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Duwamish River Contamination

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Introduction- The Duwamish River is located in Sodo, West Seattle. The river is in the hub of the city, and due to many factors has become extremely polluted over the years. Certain companies such as Boeing have been sued over the years due to their role in contaminating such a large and important river.

Causes:

- Major Businesses polluting/ dumping in the river.
- Storm water runoff from city streets carrying oil and grease, fertilizer, other toxic chemicals.
- Sewage runoff
- Area urbanization



Plan of Action:

- Fines/ Penalties on Businesses caught polluting
- Tax benefits for businesses who help clean up the river
- City wide campaign to raise awareness to clean and protect the river.
- Abandon this source and provided clean for mammals in the area

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Effects:

- High levels of PCB in the water (cancer causing levels)
- Contaminants such as Mercury, and E coli found in the water
- Lead detected in the water
- Unsafe to drink

Specific Data:

- 200 colonies/ 100 ML of Fecal Coliform
- Up to 223,000 ug/kg of PCB's detected in the water
- Dioxins, Furans, Mercury, and E coli all found in the water
- 53 species of fish in danger within the river

Conclusion:

The river has sadly been deeply polluted and negatively effected as a result of urbanization. However it is not too late to change our fortunes, and everyone in the city must work together to truly make the river clean again.



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