

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue
Seattle WA 98101

Alaska
Idaho
Oregon
Washington



NOV 30 1990

Reply to

Attn of: WD-139

Al Murrey
Department of Environmental Quality
Statehouse
Boise, Idaho 83720

Dear Mr. Murrey:

I am delighted to inform you of my approval of Idaho's Antidegradation Policy submitted with the Idaho Attorney General's certification on February 23, 1990.

We have two remaining comments regarding your antidegradation policy. First, although we understand that point sources are included by reference, we are pleased that your agency has proposed to modify the policy during the current triennial process to specifically include point sources. This addition should alleviate any potential misunderstandings.

Second, your inclusion of a mixing zone at the confluence of Outstanding Resource Waters (ORWs) tributaries and ORWs appears to be a reasonable approach, provided that the state ensures that the mixing zones are sized and of sufficient water quality so as not to significantly affect the quality of the ORWs outside of the mixing zones. We assume that you will be developing mixing zone procedures that will meet criteria levels that fully protect beneficial uses within the mixing zone.

We commend you for your dedicated and excellent work developing a creative antidegradation policy for Idaho.

Sincerely,

Dana A. Rasmussen
Regional Administrator