






-  **We are working together on a new approach that identifies sources of PCBs and dioxins, directly applies a plan for reduction and elimination, and results in improvements to the river.**
-  **The Task Force is the only regional group in Washington and Idaho that is working to make measurable progress towards reducing PCBs, dioxins, and their sources.**
-  **We expect this innovative approach to be faster and less expensive than the traditional method for improving the river.**

## Ongoing Activities:

- **Gathering and analyzing existing and future data to better characterize the amounts, sources, and locations of PCBs and dioxins in the environment and the Spokane River.**
- **Preparing recommendations for controlling and reducing these sources of toxics in the Spokane River.**
- **Monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of toxics reduction measures.**



- The Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (Task Force) is established and an initial funding commitment is provided for the first year of administration.
- The Task Force develops a Conceptual Model to help identify possible sources and sinks of PCBs to the Spokane River watershed.
- The Ruckleshaus Center is selected to act as a facilitator as the Task Force organizes and prepares its Toxics Reduction Work Plan.
- The Task Force convenes its first technical workshop. Local and national experts present on the “state of the knowledge” with respect to PCBs in the environment.
- The Task Force adopts the First Draft Work Plan and issues a Request for Proposal for a Technical Consultant.
- Funding Concepts are prepared that help the Task Force coordinate and support consistent and predictable funding needed to accomplish its vision and goals.
- LimnoTech is selected to serve as the independent Technical Consultant. LimnoTech conducts a gap analysis of available Spokane River data; refines the Conceptual Model for further study of the Spokane River; and develops a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), Sampling Analysis Plan (SAP), and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).



- Task Force members are working actively with EPA on Toxic Substance Control Act reform to regulate inadvertent PCBs.
- Task Force meets with members of the Center for Environmental Research, Education, and Outreach (CEREO) at WSU, identify potential research projects, and participates in the WSU Undergraduate Multidisciplinary Research Challenge titled “Saving the Spokane River”.
- The Task Force holds its second technical workshop. The workshop addresses experiences from other watersheds, source identification and reduction, QAPP and data management, modeling, and monitoring plans for loading assessment.



- The Department of Ecology Urban Waters team conducts confidence sampling on the river in May of 2014 and Ecology’s Environmental Assessment Program assists with the 2014 synoptic sampling events, carp reduction project, and evaluation of groundwater wells.
- The City of Spokane and the SRRTTF partner to request funding for implementation of the City’s Integrated Clean Water Plan.
- The Task Force selects LimnoTech as the project manager, AXYS Analytical and SVL Analytical laboratories for processing samples, and Gravity Consulting to perform in-river sampling during low river flow. Synoptic sampling includes ambient and in-river sampling completed from August 12<sup>th</sup> to August 25<sup>th</sup>.
- The Task Force opens up its MOA for edits and the addition of new signatories.
- Task Force members contribute to the development of Ecology’s PCB Chemical Action Plan (CAP).
- Individual partners perform additional PCB related activities.



- The Task Force holds its third technical workshop in January 2015. The workshop provided a forum for the open exchange of information on the results of the 2014 confidence and synoptic sampling events and the established the next steps the Task Force would take in 2015 to further identify and quantify source contributions of PCBs to the Spokane River and identify appropriate source reduction efforts.
- Task Force members actively engage legislators on Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) reform to regulate inadvertent PCBs.
- The Task Force has undertaken a number of pilot projects to identify and reduce sources of toxics to the Spokane River including: hydro-seed analysis and reformulation, catch-basin waste facility analysis and mitigation, and fish hatchery assessment and hatchery fish meal analysis.
- The Task Force conducts water sampling to repeat the semi-quantitative mass balance assessment conducted using the 2014 Synoptic Survey data, focusing on the section of river between Barker Road and the Spokane USGS Gage.



- The Task Force holds its fourth technical workshop in February 2016. The workshop provided a forum for the open exchange of information on the results of the 2014 and 2015 PCB sampling events, assisted the Task Force in the development of a common understanding of NEXT STEPS needed to identify appropriate source control actions, manage, access and use PCB data, fill in data gaps, and develop the SRRTTF Comprehensive Plan for achieving water quality standards.
- The Task Force prepares for monthly water quality sampling to determine the seasonal variability in PCB concentrations in the Spokane River.
- The Washington Department of Ecology concluded that the “Task force has made measurable progress towards meeting applicable water quality standards...” (WA Dept. of Ecology (2016, March 15) Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force. Evaluation of Measurable Progress. Evaluation Period: January 1, 2012-December 31, 2014).

