

Characterization of PCBs in the Spokane County Regional Water Reclamation Facility

Discussion of 2019 Annual Report Findings Inadvertently Produced PCBs Workshop 8 October 2019



Spokane County Regional Water Reclamation Facility (SCRWRF)

- Class IV Facility
- Capacity of 8 MGD
- North Valley Interceptor (NVI)
 - 13,000 acres
 - 2.2 MGD
- Spokane Valley Interceptor (SVI)
 - 24,000 acres
 - 5.7 MGD



What we know regarding PCB sources PCBs appear to be caused by many small distributed sources

Aroclors and Aroclor mixtures appear to be a main source of PCBs

PCB-11 appears to be a main PCB source not associated with Aroclors

What did we learn?

PCB sources have not changed over time

Sources differ among land uses

PCB-11 appears to be decreasing in the influent

Effluent is difficult to assess

Sources of PCBs have not changed over time

SVI Homolog Time Series and Average Homolog Composition



NVI Homolog Time Series and Average Homolog Composition



Positive Matrix Factorization (PMF)



Congeners associated with inadvertent PCBs tend to display poor model fit (R² < 0.75)in the PMF analysis

Sources may be different than identified, but then sources are unknown and likely from multiple sources

Examples:

- PCBs 44 and 45 partial dechlorination
- PCBs 44, 45 and 68 silicone
- PCBs 206, 208 and 209 titanium dioxide
- PCBs 206, 207, 208, and 209 blue/green dyes

No evidence of other significant non-Aroclor sources outside of PCB-11

Sources differ among Land Uses

2019 PMF Analysis by Land Use



PCB-11 appears to be decreasing in the influent

Annual Average Total Influent PCB-11



Significant temporal effect [F(5, 30) = 2.769, p = 0.036]

Influent PCB-11 Time Series



What does this mean for the effluent?

Effluent Average Homolog and 2019 Factor Composition

Average Homolog

Composition

Effluent is primarily dissolved phase and low molecular weight PCBs.



2019 PMF Analysis



Effluent Homolog Time Series



Effluent-only PMF Analysis



PCB-11 in the Effluent

Effluent PCB-11 shows no apparent pattern - greatly affected by blank correction.

PCB-11 removal efficiency ~98.9%



Annual Average PCB-11



Statistics

Number of sample pairs	25
Mean	99.65
Standard deviation	0.26
Minimum	98.74
Maximum	99.92

Questions?

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