

Initial Review of Historical Documents to Support Spokane River PCB Source Assessment

Spokane River Toxics Task Force Meeting
March 23, 2022

Background

- Task Force's objective is to identify and eliminate sources of PCBs to the Spokane River
 - Review of historical land uses is one means to identify potential sources
- Prior to embarking on detailed historical review, look at three documents
 - 1993-94 Investigation of PCBs in the Spokane River
 - Spokane River PCB and Source Survey, August 2000
 - Spokane River PCB Source Assessment, 2003-2007

1993-94 Investigation of PCBs in the Spokane River

- Identified two areas which were concluded to be current or historical PCBs sources not previously studied by the Task Force:
 - Spokane Industrial Park
 - An area adjacent to the old Inland Metals site
 - Subsequently linked to the Schade Brewery site



1993-94 Investigation of PCBs in the Spokane River

Inland Metals site

- Scrap metals salvaging operation located in the Mission Reach
 - PCB-contaminated soils removed, site designated as requiring No Further Action
- Subsequent soil sampling indicated that residual contamination remained along the shoreline
 - appeared to have been a drainage area from the old Inland Metals site
- All or part of the contaminated shoreline area was under water during high flow
 - mobilization of shoreline PCBs to the river during high flow is a potential source of PCBs that has not been considered by the Task Force

1993-94 Investigation of PCBs in the Spokane River

Spokane Industrial Park

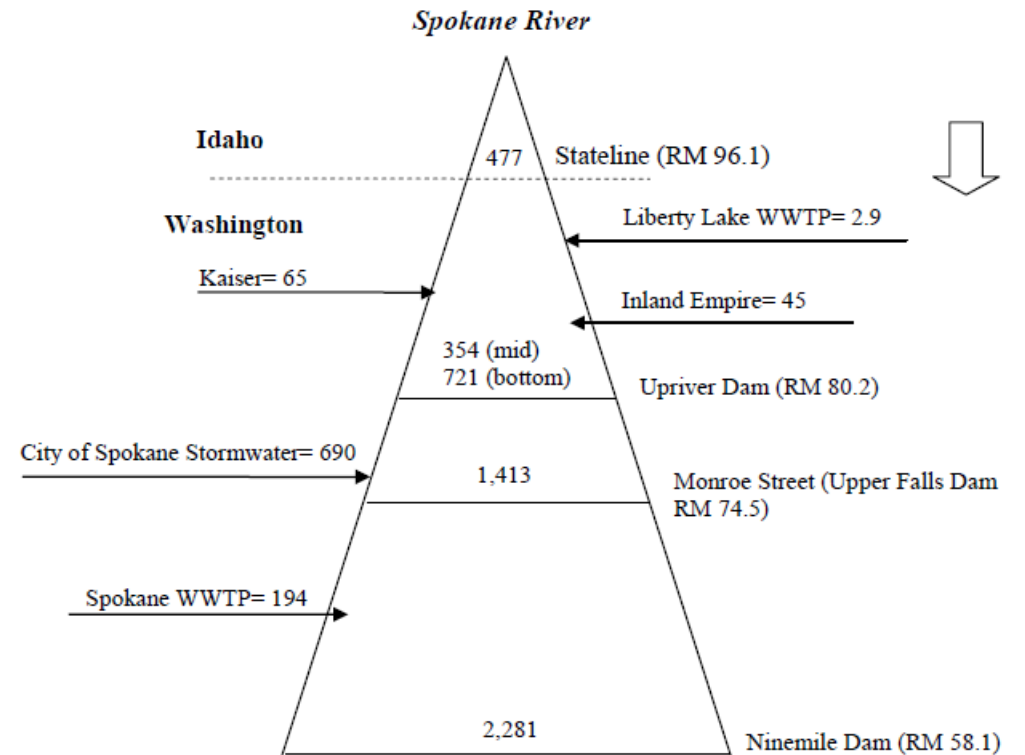
- The Spokane Industrial Park discharged treated wastewater to the Spokane River via the Pentzer WWTP until 1993
 - High concentrations of PCB-1248 (11,000 - 12,000 ppb) were found in the WWTP's inactive oxidation ditch
 - The WWTP facility site has since been remediated and has been designated as requiring No Further Action
 - Indicates presence of PCB use in the Spokane Industrial Park
 - Other PCB contamination sites have been identified (and remediated) in the area of the Park

Spokane River PCB and Source Survey, August 2000

- Ecology sampled the Spokane River upstream and downstream of Kaiser Trentwood, plus wastewater discharge
 - Source already investigated by the Task Force
 - Inconclusive laboratory results

Spokane River PCB Source Assessment, 2003-2007

- Assessment of PCB sources from the State Line to Long Lake Dam
 - The sources considered largely match those already being considered by the Task Force
- Annual-scale mass balance assessment
 - Compared mass load of PCBs in the river to the cumulative loading from external sources
 - External loads between the State Line and Nine Mile Dam explain only 60% of the total instream load observed at Nine Mile Dam
 - Implies presence of unexplained sources
 - May be monitoring artifact



Memo Status

- Draft distributed for TTWG review March 10
 - Discussed at March 15 TTWG meeting
 - Comments due March 31
 - TTWG approval expected at April 20 meeting
- Submit to Task Force on April 20 for approval at April 27 meeting