

SRRTTF Technical Advisor(s) Concept

~ August 8, 2012 Discussion Draft ~

Introduction

The 2011 Washington NPDES wastewater discharge permits issued by the Department of Ecology for facilities discharging into the Spokane River include the requirement for creation of a Regional Toxics Task Force (Task Force). The permits also indicate that to accomplish the goals of the Task Force, the Task Force may provide for an independent community technical advisor(s) who shall assist in review of data, studies, and control measures, as well as assist in providing technical education information to the public. The Task Force was formed in late 2011 and early 2012, and a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was established that discusses the technical advisor. Relating to the technical advisor, the MOA indicates that:

- “The Task Force will select staff and a technical consultant. The Task Force will select staff through an open and competitive process.”
- “The Task Force will hire one or more independent technical consultants. The role of the technical consultant will be as follows:
 - Provide unbiased scientific and technical assistance.
 - Review work plan.
 - Provide technical guidance.
 - Facilitate technical communications between Task Force members and the public.”

The intent of this concept paper is to provide additional clarification on the functions and desired skills and experience of the technical advisor(s). The technical advisor concept will be considered when developing the request for proposals for potential candidates.

Functions of SRRTTF Technical Advisor(s)

As indicated in the Task Force MOA, and as further discussed by Task Force Technical Track Work Group members, the technical advisor(s) should be able to assist the Task Force with work related to PCBs and other toxics on the Washington 2008, Category 5, § 303(d) listing for the Spokane River (PCBs/Dioxins) in the following ways:

- Provide unbiased scientific and technical assistance and advice.
- Coordinate with the Task Force Facilitator and the Task Force Business Entity.
- Provide technical guidance and services, including:
 - Assistance with the development of Task Force work plans.
 - Coordination with technical staff and consultants working for individual permittees and agencies relative to sampling methods, analytical protocols, and data management.
 - Assistance with the development of detailed scopes of work to accomplish the Task Force work plan objectives.
 - On behalf of the Task Force, implement technical work to accomplish Task Force work plan objectives. This will likely include a variety of technical work, such as:

- Conduct, as necessary, PCB modeling in support of Task Force efforts.
 - Consultation with technical staff and consultants working for other entities to understand the PCB/Dioxin related technical work they are doing and consider their data/information, QAPP and related protocol.
 - Analysis of existing and future data to better characterize conditions relative to sources and sinks within the Spokane River watershed.
 - Identification of data gaps and additional new data needs to fill gaps associated with the Spokane River.
 - Assistance with preparing recommendations for prioritizing PCB/Dioxin source reduction efforts.
 - Assessment of the effectiveness of source reduction efforts.
- Coordinate with the Task Force facilitator, ensure that technical information is presented in a format that is understandable to the Task Force, and assist with technical and educational communications between Task Force members and the public.

Desired Technical Advisor(s) Skills and Experience

It is assumed that the technical advisor(s) will most likely be a team of experts with specific skills and experience. As outlined in the Task Force MOA, as discussed by Task Force Technical Track Work Group members, and as suggested by experts at the June 5 and 6, 2012 Spokane River Toxics Workshop, the technical advisor(s) should have the following skills and experience:

- A project manager that has done similar PCB/Dioxin work, has strong communication skills and can effectively communicate technical and educational information to Task Force members and the public, and can provide unbiased scientific and technical advice.
- Team members with:
 - Scientific education relevant to PCB/Dioxin analysis.
 - Data gap analysis experience.
 - Water quality and PCB contaminant modeling experience.
 - Sediment experience, including water/sediment interaction.
 - Experience with PCB sampling and analyzing/interpreting results.
 - Experience sampling and analyzing PCBs/dioxins in various media, including soil, sediment, surface water, stormwater, and municipal and industrial wastewater.
 - Experience tracking down and identifying sources of PCBs.
 - Experience sampling and analyzing ultra-low level PCBs using PCB analysis Method 1668.
 - Experience with PCB/dioxin mitigation methods.
- Ability to sub-contract with additional technical experts that may be needed as work progresses.