

Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

2016 Technical Workshop

Proposed Next Steps and Action Items

Reoccurring themes:

- Need intensive, congener level data mining of water, fish, and sediment data collected to date to assist in source identification and to direct BMP efforts. Data need to be accessible and in common data format.
- Include assessment of contaminated sites, dry wells, stocked fish, and in-river sediment as sources of PCB in the Spokane River as part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Comprehensive Plan Considerations

- There is a need to explore/consider the potential contribution of PCBs from soil to the Spokane River (via groundwater) from both open and closed contaminated sites ((MTCA, CERCLA, RCRA, other). Need to identify soil contamination sources (ambient soil and hot spots) – Information to be provided by Ecology and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ).
 - Consider groundwater investigations as a way to pinpoint sites with ongoing source contribution from soil to groundwater - See Martha Maggi/Pam Marti report on prioritized well and cleanup site locations based on groundwater (Posted at <http://srtrtf.org/?p=5757>)
 - Consider location of cleanup sites compared to location where higher levels of PCBs are found in fish and the river water column
 - Where does the “mass” of remediated soil go? Landfill? Is this another pathway?
- Include sediment as a source in Comprehensive Plan
 - Sediment: available data: 2003-2004 sediment samples (EAP); 2013 Urban Waters sampling-Trent to Green Street.
 - Assess suspended sediment component of water column samples (using data from TF 2016 sampling) vs. dissolved PCB concentrations
- Theoretical evaluation of drywell inputs: Drywells are inventoried in both Spokane and Kootenai Counties – include in comprehensive plan.
- Consider fish as a source of PCBs in the Spokane River Water Column
- Consider gaining and losing reaches when evaluating inputs in the Comprehensive Plan (septic, drywell, other).
- Consider Ecology’s sampling of city stormwater - 2012 report.
- Consider Hangman Creek sediment deposition in Spokane River as a hot spot.
- LimnoTech to assess the relevance and application of BMPS identified in the workshop and make recommendations to the full SRRTTF – as part of 2016 Comprehensive Plan. Consider source assessment when evaluating appropriate and applicable BMPs.
- Key Uncertainties in Comprehensive Plan make this an adaptive process.
 - Stormwater inputs in areas lacking standard MS4 type infrastructure (e.g. drywells, swales, etc)
 - Soil contamination sources (ambient soil and hot spots).
 - In-river Sediment sources that contribute to fish have not been identified or quantified.

SRRTTF Recommendations for General Data Analyses

- Data Management -database recommendation to Task Force – need all data in one place and in common data format (see Dr. Rodenburg comment¹).
- Data Management Workgroup to meet and address standardization and consistency, and maintenance, and then recommend database to the SRRTTF.
- Use homologs and congeners in fish to identify sources (even if the final endpoint is not fish). Use aroclors to tie the fish PCBs to Toxic Control Program (TCP) sites (TCP data- In Ecology's Environmental Information Management system (EIM)). Consider focusing on Barker to Trent as a first priority (eg., groundwater input and source identification).
- Homolog or Aroclor Analysis of water column data: Use to assist in Source identification (for example: runoff versus specific site contribution).
- Consider focusing on specific congeners vs. total PCBs. Higher weight congeners only, dioxin-like, or other?
- Homolog distribution in fish. Look for the patterns, focus on sources that have similar distribution, compare to areas of sediment deposition and water column concentrations.
- Homolog/Congener/Aroclor distribution in river (water column): Does the distribution change at different points in the river? How does this compare to known discharge?
- Are fish getting exposed to water column, sediment, or both? Fingerprinting can help to determine this. Modeling would also help (water quality + food web model).
- Consider re-applying Serdar Food Web model to 2014, 2015 water column data. (Segment by segment).

Comment [LDW1]: Chris and Kara, please revise based on outcomes of Thursday's session. Next Steps??

General

- All activities to lead to finding and removing sources of PCBs.
- Reduce sources and implement pilot projects on source cleanup.
- Database and Care and maintenance of the database.
- Outreach: PCB education and/or Task Force branding. Cross state effort for PCB education (not branding).
- Measurable Progress.
- Request for quantifiable BMPs as part of comprehensive plan.

Other Task Force Related Activities

- TSCA Stakeholder group to vet and offer solutions – Doug Krapas, EPA, other
- Cross pollination: TSCA reform, BMPs, Duwamish to Spokane (coordinate efforts).

¹ The first thing I want to say, and I say this first to emphasize its importance, **is that you need to develop some way of sharing your data, preferably via a common data format such as an Access database.** I've seen the data from the SCRWRP and the synoptic data, and they are in two completely different formats. I asked a couple of times to see if I could get data from the Spokane city WWTP, or the stormwater or fish data, but so far I haven't seen any of it. It is hard for me or anyone else to get a handle on the big picture when we only get to see snippets of data.