Oregon
Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality
811 SW Sixth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204-1390
503-229-5696
TTY 503-229-6993

February 8, 2006

Independent Multidisciplinary Science Team
Oregon State University
Department of Forest Service
321 Richardson Hall
Corvallis, OR 97331-5752

Dear IMST Members:

First let me thank you on behalf of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), for the time provided to sit down and talk with us at the January 25th, 2006 meeting regarding the turbidity standard review and the science behind the criteria concept approach. We were encouraged by your insights during our discussion and your willingness to help out in the review of the standard.

By this letter, we would like to formally request your assistance in reviewing the technical basis of the turbidity criteria. In general, we are asking you to help us address scientific and technical issues raised during the public review process. We are hoping that the peer review work that we are requesting, and the schedule for completing tasks, described below, will also fit with your expectations. We are not asking you to assess policy aspects of the turbidity standard. This will be the role of the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC).

We are hoping to make necessary revisions based on public comment in order to go to the EQC for their review and possible adoption of the proposed rule during their August 10-11, 2006 meetings.

Proposed work items: Review the technical basis document and public comment issues and evaluate with respect to the following questions:

1. Does the technical basis provide a reasonable and objective review of the body of available information related to turbidity effects (not solids, toxics, or other parameters)? We are not asking for a broad literature review, but rather a review of information presented and information provided by commenters which will be forwarded to you.
2. Does the technical basis provide reasonable and objective inference on risk of impairment for the available literature regarding the protection of beneficial uses?

Time Frame for completing the work items and DEQ participation: By February 17, 2006, DEQ will provide to the IMST a synopsis of the scientific and technical issues raised during the public comment period that we would like you

to review. We would be glad to provide an overview of these issues at your February 23-24, 2006 meeting and also refine any aspects of the questions if needed in order to fit within your purview and capabilities. Public comment pertinent to the questions that we are asking will be forwarded to you by March 3, 2006.

We request that your review be completed and back to us during the period of June/July 2006. We will be available to answer any questions or clarify issues regarding the rule that you may have at any time during your review. The *Technical Basis for Revising Turbidity Criteria* and other rule-making documents regarding the turbidity review may be found at the following website: http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/standards/WQStdsTurbidity.htm.

If you have questions regarding this request, or the technical or scientific issues regarding the proposed turbidity rule, please contact Tom Rosetta (503) 229-5053, or Bob Baumgartner (503) 229-5323.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Fonseca for

Robert P. Baumgartner
Manager
Program Policy and Project Assistance Section

Cc: Jim Myron
Lauri Aunan