

Measurable Progress Evaluation

Jan 2015 – Dec 2021
Preliminary Results

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Accountability

Measurable Progress reflects the success of the SRRTTF towards reducing PCBs in the Spokane River and towards achieving applicable WQ criteria for PCBs



Definition Review

Measurable Progress evaluates the status of three key metrics

Inputs: organizing activities

Outputs: activities and work products

Outcomes: progress toward achievement of the applicable WQ criteria for PCBs in the Spokane River

- Achievement of the applicable WQ standards
- Achievement of health standards
- Measured reductions of toxics to or in the Spokane River



Content of the Review

- Use **existing data** from SRRTTF, permittees, and other members of the SRRTTF
- Examples
 - SRRTTF minutes, attendance sheets, points of decision, etc.
 - SRRTTF work plans, status reports, outreach activities, etc.
 - Toxics Management Plan activities/actions, analytical data, etc.
 - Other studies/data completed under an approved QAPP



Assessment

Three fundamental criteria

- 1) Is the SRRTTF **still working together** in a collaborative manner?
- 2) Is the SRRTTF **still moving forward** on activities that will lead to:
 - Identification of sources of PCBs
 - Reduction of PCBs in the river (water column and/or fish tissue)
 - Development and implementation of BMPs
- 3) Is there **environmental evidence** that progress is being made towards achieving applicable WQ criteria for PCBs in the Spokane River?



Demonstration of Measurable Progress

The following conditions, **when accompanied by defensible data**, will be considered a demonstration of measurable progress:

- Compliance with applicable WQ standards for PCBs
- Evidence that the SRRTTF is functioning in a collaborative manner and continuing to engage in activities that will lead to the reduction of PCBs in the river
- Development and **implementation** of a comprehensive Spokane River toxics reduction plan
- Actions that eliminate, remove, or isolate PCBs from the river or watershed
- Environmental trends showing a decrease of PCBs in the river, sediments, or biota



Preliminary Results

Fundamental criteria

1) Is the SRRTTF **still working together** in a collaborative manner?

Short Answer: Yes...

- Hundreds of meetings decisions and actions.
- Steady and significant increase in funding

But...

- Membership/Participation ↑↓
- Unable to Revise the MOA



Preliminary Results (cont.)

Fundamental criteria

2) Progress on activities?

Short Answer: Most certainly

- Completed Comprehensive Plan!!
- Implemented BMPs within discharger operations/service areas
- Conducted numerous studies to address data gaps and identify sources
- Held workshops and funded outreach to educate community
- Completed upgrades achieving > 98% PCB removal efficiency



Preliminary Results (cont.)

Fundamental criteria

3) Is there **environmental evidence** that progress is being made towards achieving applicable WQ criteria for PCBs in the Spokane River?

Short Answer: Yes

- Central Tendency of total PCB concentrations < 170 ppq
- WWTP modifications decrease release of PCBs to the river
 - Installation of NLT
 - CSO storage facilities completed by the City of Spokane
- EPA Time-Critical Removal Action at former Kaiser Smelter Site



Preliminary Conclusions

The SRRTTF made measurable progress towards meeting applicable WQS!!

- Inputs
 - Held regular meetings and largely worked collaboratively
 - Secured funding for the work (\$2M this biennium)
- Outputs
 - Conducted Studies and produced reports
 - Increased regional understanding of toxics in the Spokane River through workshops (4) & funding education and outreach initiatives
- Outcomes
 - Developed state of the art procedures & refined analytical protocols for low level analysis
 - Installed best available treatment technology



Next Steps

July 2022 – Ecology will distribute a final draft Evaluation of Measurable Progress for SRRTTF review

August 2022 – Discuss/Q&A at SRRTTF monthly meeting

September 2022 – Ecology will issue the Final report

