

2/26/ 2014
Mike Neher

I noticed in the draft QAPP 2.2.1, that all samples are to be collected midstream in the river. If you are going to include the sampling data and locations for the Idaho dischargers below the dam (i.e. Post Falls), it may not be safe or practical to sample mid stream due to rapids and access challenges. So, do you want the QAPP to allow for those types of conditions or just not include the data from those locations? Sample locations are: Avista Point and Corbin Park.

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Confidence Testing

- We are concerned that levels at the outlet of the lake maybe lower than other areas and produce a high number of non-detect values. Non-detects will not be that useful in evaluating variability. I am wondering whether a different location with higher expected concentrations and more variability would be better choice for this evaluation (below the City of Spokane?)
- Non-detects are very likely with direct surface water sampling and even with detections in the samples, there may be an equal amount in the blank samples. This is based on the sampling Ecology conducted last year. What is the contingency plan if direct surface water sampling won't work?
- The timeline for getting the confidence testing study completed seems a bit unrealistic.
- Looks like all samples will be single grabs. How do you plan to assess cross channel variability in the river. During our sampling last year we saw differences in the amount of sediment moving downstream on the right bank verses the left bank.
- Should define how replicates will be prepared. You are collecting 2L for each sample so 4L for replicate analysis. How will these be combined? In the field or at the laboratory? How will the 5 day composite be prepared?
- Assuming you are going to assess environmental variability over time by comparing independent samples collected on different days? I am assuming that you also might see less variability at the outlet of the lake over time which might be another reason to collect samples at a different location.
- Has a lab been selected?
- If just collecting directly into sample containers won't need equipment blanks.

QAPP

- Need to reconcile the listing in Table 2 with the information shown on Ecology's 303(d) assessment page. I would do a query using category 5, PCBs and the 2012 assessment. When I did that the information is different than what you have in Table 2. Here is a link to the assessment page <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/303d/currentassessmt.html>
- Are multiple labs needed for analysis?
- Page 5: Clarify the area of interest for the synoptic study (Lake Coeur D'Alene to 9 mile). The plan says length of the river
- Page 6: In specifying time periods to sample for the seasonal sampling it might be better to list a range of flows rather than seasons (i.e. spring, summer and winter). Suggest including a hydrograph with brackets showing target sampling periods.
- Table 3-add a column to indicate the type of sample (i.e. in-stream verses discharge)
- Table 6a: should this be method 1668C rather than A? Will you be including a copy of the method in an appendix for reference?

SAP

- Page 5: Scope of work- describe area to be included in synoptic survey and reason for choosing this reach.
- Page 7: include hydrograph of flow showing target periods for sampling
- Page 8: for this in-stream sampling provide the reasoning for needing to sample every other day for a two week period. Is this frequency needed?
- Page 14: Looks like single point grabs are proposed. Is there any need to do ¼ point composites across the river to capture cross channel variability?
- Page 15: Should describe the volume of samples and the compositing scheme, Will compositing be done in the field or lab.
- Table 7: Technically I do not think method 1668 specifies a holding time in water. Most labs use 14 days to extract and 40 days to analyze. What is the reasoning for 1 year holding time for PCBs.
- Table 10: Describe what you mean by replicate. Is this a split sample or an independent sample collected at a different time.
- Appendices will need to be included to produce a complete document at some point.