

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

APPENDIX A

Facilitated by Kelsey Gray

September 26, 2012 | 9:00am – 12:30pm

Each organization was asked to come to the meeting prepared to answer the following questions:

- 1. Describe the Mission of your organization**
- 2. What is your organization's relationship to PCBs and water quality?**
- 3. What does your organization bring to the table in terms of resources?**

Here are the answers as written on index card during the September 26 meeting.

Ecology (Adriane) –

- 1. Mission of Ecology,** “To protect, preserve, and enhance Washington’s Environment, and to promote the wise management of our air, land, and water for the benefit of current and future generations.”
 - a. 3 goals:
 - i. Prevent pollution
 - ii. Clean up pollution
 - iii. Support sustainable communities and natural resources.
 - b. The Spokane River toxics focus is in line with 2 of the 5 strategic focus areas for the Director:
 - i. Reduction of toxics threats
 - ii. Managing our waters
- 2. Resources** - It is difficult to quantify or even understand the nature of Ecology’s involvement because much of what happens in the Spokane River is the result of a cadre of Ecology’s scientists, engineers, environmental planners, environmental specialists, inspectors, chemists, fiscal officers, educators, and public involvement specialists. The ability to pull upon a diverse set of experts to address a specific issue is strength of the Department.
- 3. What has Ecology Brought to the Table to date?**

Information:

 - a. Environmental Assessment Program and other programs have published more than 50 documents: scientific reports, QAPPS, studies, etc. pertaining to toxics in Spokane River.
 - b. Statewide level the Ecology Toxics Initiative was established to address Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics (of which PCB is one). Through this initiative Chemical Action Plans can be developed to identify, characterize, and evaluate all uses of a PBT. PCB is on the list for evaluation (and may be the next).
 - c. Beyond Waste is Ecology’s Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction program work plan. This is a strategic focus to encourage materials reuse and toxics reduction.

Local Efforts

- a. Past and current efforts for toxic cleanup of metals on Spokane River beaches
- b. PCB source removal/reduction activities
 - i. Donkey Island
 - ii. Upriver dam sediment site
 - iii. Kaiser Aluminum
 - iv. City Parcel
 - v. General Electric
- c. The Urban Waters Initiative identifies and eliminates sources of toxic pollution in stormwater. In cooperation with Spokane Regional Health District. The effort involves sampling and analysis for chemical contaminants, identification of sources, inspections, and technical assistance to businesses to eliminate those sources.

Enforcement and Actions

Ecology implements and enforces state Water Pollution Control Law which is derived from the Clean Water Act

- a. Work of the SRRTTF
- b. Wastewater permitting
- c. Stormwater permitting
- d. Spill response program (oversight on spill clean-up with a focus on preventing spills from entering ground and surface water)

Communications and Outreach

Ecology uses a variety of tools to get information to the public.

- a. Public Information Officer that issues news releases and assists with public outreach/education.
- b. Ecology employees volunteer to provide presentations in a variety of forums
- c. Social media tools (facebook, twitter, blogs) to communicate

The "Washington Waters, Ours to Protect" is an outreach program for residents, businesses, and governments that includes

- a. 1 800 recycle: safe disposal options
- b. Toxic Free tips website
- c. Coordination with the National Drug Take Back program
- d. Business assistance such as Technical Resources for Engineering Efficiency (TREE) and LEAN engineering

Grants and funding: to non-profits and other organizations in order to further the organizations' mission and public benefit.

2 points with this discussion:

- a. Ecology is organized by programs. Success to accessing these tools and resources is to be able to identify clear goals and tasks that need to be completed within a specific timeframe.
- b. Ecology is a state wide program with competing elements for its resources.

- i. The Spokane River has and SRRTTF has been successful in raising its visibility in the state wide arena and we are viewed as an example of how to address complicated and sometimes contentious issues in a cooperative manner.
- ii. Sometimes it isn't a "straight pathway" to aligning the resources for a specific purpose.

2014-2015 Biennium:

- a. \$1 million budget request on the table.

What still remains is for that request to go through Fiscal office, Governor's office, and legislature which means several months before we know what that looks like exactly.

Key elements of the request include funding for monitoring, source identification activities, and toxics use reduction activities.

Inland Empire paper (Doug) –

1. Reduced or eliminate PCBs inadvertently produced in products, specifically dyes and inks. Develop new technologies for removal of PCBs in wastewater to ultra-low levels.
2. Do not produce or generate PCBs. Simply process PCBs as a consequence of paper recycling. PCBs are confined to our facility and specifically to a single point discharge (i.e. no outside influences).
3. Dedicated to those measures for control of PCBs from our facility. 3 treatment & new technology. We are to devote some resources to insurance and protect our resources.

