

TSCA/iPCB/Green Chemistry Workgroup Meeting Summary
December 1, 2021

TSCA Members in Attendance

Scott Braithwaite (ACA)	Craig Manahan, Craig (ECY)
David Darling (ACA)	Robert Mott (Mott Consulting, LLC)
Jeff Donovan (City of Spokane)	Cheryl Niemi (Ecology)
Ben Floyd (White Bluffs Consulting)	Cadie Olson (City of Spokane)
Lauren Heine (NW Green Chemistry)	Amanda Parrish (the Lands Council)
Gary Jones (Printing United Alliance)	Karl Rains (Ecology)
Doug Krapas (IEP)	Lisa Dally Wilson (Dally Environmental)

Guests: Rob Lindsay, Spokane County and President of SRRTTF ACE

General:

1. Settlement requiring EPA to complete a PCB TMDL for the Spokane River:

- a. On November 30, 2021 EPA reached an agreement with the Sierra Club and the Spokane Tribe of Indians that requires EPA to complete a TMDL for PCBs in the Spokane River by September 30, 2024.
- b. Ecology is evaluating the implications of this decision and how to respond, however Karl Rains provided the following Ecology perspective on this agreement:
 - i. Should be status quo for the SRRTTF in continue its mission since the TMDL will be nearly three years down the road
 - ii. There may be a potential for the SRRTTF to shift its operations and focus
 - iii. EPA typically develops only the TMDL, but not the implementation plan. Karl assumes that EPA will work with Ecology to develop the TMDL considering that Ecology is the delegated authority responsible for its implementation.
 - iv. Ecology is still evaluating how this might affect the NPDES permits currently being developed.

iPCB/TSCA Agenda Items Discussed:

1. WA HHWQC Lawsuits: Action: D. Krapas and others (i.e.: Ecology) to provide any updates on the following lawsuits

- a. No updates since the prior meeting minutes

2. Update on PCB EPA Method 1668 study of TiO₂ Pigments:

- a. No representatives were available from the ACC or TDSC to provide any updates at the time of this meeting, however D. Krapas received the following email message from Jay West of the American Chemistry Council on December 15, 2021:

Hi Doug,

My apologies for the delay. Thank you and other task force members for the follow-up questions. All TiO₂ samples tested in the study were taken from production facilities in North America and produced by the chloride process. We did not collect information on market volume/share of the products tested. The questions about production technologies seek the disclosure of information proprietary to individual companies that we cannot

discuss or provide as a trade association. Finally, the slides presented on September 22 are our final report to the task force.

The results confirm that TiO₂ cannot be considered a significant contributor to PCBs in the Spokane River watershed, particularly when put in the context of actual products and compared to PCB levels in actual products measured by the Washington Department of Ecology (2016). Our results are consistent with those of Hu and Hornbuckle (2010), who used a modified EPA 1668A (an earlier version) and found no PCBs in inorganic pigments, including TiO₂.

Regards,

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- b. The iPCB/TSCA workgroup will continue to discuss the implications of the study on the Spokane River watershed and determine any next steps. L. Heine suggested a statistical analysis of the data provided. **Action Item: iPCB/TSCA workgroup to consider next steps**
- 3. Education/Outreach: Action: The Lands Council (TLC) is to provide updates on the iPCB National Outreach Campaign project:**
- a. Key SRRTTF members (D. Krapas, C. Updegrove, A. Parrish, V. Barthels, and K. Rains) met with industry representatives (G. Jones & D. Darling) on November 15th to discuss industry comments to the iPCB National Outreach Campaign website. The results of these discussions and subsequent revisions to the website are summarized in the attached response to industry comments ([IPCBFreeWebPageOutstandingComments_SRRTTF EO Response.xlsx](#)) and suggested edits to the Pathways and Sources web page ([Primary Secondary Sources.docx](#)).
 - b. TLC will present the final draft of the iPCB National Campaign website to the SRRTTF Advisory Committee for approval at the December meeting. **Action: TLC to present the draft iPCB National Outreach Campaign website to the SRRTTF for approval at the December meeting:**
- 4. 2021 Proposed Projects:**
- a. **PCB-11: Sources and Pathways to the Spokane River:** the TTWG workgroup met on November 3rd and determined that projects to identify unknown sources of PCB-11 to the Spokane River watershed is not a priority project. This is due to a reevaluation by D. Dilks working with L. Rodenburg on blank correcting the data that determined there is likely not a significant contribution of PCB-11 from unknown sources. However, this work will be discussed at the data synthesis workshop in early 2022. **Action Item: L.D. Wilson to provide updates on the progress of the TTWG on this project**

