ODW Director update 03/04/24

Facilities and Changes – Thank you for your patience as we bring on new staff, reduce office footprints, and increase statewide consistency.

Spokane is in their temporary location until new office is completed.

UPCOMING EVENT Day with DOH 3/20/24 Skagit Conference Center

WQMS has been offline and we have had staff shortages. For those on quarterly monitoring schedules, continue with your monitoring, if you have questions reach out to regional offices. Please have patience as we bring on new staff to our source monitoring team.

Staffing

We are finally closer to being fully staffed. We currently have 5 vacant permanent positions and are hiring for 2 project positions. Our project positions include a position to support both LCRR/LCRI and PFAS implementation and a position to support our new emerging contaminant small and disadvantaged communities WIIN grant. In 2023 we hired 26 positions

Budget: We are still waiting for the final allotment for our DWSRF base capitalization grant. This is funded in the proposed "minibus" budget bill that will need to pass by end of the week to prevent federal shut down.

Update on Nonresidential population reporting

A January 2023 data pull of 994 water systems classified as Group A Community Systems showed that 47-48% of those systems are not reporting any non-residential population, even though they report having one or more non-residential connections. By failing to provide an estimated non-residential population value, the system may be under monitoring for chemical and microbial contaminants as well as be assigned the incorrect level of certified waterworks operator.

Staff are currently working with the largest 13 water systems within the state to estimate non-residential population served by the water system. We will continue to expand this project over the next year.

Update on transfer of tribal water systems to EPA oversight

June is the date for the next batch of water systems transferring from DOH to EPA oversight. This is the third batch of 6 TNC group A systems.