

# SRRTTF Technical Track Work Group

## DRAFT Meeting Notes

March 5, 2014 | 10:00am – 12:00pm

Department of Ecology

4601 North Monroe Street | Spokane, WA 99205-1295

### Attendees:

BiJay Adams, Liberty Lake Sewer & Water

Dale Arnold, City of Spokane

Adriane Borgias, Ecology

Galen Buterbaugh, Lake Spokane Association

Joel Byrd, Manchester Laboratory (*on phone*)

Lisa Dally Wilson, Dally Envirnmntal (*on phone*)

Aubri Denevan, Ruckelshaus (*video conference*)

Brandee Era-Miller, Ecology (*on phone*)

Arianne Fernandez, Ecology

Ted Hamlin, Ecology

Paul Klatt, J-U-B Engineering (*on phone*)

Doug Krapas, Inland Empire Paper

Greg Lahti, WA DOT

Bud Leber, Kaiser Aluminum

Rob Lindsay, Spokane County

Dave Moss, Spokane County

Chris Page, Ruckelshaus (*video conference*)

Bryce Robberts, Avista (*on phone*)

Lynn Schmidt, City of Spokane

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### RFQQ for Lab:

Arianne Fernandez

Ecology EAP has a draft Technical Memo about the Spokane River sampling. This generated a question about the sampling size in order to have an appropriate detection limit. There is a concern that the 2 liter size will not give us what we need if sampling at the Coeur d'Alene outlet. Also, don't have enough information about the CLAM method or the XAD method. San Francisco used 8 liter sample size but that could mean hundreds of bottles and then still not confident about the numbers. The key question is what sample size/method is needed to achieve the necessary detection limit (1.3 pg/L is WQS for the Tribe). Want to avoid the taking samples and analyzing samples (which could be expensive) without getting useful information.

At the SRRTTF meeting, it was determined that the SAP/QAPP needs to be more solid. Maybe another round of sampling methods are needed for the confidence limit testing (possibly in May?). That would shift sampling start date to August, with winter round and then May for next year.

Discussion about the budget and how sample size/method/detection limits/method blank limits would affect costs.

There are a number of terms: Detection Limit, Quantitation Limit, and Reporting Limit that apply to the congener level. Total PCB is a summation and the term RL doesn't apply to that. Also, when evaluating blank contamination, need to evaluate the congeners separately as not all congeners in sample are contaminants in the blanks.

Arianne Fernandez stated that there is Ecology budget for the confidence limit testing.

Karin Feddersen stated that a 2 liter sample size should be ok. Brandee Era-Millers research from last year shows that the surface water sampling (1 liter analyzed) had detectable levels of PCB in the lab blank and transfer blanks. River water samples were 13-41 pg/L Fall 2012, Method blank 39; and 13-122 pg/L winter 2013, Method blank 73. In the spring 2013 the lab and transfer blanks were 38 and 35, respectively. The Reporting Limit was close to 1 pd/L per congener in some cases, with an average of about 10 pg/congener. The congener patterns were different in the blanks and samples.

**ACTION ITEM:** Joel Byrd offered to follow up with Lester at San Francisco and the Delaware Bay group about sample size and whether a 1 liter sample can achieve a 10 pg/L reporting limit. If not, what sample size is necessary. The problem is not detection limits, but contamination of blanks. This can be mitigated somewhat with a larger sample, but that also introduces more "noise" or variability in the results.

Brandee Era-Miller explained that there is a difference in the ability to mitigate for blank contamination based on the sample size. For example a 2 liter grab sample vs. a CLAM which filters a large volume (55 - 90 liters) would have the same laboratory blank applied to them. The samples taken last year at 9-mile and Upriver had good reproducibility and Ecology has good confidence in the CLAM. The CLAM is an evolving technology. Bud Leber pointed out that he had different results on his waste water. The CLAM was prone to clogging, primarily from algae. Also accurate flow or gauge is needed at time of sampling.

Brandee Era-Miller and Karin Feddersen mentioned that there are some labs that specialize in very low levels of PCB and that that would probably cost more due to the need to purchase special glassware.

#### Sampling Location:

Rob Lindsay mentioned the LimnoTech had concerns about the expectation for low numbers, (there was a meeting with LimnoTech, Arianne Fernandez, Bob Steed, Rob Lindsay on Friday Feb 28th). He also suggested that the samples be collected near Centennial Bridge at Latah Creek where there is a gauge. This could be problematic due to access. The bridge railing is 40-50 feet above water.

#### Issues/Decisions

- \* Sample method
- \* Sample size
- \* Location of sampling (Coeur d'Alene vs. Latah Creek)
- \* Time frame/approach for confidence testing
- \* Budget
- \* Laboratory blanks/limits

#### **ACTION ITEMS:** Changes to RFQQ--

- p. 4: Arianne Fernandez to add a table with sampling options, which will give us more flexibility. Also, the schedule modified to do the confidence testing in March (so sampling would be May-May).
- P. 7: (9C) Arianne Fernandez to supply Joel Byrd with information about the value that the method blank must not exceed. Joel/Karin to contact laboratories about feasibility. For comparison purposes, the Spokane River sampling method blanks were 73 pg/L in 2012 and 38 pg/L in 2013. In the spring 2013 the lab and transfer blanks were 38 and 35, respectively.
- Add a term to specify that the laboratory won't get paid if the Method Blank has PCB greater than a certain amount. That way will only pay for useable data.

ACTION ITEM: Chris/Aubri will revise the timeline.

ACTION ITEM: Bump the QAPP/SAP out into April.

ACTION ITEM: Bud will arrange with LimnoTech to call into the meeting next week. He will nail down the dates they are available. Default is Wednesday from 10-12pm, but that could change.

ACTION ITEM: Bud will find out who sent in comments and ask those folks to join the call next week.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane will call EPA to let them know what the timing is moving forward.

ACTION ITEM: Adriane will post the RFP (he needs to add 'draft' to the document before it can be posted) and the draft memo.

ACTION ITEM: Collect and distribute Ecology and Kaiser reports on the river and CLAM sampling.

ACTION ITEM: Lisa Dally Wilson to send follow up question to Bud Leber to ask LimnoTech regarding samples and sample size requirements.

ACTION ITEM: LimnoTech to submit revised SAP/QAPP to Bud Leber by Friday. To be distributed to TTWG and discussed at next meeting (Tentatively Wed Mar 12, 10 - 12).

ACTION ITEM: Adriane Borgias to reserve conference room at Ecology, no VC needed, group to self-facilitate. (COMPLETE) Adriane Borgias to invite EPA, IDEQ, Tribes to meeting and discuss schedule for review. Also on the agenda: confidence limit memo and sampling RFQ from Rob Lindsay.

ACTION ITEM: LimnoTech documents to be sent to Chris Page/Aubri Denevan to be posted on the website (Technical Consultant webpage).

ACTION ITEM: Work group meetings on 1st Wednesdays to be devoted to TTWG until August (Adriane to notify Ecology staff).

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#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- Next Full Task Force meeting is March 26, 2014, 9am – 12:30pm at Liberty Lake Sewer & Water
- The next Tech Track Work Group meeting is March 12, 2014 from 10am – 12pm