Liberty Lake (Tom) –

1. Formed to restore, preserve & protect Liberty Lake by providing safe, environmentally conscientious, state of the art waste water treatment and drinking water at affordable rates.
2. Used as base study for toxics since system built after PCBs banned. NPDES permit requires task force participation. Water is our job. Serving people and the environment. Lowest PCB level of any discharger in the state of Washington.
3. As special purpose district government have great flexibility/agility to the less 'governmental' in conducting business. Our community supports improving and protecting environment.

Idaho D of Environmental Quality (Dan) –

1. Protect the environment and health of the state of Idaho and its citizens
2. Surface waters are assessed for pollutants that exceed water quality standards or cause impairment to beneficial uses.
3. Refining fish consumption advisories and standards through negotiated rulemaking beginning on October 4th.

Spokane Regional Health District (Sandy) –

1. Agency Mission: Prevent disease/illness/injury and protect public health.
2. Advise public regarding fish consumption/sediment advisory for PCBs. Local source control program working with ecology's urban waters initiative. Work with small quality waste generator business to provide technical assistance on pollution prevention.

Assistance/evaluation of practices in multi-media—looking at hazardous disposal and storm water protection/disposal; waste-water (such as dry well registration) working in Erie/Union Basins focusing on contaminants of concern (PCBs, PBDEs, Dioxin/Furan, metals). Offered enviro stars to businesses to encourage improved environmental performance.

3. Experience at small business community & public education/advisories. Graphic designer and website.

Avista (Kevin) –

1. Mission – Provide electricity and natural gas to customers in this area.
2. Relationship – PCBs were included in some equipment until banned. We have managed that equipment under federal TSCA and applicable state regulation violations. We are working on eliminating PCBs from our system. We work on a range of WQ issues in various settings include implementing terms of the Spokane River FERC license and a wide range of day-to-day construction and operational activities.
3. Bring to the table? We are here to support the effort to reduce the source in the river. We are looking for opportunities to coordinate on activities with efforts led by the Task Force.

Lake Spokane (Galen) –

1. Mission of Org – The Lake Spokane Association represents those who use the lake and is concerned about environmental land use and other issues that affect the lake.
2. Concerned about PCBs and water quality in the lake
3. Brings viewpoint and volunteer capability

Spokane County (Bruce) –

1. Aquifer protection program led to septic tank elimination program, which led to protection of surface water quality.
2. NPDES permit with PCB conditions.
3. Money, staff participation, possible political involvement, public education opportunities.

Kaiser Aluminum (Bud) –

1. Produce “best in class” aluminum products to our customers.
2. Past user of PCB containing products, and likely current user of PCB containing products (no such thing as zero). Discharge contains PCB.
3. Technical resources and financial resources.

City of Spokane (Lynn) –

1. Mission – provide wastewater/stormwater collection, conveyances, and treatment services to utility rate payers while protecting the Spokane River.
2. Relationship to PCBs – PCBs are present in sewer, stormwater, and combined sewer system. Currently performing studies in all 3 systems to identify sources.
3. Resources – Financial, staff currently conducting monitoring and reporting, technical expertise.

The Lands Council (Mike) –

1. Mission – Protect and revitalize the forests, rivers, wildlife and communities of the Inland Northwest.
2. Relationship to PCBs – We outreach to underrepresented communities along the Spokane River to inform them of PCBs and other toxics that are in the fish. We invest hundreds of hours each year on water quality improvements.
3. Bring to the table – We have long term experience with outreach and solving difficult problems with collaboration and sometimes legislation.

Riverkeeper (Bert) –

1. Preserve and protect the Spokane River on behalf of citizens' right to clean water.
2. Advocacy, education & citizen enforcement of clean water act. Human health concerns settlement with City of Spokane.
3. Legal knowledge, grassroots support, communication, outreach and education. Expertise and knowledge, Water Keeper Alliance network. GU/aw participation.

Department of Health (Dave) –

1. Works to protect and improve the health of the community. Work with Spokane health department. Reduce or eliminate contaminants like PCBs.
2. Sit on PBT chemical action plan.
3. Bring technical advice and consultant aspect to other agencies and groups.

EPA (Don) –

1. Protect and restore the environment to meet federal statutory goals.
2. Implement CWA – TSCA – CAA
3. Technical support – Regional – National policy interpretation. Potential funding opportunities. Support and encouragement of state, tribal, and local community efforts and the Task Force.