

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (SRRTTF) Technical Track Work Group (TTWG) Meeting

DRAFT Summary Notes

June 1, 2016 | WA Department of Ecology | 4601 N. Monroe | Spokane WA

Attendees:

BiJay Adams—Liberty Lake Sewer & Water District
John Beacham—City of Post Falls
Adriane Borgias—Department of Ecology (Ecology)
Ben Brattebo (phone)—Spokane County
Lisa Dally Wilson (phone)—Dally Environmental
Dave Dilks (phone)—LimnoTech
Jeff Donovan—City of Spokane
Brandee Era-Miller (phone)—Ecology
Autumn Fielding (Video)—Ruckelshaus Center
Ted Hamlin—Department of Ecology
Mike Hermanson—Spokane County
Kris Holm (phone)—City of Coeur d’Alene

Doug Krapas—Inland Empire Paper
Mike LaScuola—Spokane Regional Health District
Bud Leber—Kaiser Aluminum
Greg Lahti—WA Department of Transportation
Brian Nickel (phone)—Environmental Protection Agency
Chris Page (Video)—Ruckelshaus Center
Adriane Pearson—City of Spokane
Mike Petersen—Lands Council
Bryce Robbert—Avista
Kara Whitman—Ruckelshaus Center
Ken Windram (phone)—Hayden Area Regional Sewer Board

Introductions and Agenda Review:

After a round of introductions, no changes were made to the agenda.

Update on Toxics Substances Control Act (TSCA) Reform Bill: The bill does not address Inadvertent PCB production. Doug Krapas put together a draft letter for Task Force to provide comments to him by C.O.B Monday June 6th, 2016, for posting for decision on June 8th (at June 15th SRRTTF/TTWG meeting).

ACTION ITEM: Task Force to provide feedback/comments to Doug Krapas on TSCA Letter by C.O.B Monday June 6th. Ruckelshaus Center to send out email reminder to send comments. (COMPLETE)

LimnoTech Presentation: Dave Dilks updated the group on the “Magnitude of Source Areas and Pathways” memo, the 2016 Sampling, the potential Homolog Analysis and its implications for the SRRTTF Comprehensive Plan, and the “Cost/Effectiveness of PCB control Actions” memo.

Magnitude of Source Areas and Pathways-memo: Dave addressed concerns about how data in Table 4 was being shown in the table, how data was blank corrected, and if the data was accurate as shown. The Task Force had requested seeing the full breadth of uncertainty in the data.

Q&A/COMMENTS

- **Q.** Was data in the table blank-corrected? **A.** Yes. For the revised memo, will use 10x correction method.
- **C.** New table: Will not present the average, but show the minimum and maximum, separating synoptic survey data from routine monitoring results. See presentation (<http://srrttf.org/?p=6422>). Table 4 is strictly wastewater effluent; the TTWG wants to make sure this is clear in the memo.
- **C.** The min and max do not show the outliers. **C.** Could footnote the table to note outliers. **Q.** Can you show the lower and upper quartiles? Box-and-whisker plot could show the range and midpoint. **C.** Median value helps show there is an outlier.
- **Q.** How about the table include: min, max, median average, and box-and-whisker plot?

Monthly Sampling Update: No PCB results yet; a lab error impacted the March results. Gravity shipped archive samples, and AXYS will expedite analysis. Unfortunately, Gravity sampled at the wrong station once, so has one April data point from the wrong station.

Remaining Snow Pack: 61% of average annual snow pack remained at end of May. This stems not from lack of precipitation, but from warm conditions early in the year. The sampling was designed to capture increased flow from snowmelt, but the May sampling did not capture much. March and May events followed rain events.

Should the Task Force Sample in June or Defer to Fall?

- Dave Dilks recommends deferring June sampling until the fall to capture wet weather, though there may be value in getting data in June since no previous June PCB data exists.
- June sampling could help the Task Force better understand how the system works, even if precipitation is low. The monthly sampling has two goals: to understand wet weather PCB conditions and to assist in gaining a sense of PCB levels in the River throughout the year.
- Fall sampling approach: opportunistic for wet weather events, starting in late October and sampling in November and December.
- Value to sampling after a long dry period (with deposition, plant senescence, etc.), which usually occurs in mid to late October).
- \$25,000-\$30,000 for each sampling event.

