Dr. Rodenburg

As a follow-up to our March 22 workshop, the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force is interested in receiving a proposal from you to perform pattern analyses to help assess sources contributing to PCB concentrations in the Spokane River. We learned at the workshop that the types and detail of the analyses you could perform depended on the amount of data available. To address that issue, we have prepared a memorandum documenting the available Method 1668 data for the Spokane River, as well as concentrations in wastewater, stormwater, and groundwater discharging to the River. Note that, at this time, we are focusing on the water column and are not evaluating fish tissue concentrations.

The types of questions we are interested in having answered include:

* What can be said about the ultimate origin (e.g. legacy sources, inadvertently produced PCBs) of PCBs in the Spokane River?
* Does the nature of the source (or the PCB signature/signal) change as one moves downstream?
* Can you draw any conclusions regarding relative importance of (1) storm water, (2) groundwater, and (3) wastewater effluent (industrial and municipal) as contributors to observed Spokane River concentrations?
* Can the handful (three in the Spokane River, two in Latah Creek) of anomalously high river PCB concentrations observed during patchy wet weather during the 2014 synoptic survey be linked to wet weather sources?
* Does the contaminated groundwater up-gradient of Kaiser show as a significant contributor to the concentrations observed at Trent Ave. Bridge during the synoptic surveys?

Rather than dictate a specific scope of work at this time, we would prefer to get input from you regarding the types of analyses you think can (or can’t) be done to address the above questions, given the available data.

We would appreciate if you could provide a rough scope and budget for what you think is appropriate, which could serve as the starting point for a formal proposal. If there are multiple options, it would be helpful if you could provide a scope and budget for a couple of options as a menu from which the Task Force can select. If you have questions or need additional information prior to doing this, don’t hesitate to ask. Thank you.