

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

Recap: December 2013 Workshop Recommendations/Suggestions for Comprehensive Monitoring Plan

- Year one sampling in the river, measuring at gauging stations. Sample in phases – Year One is “one-time”, dry weather synoptic event, up-gradient composite sampling to identify load, and early season sampling to determine confidence limits.
- May want to do a literature review in year 1, filter data sets from more applicable watersheds to better understand atmospheric deposition.
- Use Ecology fish data to identify congeners for analysis, match congener patterns in fish to congener patterns in water/loads – as part of data mining in year 1/phase 1. This will help determine which congeners to test for.
- Groundwater is a source of PCB input to the system – sampling in year 2 to assess groundwater – in year one, assess groundwater by calculation: back-calculate aquifer influence and use this to determine whether sampling of individual wells is warranted in phase 2.
- Seasonal sampling: start with the July/August synoptic survey.
- Assess snowmelt hydrology/seasonal influence. This year: Look at what is coming out of Lake Coeur d’Alene through composite sampling over time. Assess monthly for any seasonal change in PCB loading – may be indicative of snow melt and activities up-gradient in the watershed.
- Add 2 sample locations – CC/Green Street, & Nine Mile Dam (currently flow estimates are made by Avista at this location). A reference sampling point downstream at or near Long Lake Dam is needed (budget-related) All river samples will be depth-integrated composite samples.
- Consider large volume samples, concentrating them in lab to reduce detection issues.
- Assess confidence limits early (prior to Synoptic survey) with data collected prior to high spring flows (e.g., Feb-March). Synoptic sampling will be a challenge (synoptic is the one-time dry weather “snapshot” of the river)
- Analysis – preference for 1668 A over 1668 C – 1-2pg/l per congener – consider Axys Analytical lab. First samples to assess for full suite of congeners, then reduce once first results are in.
- Analyze for parameters listed *at top of page 11*
- During year 1: proposed monthly composites upstream (and consider downstream). Composite samples over the month at the outlet of Lake Coeur d’Alene throughout the year (composite PCBs and keep the other analytes separate). Up-gradient composite sampling will identify loading inputs and identify seasonality of load.
- Request that EPA add PCB monitoring to their site at Lake Coeur d’Alene.
- Atmospheric deposition – may be important, likely address in second year.
- Collect sample for dioxin (save for possible future analysis)
- Collect replicates at minimal cost (do not analyze them unless needed)
- Who will conduct sampling? – to be determined (Arianne called three people, two responded with we can kind of do this. One still waiting to respond).
- Assess mining equipment/activities for possible contribution.