

## **Spokane Regional Toxics Task Force -**

### **Joint Key Messages**

We are governmental agencies, private industry, and environmental organizations collaborating and leading efforts to find and reduce toxic chemicals in the Spokane River and Lake Spokane.

What we are doing:

- Gathering and analyzing existing and future data to better characterize the amounts, sources, and locations of PCBs and other toxics in the environment and the Spokane River.
- Preparing recommendations for controlling and reducing the sources of toxics in the Spokane River.
- Monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of toxic reduction measures.

We are working together on a new approach that identifies pollution, directly applies a plan to stop it, which results in immediate improvements to the river.

### **Environmental and human health messages**

Many of these chemicals end up in our environment, including our lakes and rivers. Here they persist and travel up through the food chain, in some cases having ongoing impacts to humans and the environment.

### **About toxic chemicals**

Toxic chemicals are in the products we buy and use every day – from household cleaners to yard products to durable goods. The risk from toxic chemicals isn't just a leaking drum at an industrial site. Our consumer choices can make a difference in preventing the use of these chemicals in the first place.

PCBs, once considered a “legacy pollutant”, are inadvertently being produced as a result of manufacturing processes.

PCBs can be found in inks, pigments, and dyes and other common consumer products like motor oil, soaps, and caulk.

### **What you can do**

Don't make, don't use, and use less. Managing PCBs and preventing them from entering the environment will take a comprehensive approach that addresses many sources including consumer products.

Currently, there is no consumer labeling or education programs about PCBs and associated toxic chemicals. Learn more about what is allowed and what products contain toxic chemicals and make changes in what your purchase.

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Updated 3/25/13