

# Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force Technical Track Work Group Meeting

Wednesday July 20, 2016 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Department of Ecology | 4601 N Monroe St. | Spokane, WA 99205

**Meeting Documents:** <http://srtrtf.org/?p=6744>

## Attendees:

BiJay Adams –Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District  
John Beacham –City of Post Falls  
Adriane Borgias –Dept. of Ecology (Ecology)  
Kevin Booth –Avista  
Ben Brattebo –Spokane County  
Galen Buterbaugh –Lake Spokane Association  
Lisa Dally Wilson (Video) –Dally Environmental  
Dave Dilks (Phone) –LimnoTech  
Jeff Donovan –City of Spokane  
Ryan Ekre –Inland Empire Paper  
Brandee Era-Miller (Phone) –Ecology

Mike Hermanson –Spokane County  
Kris Holm (Phone) –City of Coeur d’Alene  
Greg Lahti –WA Dept. Transportation  
Dave McBride (Phone) –WA Dept. of Health  
Dave Moss –Spokane County  
Brian Nickel (Phone) –Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Chris Page (Video) –Ruckelshaus Center  
Jeremy Ryf –Department of Ecology  
Jerry White (Phone) –RiverKeeper  
Kara Whitman –Ruckelshaus Center

## Introductions and Agenda Review

After a round of introductions, Chris Page went over the agenda. No changes were made to the agenda.

## State Funding:

Lisa explained that if the Task Force would like to submit funding requests for governor’s budget, it needs to happen soon. This will be on the agenda for the next Task Force meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:** Ruckelshaus Center to send out the verbiage funding request budget draft. (COMPLETE)

## Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) Update:

Brandee Era Miller explained that she will be back to normal duties in August and will be able to participate in Task Force more often.

**Long-Term Monitoring:** Monitoring being done at the Spokane Tribal Reservation Boundary, where the water quality standard gets much lower. Intent: monitoring PCBs, PBDEs and Dioxins and Furans. EAP will also look at metals in surface water and suspended sediments, monitoring during three hydrologic periods to get a variation. Sampling surface water with 20-liter composites using Continuous Low-level Aquatic Monitoring (CLAM) filtering for first two seasons. So far with CLAM they were not able to get down to detection limits. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> season they made some changes. Did 20-liter and 2-liter composites. 2-liter XAD-2. Sediment: some issues with getting enough mass to get detections.

**Conclusions:** PCB concentrations in surface water are still close to the background concentrations from blanks. Through all the methods tried so far at the tribal boundary, they are not able to get out of the background noise. Brandee thinks that in the Lake, a reservoir, lots of contamination gets trapped and sinks to the sediments (low levels below Long Lake dam). Past sediment and fish tissue sampling also shows low levels. EAP is still looking at doing a study that looks at the use of high-volume centrifugation to process 1600 liters of water and separate the solids and dissolved phase (contamination-free, Teflon line, stainless steel disk housing). Also doing studies using CLAM to monitor low level PCBs in surface water – data and recommendation coming soon. Note: PCB totals directly from AXYS; no blank correction applied yet. Raw files of the data will be available in September 2016.

### **Q&A/Comments**

- **C.** There is a disconnect with how the Task Force and EAP report and use the data. **A.** Brandee will report the data with different censoring rules (3x and other), typically EAP does 10x rule.
- **Q.** Were water samples and sediment tested separately? **A.** The traps are set separately. Need at least 10grams of dry mass (very difficult to get).
- **Q.** Was river flow collected on each date? **A.** Brandee needs to contact Avista to get data on what was being released on those dates.
- **C.** Should congener-by-congener analysis be done prior to blank correction? **A.** Dave Dilks expects that most blanks will be concentrated in the lower-weight congeners.

Another Ecology project studies Persistent Bio-accumulative Toxics (PBTs), and will take sediment cores out of lower Long Lake to look at PCBs. Have not done this for 10 years (since source assessment). Collecting this data in August-Sept. Brandee will update the Task Force when this is underway.

**Monthly Sampling update:** LimnoTech is still waiting on June data from AXYS.

### **Federal Hatchery Permit**

Doug Krapas would like someone from EPA to talk to the Task Force at some point about why/how the permit ended where it did.

**ACTION ITEM:** Chris Page to contact Catherine Gockel about speaking to the Task Force at the August Task Force meeting. (COMPLETE)

### **Workshop**

Chris Page reviewed the proposed plan for the workshop. The goal is to decide on “buckets” for PCB control actions. He asked for feedback on improvements, ideas, suggestions to shape the workshop. The planning group and Dave Dilks have started to place the control actions into preliminary buckets.

### **Highlights of the discussion: Q&A/Comments:**

- **C.** All Task Force comments on the effectiveness memo and associated appendices have been received and will be incorporated into the spreadsheet by the workshop.
- **C.** Clarify the source pathway column by dividing into three difference considerations (how much, source area, and how close to river).
- **Q.** What is expected from the control action (efficacy of the control action or the environmental improvement?) Suggestion: add another column for timeline.
- **C.** Separate source and pathway to river into two columns. Also consider: first-order source, second-order source, third-order etc (distance from river and ease of getting to river).
- **C.** Many control actions aim at disrupting an intermediate pathway.
- **C.** Conversation gets real when parties will be willing to say yes, we will do this, no we won't etc.
- **C.** Another column: Implementable by law or not? Specifically on those that have “significant” impact on the control action. Is the law an impediment to the control action or does the law require the control action?
- **C.** Actionable recommendations to accomplish each control action, even with the long-term timeline actions.
- **C.** For those already being done: can it be done more efficiently?
- **C.** Comp Plan actions need timeline, milestones, and committed parties – don't waste time on “pie in the sky” actions.

- C. May be difficult to get obligation to commit to an action (may be only recommendations).
- C. Need consistent evaluation on the magnitude (source, pathway, etc.).
- C. Workshop organization: buckets first, then move into more focused discussion.
- C. Comp Plan to acknowledge that most of the actions that control PCBs are already in place, then there is the piece where the Task Force decides what they can take action on now (for some there just is not enough information, or the action may not make sense at this time).
- C. Comp Plan tells the story, then becomes the basis for getting funding from other sources. Position the Task Force and entities for getting funding by showing the bigger picture and benefits.

**ACTION ITEM:** Dave Dilks to work on breaking the source/pathway into 3 columns and the timeline into two. (COMPLETE)

**ACTION ITEM:** Task Force to send additional comments on the spreadsheet and the memo to Dave Dilks by Friday July 22<sup>nd</sup>. (COMPLETE)

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The next full Task Force Meeting is July 27, 2016 from 8:30 am – 5 pm at the Spokane Water Resource Center  
The next TTGW Meeting is August 3, 2016 from 10am – 12 pm at the Department of Ecology