

TO: Ron Pine
FROM: Ron Devitt *Rcd*
SUBJECT: Alcoa @ Wenatchee Outfall Survey
DATE: August 29, 1973

State of
Washington
Department
of Ecology



On August 10, 1973, Bernie Lehman of Chelan PUD (phone 509-663-8121, Ext. 281) transmitted a complaint filed by two fishermen. Don Jagla and Gary Micheals, employees at Rock Island Dam, caught three 10-12 inch rainbow trout in the vicinity of Alcoa Aluminum's outfall to the Wenatchee River. Two of the three fish had their stomach's full of aluminum (chips, filings, and drillings). Concern was expressed that these fish might starve to death or that their physiology might be otherwise impaired.

This information was given to Mike Palko (DOE Central Operations) who deals with Alcoa. An outfall survey was scheduled after he recontacted Mr. Lehman.

On August 19, Mike, Darrel Anderson, and I surveyed the Wenatchee River in the vicinity of Alcoa. The hydrolab was used, but no significant water quality difference could be determined above and below the outfall for pH, temperature, conductivity, or dissolved oxygen.

Darrel and Mike observed aluminum particles in the sediment downstream from the outfall. A water sample was taken from the diffuser; a sediment sample was collected downstream from the outfall. A series of underwater pictures were taken using artificial light. Photographs were also taken of the sediment at the Olympia Lab by Greg Cloud.

The slides turned out well and showed large amounts of aluminum particles immediately downstream of the outfall.

Lab analyses will be run on the water and sediment samples; data will be forwarded to Mike Palko.

RCD:bjj

cc: Mike Palko