



**Spokane River Regional Toxics Task
Force (SRRTTF) State Legislator
Meetings on Monsanto Settlement
December 2020**

Discussion Outline

- Introductions
- Task Force background
- Short and long-term objectives
- Monsanto Settlement information and SRRTTF Request
- Q & A/Legislator Guidance

Toxics Task Force (SRRTTF)

Membership and MOA

- Spokane County
- Liberty Lake Sewer and Water District
- Inland Empire Paper Company
- Kaiser Aluminum
- City of Spokane
- Spokane Regional Health District
- Washington State Department of Health
- The Lands Council
- Kootenai Environmental Alliance
- Idaho Municipal Dischargers
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Advisory and Other Participating Agencies

- Washington State Department of Ecology
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
- Avista
- Washington Department of Transportation

SRRTTF Purpose

- Work collaboratively to:
 - Identify and reduce PCBs and other toxics in the Spokane River
 - Implement appropriate actions needed to make measurable progress towards meeting applicable state (WA and ID) and Spokane Tribe water quality standards
- Task Force - approved 2016 comprehensive plan to accomplish purposes
- Plan identifies 29 control actions
- Currently working to implement plan

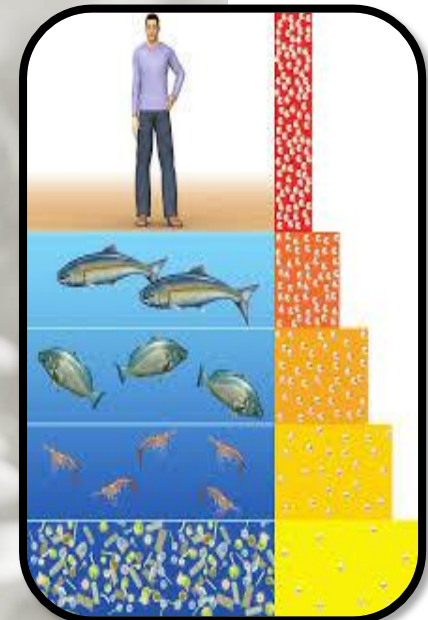
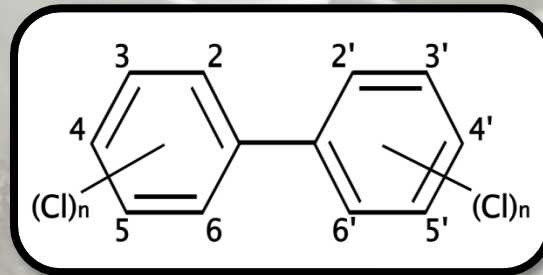
PCBs and the Spokane River

What are PCBs?

- Legacy (banned in 1977)
- Inadvertent

Characteristics:

- 209 congeners
- Persistent
- Many sources and pathways
- Bioaccumulate
- Toxic



The Spokane River has some of the highest levels of PCBs in fish in Washington state

Progress is Being Made

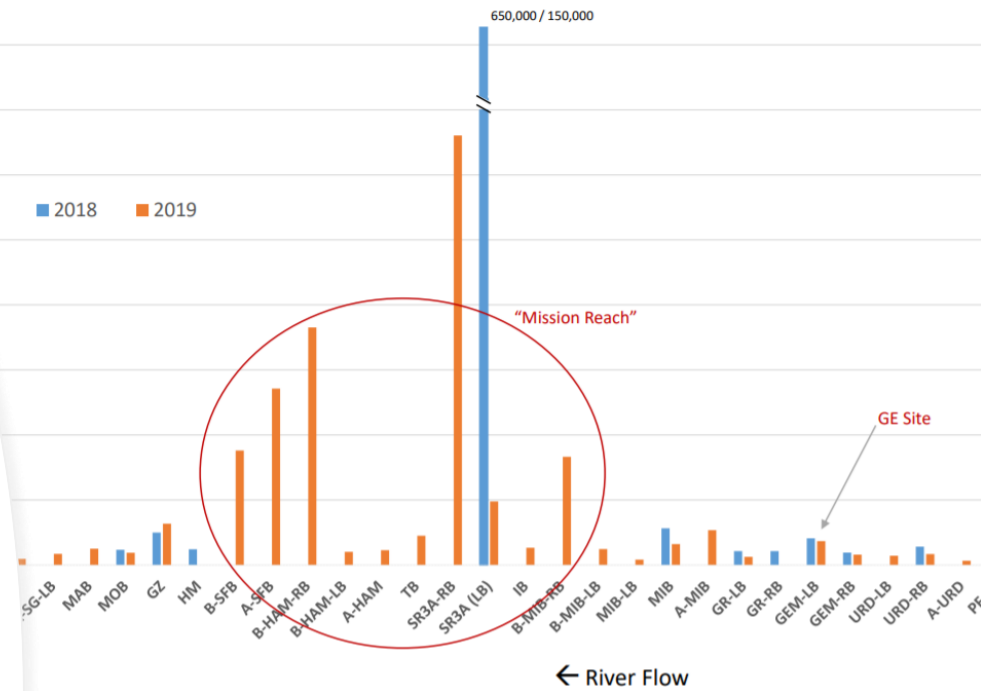
- 2014 Ecology Report
 - SRRTTF making measurable progress in identifying, reducing and controlling PCBs and related toxic chemicals in the Spokane River.
 - Removed 265 pounds of PCBs from soil, wastewater and stormwater
 - Eliminated the potential for another 18 pounds from reaching the river
- Additional sources being identified and addressed
- The current and past success made possible through state funding matched with local resources
- Continued SRRTTF implementation of additional control actions, depends upon additional funding

Some Goals and Objectives

- Establish long-term effectiveness monitoring
- Identify and investigate “hot spots”
- Better define non-point source loads during high flows
- Continue education and outreach efforts

Example: Mission Reach Contamination

- Biofilm PCB concentrations measured by Ecology are elevated in the Mission Reach



WA State Monsanto Settlement

- Settlement Announced June 2020*
- \$95 Million Settlement
 - \$2 Million State Legal Costs
 - \$21 Million for Outside Counsel
 - \$10 Million to Attorney General office to support environmental protection work
 - **\$60 Million to State General Fund**

*Source: Associated Press, June 24, 2020

Settlement Agreement – \$60 Million to General Fund

- We support Attorney General Ferguson's recommendation: ***Use funding to clean up PCB contamination and environmental damage from Monsanto's actions in the State***
- One Possible Approach - Establish WA State PCBs Trust Fund or other type of fund dedicated to this purpose

Allows Spokane Basin (SRRTTF) and other areas in the state impacted by PCBs continued resources to support:

- PCB source identification
- PCB removal
- Enhanced long-term monitoring
- Education and outreach
- Collaboration and cooperation with other PCB impacted communities across the State and Nation



Questions and Answers/Discussion

What Guidance Do You Have for Us?