

PMF Work Group call summary
Zoom Meeting – 9/16/2020

Attendees:

Mike Hermanson – Spokane County
Dave Dilks – LimnoTech
Brandee Era-Miller – Ecology
Joel Breems – Avista
Ben Floyd – White Bluffs Consulting
Lisa Rodenburg – Rutgers University/consultant
Mike Anderson – City of Coeur d’Alene
Lisa Dally-Wilson – SRSP
Jeff Donovan – City of Spokane
Amy Sumner – Spokane County
Rob Lindsay – Spokane County

Call purpose:

Discuss preliminary results from municipal effluent analysis project, and development of a scope of work for a holistic analysis of PMF results of Spokane River watershed PCB data.

Call summary:

Lisa Rodenburg provided an overview of the preliminary results of the municipal effluent analysis she is currently working on for the SRRTTF. One issue she is working through is that the laboratories used by the dischargers do not all use the same column in the PCB analysis. This results in differences in which congeners coelute, which requires further combination of congeners into a single group for the PMF analysis. She is also having problems with the data from Liberty Lake. The PMF solution for the Liberty Lake dataset is not stable and is not returning results similar to any other discharger. At this point she will likely need to address that data set separately from the other dischargers. Lisa also indicated that the analysis has identified a factor that is likely related to silicone. The group discussed whether this indicated that the use of silicone tubing in the peristaltic pump of the automated samplers has contaminated the samples or whether this indicates the use of silicone by sewer customers is a source. It was suggested that an evaluation of the equipment blanks vs. the method blanks could provide some information. The group discussed potential analysis of the municipal effluent data including a comparison of data from the same discharger before and after the installation of membrane filtration, a comparison of data from facilities that do not have membrane filtration vs those that do, and a comparison of influent and effluent. Lisa noted that the current scope did not include analysis of influent data, but that it could be added to the current scope. It was requested that she provide an estimate for consideration by the SRRTTF

The next topic was a discussion of a scope of work for the holistic analysis of various PCB datasets (surface water, groundwater, fish tissue, biofilm, etc.) for the Spokane River. Lisa reported to the group that she has done some preliminary work related to this task. As an expert witness in the Monsanto

litigation she analyzed many of the PCB data sets associated with the Spokane River, and prepared a report with the results. In the fall of 2019 she was in the process of preparing a report based on the same analysis for the SRRTTF with funding under an existing contract. Due to her involvement in the Monsanto litigation she was not able to provide any of the analysis to the SRRTTF. Now that a settlement has been reached in the Monsanto litigation she is able to provide that work to the SRRTTF. The group decided that this report would be a good starting place for the holistic analysis, and that the group should review the work completed to date and then determine if there are additional datasets or analysis that should be included for the holistic analysis project. Lisa suggested that rather than finalize the current draft report it should be considered a starting point so that only one holistic analysis report be developed rather than multiple that include certain data sets but not others. Lisa Dally-Wilson suggested that it would be beneficial to integrate the discussion of the PMF analysis with other technical topics being discussed by the Tech Track Workgroup.

Action Items/Next Steps:

- Lisa Rodenburg will provide a scope for a change order to the municipal data PMF analysis to include analysis of influent data. A change order can be considered at the October SRRTTF meeting.
- The first iteration of the PMF holistic analysis report will be distributed. The cost to prepare that report will be paid from an existing contract.
- A discussion of the next steps and scope for additional work on the holistic analysis will be part of the next Tech Track Workgroup meeting.