

January 22, 2006

Martha Lentz, Hydrogeologist  
Office of Environmental Assessment  
EPA, Region 10 (OEA-095)  
1200 Sixth Ave.  
Seattle, WA 98101

lentz.martha@epa.gov

RE: Sole Source Aquifer Designation for the Troutdale Aquifer System

Dear Ms. Lentz:

Toxic and Explosive Substance Accountability (TESA) is pleased to support the petition to designate the Troutdale Aquifer System as a Sole Source Aquifer (SSA).

Of the many threats to our environment, among the most fundamental are threats to our groundwater. The petition for SSA designation provides statistical analysis indicating the Troutdale Aquifer provides 99.4% of Clark County's potable water. This is far more than the 50% necessary to qualify for Sole Source Aquifer status.

The State Dept of Ecology (DOE) has identified 216 contaminated sites and 12 federal Superfund sites in the area. Additionally, DOE lists more than 620 hazardous waste generators and nearly 280 hazardous materials storage facilities. These sites and facilities threaten the integrity of our groundwater.

Clark County continues to experience rapid growth, and future development will further threaten the groundwater and Clark County's complex network of rivers and streams. By granting the Sole Source Aquifer designation, the EPA will review all proposed projects that receive federal assistance. This is an important step toward ensuring the viability of our water supply and the health of our environment.

TESA has reviewed the SSA petition and supports the efforts of the individuals and organizations that stand behind it. EPA approval of the Sole Source Aquifer designation is essential to preserve the Troutdale Aquifer for future generations.

Sincerely,

[s]

Lynelle West Hatton

Director, Toxic and Explosive Substance Accountability (TESA)