 1973 manual, one of the uses to be protected was salmonid fish rearing and you now protect only for salmonid fish spawning and Dennis had some comment that it would only be protected during a limited period when the fish are spawning. Well, my question is it would seem that the fish would need to be protected most during their rearing process and yet you are going to be protecting them during this short spawning period and you have thrown out the need to protect them during the rearing period. Why? Why is that?

DENNIS GRAY: That definition should be expanded to include incubation period as well as the early stages, but it's not to include after they get out and are large enough to really withstand the rigors. Because at one point there, it's fairly early in their life cycle, they are able to, they are not nearly as sensitive to the temperature changes and the dissolved oxygen changes.

HESTER PULLING: So you are going to propose that?

DENNIS GRAY: Yes, as well as the point that Senator Barker mentioned. That will be in our, those two and a few others, will be contained in our formal testimony in Boise.

DAVE FORTIER: On the mixing zones, where abouts did all the nice restraints on all the different types of mixing zones come about? I read through the EPA Reg Book and they talk about two and I think about six different little criteria things for mixing zones to be limited to. Do you know the background on where you got these limitations on mixing zones from?

DENNIS GRAY: The State of Washington, State of Oregon.

DAVE FORTIER: Do you have any ideas where they got them from?

DENNIS GRAY: No.

DAVE FORTIER: Do you have any real feeling, all of these different items are really needed.

DENNIS GRAY: Dave, if you read the way that the whole thing is introduced on the mixing zones, you will see that the wording of it says, "These principles will be considered," so that does not make them mandatory.

DAVE FORTIER: But you also state in the section down below, you say that mixing zones are to be limited to the following.

DENNIS GRAY: But it says the introductory case would be the determining one, the introductory remark.

DAVE FORTIER: Where does it say that mixing zones are to be limited. That sounds like you're, it's more of a regulatory statement than saying that this is kind of a guideline that you are able to follow.

DENNIS GRAY: Your comment has been received and it is in public record.

The point I was making to the comment was that in the initial paragraph it says that, let me see, on mixing zones, as soon as I find it. Okay, the size, configuration, location, and applicability of all mixing zones will be determined by the Department after a biological, chemical and physical appraisal of their receiving water and consultation with the persons responsible for the waste water discharge. In defining the mixing zone, the Department will consider the following principles, and then it does lay out a list of 7 or 8 principles upon which the mixing zone would be designed.

DAVE FORTIER: All I was stating was that there seemed to be a restrictive type wording in one of those clauses.

DENNIS GRAY: There might have been.

DAVE FORTIER: It appears that way.

DENNIS GRAY: But, you know, the ruling factor would be the introductory statement on it.

AL MURREY: Is there any other questions, comments?

DAVE FORTIER: I've got some other, kind of a side line. On pH readings 6.5, we've been doing water quality monitoring in the Elk City area and quite a few, our measurements, the ambient was shown below the 6.5. What type of, if we were to propose any action, what would kind of be the controlling, considering source there, since the ambient conditions are already below the standards?