b. **Lower Procurement Limits Campaign, Phase 1: 3rd Party Research Effort:** The SRRTTF approved the proposal from Braided River Consulting at the October meeting. D. Krapas has a kick-off meeting scheduled with Braided River on December 2nd. **Action Item: D. Krapas to provide updates with Braided River Consulting at the iPCB/TSCA monthly meetings.**

c. **Develop Industry List of Pigments: Chlorinated vs. Non-Chlorinated:** A selection committee comprised of a cross-section of SRRTTF representatives (D. Krapas, D. Dilks, C. Niemi, V. Barthels, J. Donovan) performed an evaluation of the bidders for this project (Gonzaga, ChemFORWARD, Non-Toxic Certified). The results from this evaluation are summarized in the attached **Cumulative Evaluation Results. pdf** with ChemFORWARD being the highest ranked bidder. Recommendations from the selection committee will be provided to the SRRTTF for approval at the December meeting. **Action: D. Krapas to present the results of the selection committee to the SRRTTF for approval at the December meeting**

5. **Safer Products WA: Action Ecology, C. Niemi and C. Manahan to continue updates**

The overall website for SPWA is below. This is the place to start for those interested in SPWA. People can sign up for the listserv at this website.

<https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-toxic-chemicals/Safer-products>

The EZ View site below is for those who are interested in following the process. People can sign up for the listserv at this website.

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias_1962/37555/safer_products_for_washington.aspx

- a. C. Niemi reported that Ecology is required to provide a draft report to the legislature by June 1, 2022. This report will include regulatory action determinations for the current priority chemical classes, including PCBs in paints and printing inks.
- b. Ecology completed a draft report on regulatory determinations on November 17 and will be holding a public comment period from Nov. 17 - Jan. 28, 2022
- c. A public webinar will be held sometime in early January, 2022
- d. G. Jones asked when the study on inks conducted by Ecology will be released as it is not possible to provide a review and comments without this information. C. Niemi responded that the QAPP has been posted and that she will work with EAP to get this posted ASAP. G. Jones asked if the comment period can be extended due to this lack of information and C. Niemi responded that yes an extension to that specific section is possible and that this request should be made C. Niemi or Darin Rice.

6. **TTWG and Funding Groups: Action: L. Dally Wilson & K. Rains to provide updates**

- a. L. D. Wilson reported that a TTWG meeting has been scheduled for November 3rd from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. Items of interest to the iPCB/TSCA workgroup include discussions on Phase 2 of the PCB-11 Sources and Pathways to the Spokane River and revisiting the Comprehensive Plan.

7. **EPA research opportunities: Action: EPA updates by M. Mullin & L. Edmondson**

- a. **iPCB Key words for Scholarly Articles:** M. Mullin had no updates on this project, but committed to following up on the status. **Action: M. Mullin to follow-up on status**
- b. **Children's Product Testing:** See the summary for the presentation by EPA in the October, 2021 meeting minutes

c. **NTP risk study of various Congeners and Aroclors:**

- D. Krapas received a letter of response from EPA dated November 15, 2021 (EPA Letter to SRRTTF_111521.pdf) to the letter sent by the SRRTTF inquiring about the status of the NTP work.
- The EPA letter provides an update on the work being done with PCB-11, but is silent on the other Aroclors and congeners. The iPCB/TSCA workgroup should discuss the necessity to send a follow-up letter inquiring about this other work. **Action: D. Krapas to keep this discussion on the agenda for future meetings.**