DECISION: The group agreed to go ahead with sampling in June.

Homolog Mass Balance Assessment: Mass balance assessments identified a groundwater load entering between Mirabeau Park and Trent Avenue. Spokane County recently conducted an analysis to look at individual homologs in its PCB data and found interesting results consistent with total PCBs between Mirabeau and Trent shown in SRRTTF data; this analysis also found an interesting pattern from Trent to Greene. There appears to be a loss and a gain, depending which homolog is under consideration.

Ramification to the Comprehensive Plan? There is no change regarding originally identified load. This study identifies the potential presence of new load. GW loading in other reaches have been identified as uncertain and homolog analysis raises the threat level, but it likely won't affect selected 2016 control actions. Next steps: this merits further examination in future studies section of the comprehensive plan.

- **Q.** Can LimnoTech validate the County's analysis? **A.** Dave will check. If validated, it merits attention.
- **Q.** How would we address this in the Comp Plan? **A.** Future studies section.
- **C.** Numbers and analysis could be described more in the 2015 report. The report is the appropriate place for the data and analysis, which LimnoTech could include at a nominal to no cost.

Response to Dr. Rodenburg on Smaller-scale Projects: Lisa Rodenburg explained in a letter the Task Force (at <http://srrttf.org/?p=6422>) that analyzing surface water data alone can get the Task Force about 60% of the way to answering their questions. The Task Force can save costs by providing data in in the Delaware River Basin Coalition format (Access database, blank-corrected), including blank corrections of all congeners. If the Task force can provide the data in this format, then it would take her about 90 hours (cost to SRRTTF: approximately \$18,000).

Cost and Effectiveness of Control Actions

Dave Dilks explained that the memo contains graphics for each source area, with red circles to distinguish BMPs and which PCB pathway each addresses. Key points:

- Many PCB control actions already getting implemented.
- Potential criteria for Task Force to select for inclusion in its Comp Plan, including which Actions have responsible parties capable of implementation, and which sit high on pollution prevention pyramid.
- Feedback schedule: Final draft due July 14th, 2016.
 - Proposed schedule:
 - Memo first draft out June 1, 2016
 - Initial comments by June 15th or earlier
 - Second draft by June 22nd
 - Comments on second draft by July 6th
- **Q.** How will the Comp Plan address “responsible parties”? **A.** To continue its collaborative approach, the Task Force needs goals and targets. The Comp Plan provides an overview of how the SRRTTF will collectively proceed, and can serve as a communication vehicle to interested parties and agencies.

ACTION ITEM: Ruckelshaus Center to send out draft on June 1st with schedule for review and finalization. (COMPLETE)

ACTION ITEM: Dave Dilks to work with Ruckelshaus Center on the structure of the workshop via email and phone meetings.

Quick Updates from Ecology:

- **Environmental Information Management (EIM):** Ecology is pushing for the inclusion of Quality Assessment/Quality Control (QA/QC) data in the system.
- **Environmental Assessment Program (EAP) Atmospheric Deposition Study:** This study has begun (see presentation <http://srtrtf.org/?p=6422>), with samplers deployed. Project lead is Shawna Wong (also leading Hatchery project).
 - Q&A/Comments:
 - **Q.** Sampling frequency? **A.** Quarterly, rotating duplicate samples each quarter. QA/QC built in. ALS (out of Canada) got the bid for lab work (much cheaper than AXYS).
 - **C.** No active sampling for this project. Bulk deposition sampling (PM10 samples).
- **EAP Hatchery Case Study:** Sampling began April 2016, more scheduled in July and for the fall. Sediment will be collected in the fall.
 - Will EAP release preliminary results, or wait until all data received and final report done? Brandee thinks they can release the data prior the report gets finalized.

The next SRRTTF Meeting is June 22, 2016 from 9am -12:30 pm at the Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District
The next meeting of the Technical Track Work Group is June 15, 2016 from 10am-12pm at the Department of Ecology