



SPOKANE RIVER REGIONAL TOXICS TASK FORCE

Members of the Community, Stewards of the River



Our Vision: The Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force will work collaboratively to characterize the sources of toxics in the Spokane River and identify and implement appropriate actions needed to make measurable progress towards meeting applicable water quality standards for the State of Washington, State of Idaho, and The Spokane Tribe of Indians and in the interests of public and environmental health.



Wastewater Digester



A Technician samples road deicer for PCBs

Direct-to-Implementation Approach to Toxics Reductions

To accelerate clean-up actions, interest groups and governments in the Spokane River basin are collaborating on a unique and innovative approach to reducing PCBs and dioxins in the River: a direct-to-implementation strategy that establishes a Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (Toxics Task Force) to identify and reduce PCBs and dioxins at their source in the watershed.

The Toxics Task Force's current mission is to tackle the most difficult problem in the Spokane River, PCBs. This toxic chemical can be found in nearly every water body around the world.

The Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

The Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force (SRRTTF) was formed in 2012. In addition to the entities represented by the logos above, other participants include Post Falls and Hayden in Idaho. The Washington Department of Ecology, The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency serve in advisory roles for the SRRTTF and are very supportive of this innovative and cooperative approach as a direct means of improving the quality of our waters.

The SRRTTF has worked hard to identify sources of PCBs that continue to enter the watershed and has developed a plan to address these sources. To develop the plan, the Task Force collected water quality data to better understand sources and pathways of PCBs in the Spokane River system.

- 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 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, which involves a lengthy process of studies and negotiations prior to any cleanup activity.

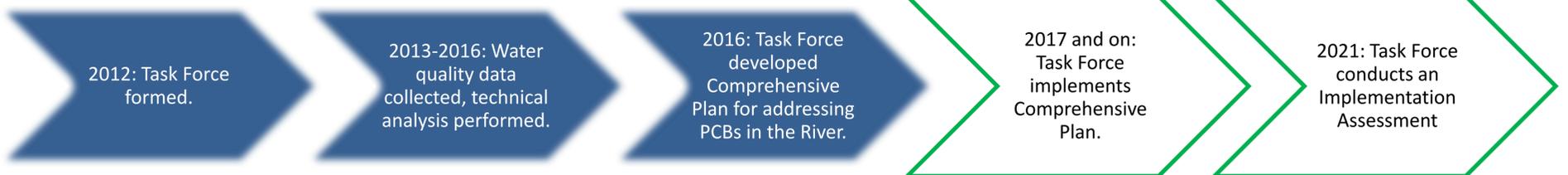
“We fully recognize these efforts will need to continue for years to come given the ubiquitous nature of PCBs. We are convinced that a collaborative effort is the best approach to environmental improvement and is necessary to keep our river healthy and clean”

(Toxics Task Force, Op Ed Spokesman Review).



The Spokane River

Timeline of Work



On-going PCB reductions of known sources: catch basin cleaning, street sweeping, treatment facility upgrades, community education, etc.

