

**SRRTTF - Tech Track Work Group
October 18, 2022 Meeting Summary**

Meeting Materials–

1. Powerpoint presentations – see posted TTWG meeting materials
2. Spokane River Historical PCB Source Review Memo
3. Scope of Work – Groundwater and Surface Water Fingerprinting of PCB Data at GE Site (10/18/22 draft)

ACTION ITEMS IN RED

Attendees

Brandee Era-Miller, WA Dept of Ecology
Dave Dilks, LimnoTech
Vikki Barthels, Spokane County Health
Lisa Dally Wilson, Dally Environmental
Alyssa Gersdorf, City of Post Falls
Jeff Donovan, City of Spokane
Bill Fees, WA Dept of Ecology
Holly Davies, WA Dept of Health
Scott Wade, LimnoTech
Monica Ott, Avista

Jeremy Schmidt, WA Dept of Ecology
Bryce Robbert, Avista
Ken Windram, HARSB
Ben Floyd, White Bluffs
Brian Nickel, USEPA
Annie Simpson, WA Dept of Ecology
Amy Sumner, Spokane County
Rob Lindsay, Spokane County
Kris Holm

Summary Notes

NEXT TTWG MEETING – November 22, 10 am – noon, Pacific Time

I. Data Loggers Near Hamilton Bridge Site – Approach for Data Acquisition

Amy Sumner gave an overview of the situation with the data loggers Spokane County installed in five monitoring wells and a staff gauge in the vicinity of Hamilton Street bridge. Data loggers have been active since installation in November of 2021 with the exception of the river gauge which was removed in late August and reinstalled in early October (due to possible damage from being submerged during high spring flows). Landau Associates has been collecting manual river stage measurements during that time that should fill the data gap. Site access will expire on April 30th of 2023. Given the PCB TMDL and the Task Force transition, and staff shortage, Spokane County is no longer volunteering as much time on Task Force related projects. **Amy has well data prepared through March and river data prepared through August and will provide those data to Dave Dilks.** The TTWG discussed how to best move forward with data collection and analysis for the purposes of the Task

Force. Dave will send Hamilton well QAPP and overview of semi-annual river stage and groundwater elevation data from Hamilton Street as presented at the 1/31/2022 TF meeting. Send to White Bluffs, LDW and Annie Simpson.

A decision was tentatively made to download the data from the loggers (but not remove the loggers) by the end of the year (late November or early December), subject to Dave' review. If the review indicates there's not a need for additional data for the first quarter of 2023, prior to data logger removal, then the County will remove the data and data loggers from the well during their late year visit in 2022.

It was suggested that the Task Force contract it's Technical Consultant, LimnoTech, to process the data from the data loggers and analyze the data to understand groundwater flow direction over the course of a year in this area. This analysis could be used to further the "next steps" of the historical PCB source review, and will provide the TF a better understanding of PCB sites where the groundwater flow direction is in the direction of the Spokane River at certain times of year. LimnoTech will develop a scope and budget to do this work, for review at the November TTWG meeting.

II. Draft: Spokane River Historical PCB Source Review Memo

Discuss Review Comments, What do we do with high priority sites, policy implications

The TTWG discussed the memo and made a number of comments and requested additions, including:

- Potential for PCB use is not necessarily potential for PCB release. Add qualifiers addressing terminology and clarify this is one approach to ranking to narrow down the number of sites, but is not, in itself, an indication of PCB contamination from a site. First pass.
- For the highest ranked sites, add a table with a column for site status (eg., federal or state cleanup site (eg., MTCA, Superfund), closed, voluntary cleanup, no known action, etc.) It was noted that voluntary clean-up sites don't have as high a bar for 're-opening' as a site with a consent decree.
- Pull information from March 2019 TF meeting notes or ppt and add to this to the memo – presentation described information needed for regulatory agencies to take action . This information will help to guide next steps after this first tier screening level analysis .

Next Steps (Consider information from March 2019 TF meeting when evaluating next steps)

- Tier 'Next Steps'
 - Tier 1A
 - Comparison of fingerprints between high ranking sites and nearest river hot spot
 - Review of groundwater elevation to better assess connectivity to river (using Hamilton Site data discussed above)
 - Deeper dive into site history and characteristics

- Tier B
 - Targeted monitoring – consider Jasper visit or take samples

REPORT – Comment period extended to 10/21. LimnoTech will integrate all comments received both at the meeting and by individuals and provide a final draft Memo with prioritization results to the TTWG for final review on November 4th. Final review discussion and approval at November 22 TTWG meeting with the intention of recommending to TF for approval on November 30..

III. Project Updates - Field work

Recently completed and ongoing monitoring

1. Water Column/Trend Assessment
 - SPMDs deployed August 30
 - Retrieved September 28
2. Fish sampling this next month

IV. LimnoTech Contracts

No need (yet) to consider a new Task Order for project development. Can still cover under discretionary funding.

Groundwater and Surface water fingerprinting of PCB data at GE site. Formal scope and budget to go to the TF next week. 45K

V. Future Project Topics (deferred until November 22nd TTWG Meeting)

-Compilation of Groundwater Monitoring Well Data to Assess Connectivity to Spokane River (need spatial scope – determine at November TTWG meeting, Add Hamilton Street Bridge data to this task).

-Canine Detection Work – wait until next steps for Historic PCB Site Assessment work is ready to scope.

VI. Thoughts on Task Force Transition

Annie Simpson, ECY, requested input from the TTWG regarding thoughts on Task Force transition. Some comments focused on the technical nature of the work being done and how/if that work will be integrated (both during development of the PCB TMDL and during it's implementation) moving forward. A number of TTWG members discussed the importance of the work the TTWG was doing and supported the continuation of the technical work and oversight during both phases of the TMDL process (development and implementation). There were questions regarding the TTWG (or similar group) and what potential role the group would play both pre- TMDL and during implementation. There were also questions about the role of the TTWG or similar group in a community or stakeholder process.

VII. Next Month

- Highest Priority – Future Projects: Further discussion and development of new projects including:
 - Compilation of groundwater monitoring well data to assess connectivity to SR
 - Calculation of PCB loading from GE site based on 1668 gw and water level data
 - Additional Canine Detection work
- Input from EPA Superfund group on re-opening sites

ZOOM CHAT NOTES:

10:07:10 From Annie to Everyone:

I won't be able to make that Tuesday meeting.

10:07:20 From Monica Ott to Everyone:

me either

10:07:35 From Bill Fees to Everyone:

Me either

10:43:59 From Brian Nickel to Everyone:

Seems like current property records (e.g., from the county assessor) would make more sense than Sanborn maps for PCB-era buildings that are still around.

10:54:49 From Brian Nickel to Lisa Dally Wilson(Direct Message):

I will drop off at 11 and will be back around 11:20.

10:56:38 From Brian Nickel to Lisa Dally Wilson(Direct Message):

I'm still here for the moment.

11:06:27 From Ben Floyd to Everyone:

Why wouldn't we just share this information/summarize our findings and leave it up to the regulators to determine how to use the information. Then members of the Task Force point to this and make sure the potential PCB inputs are accounted for in the TMDL. This may become our default for all the technical work ongoing...

11:06:55 From Team Robbert to Everyone:

Interesting idea Ben

11:07:48 From Team Robbert to Everyone:

I'll provide redline comments, but I'm scheduled until Thursday-Friday

11:08:17 From Alyssa Gersdorf - City of Post Falls to Everyone:

I like Ben's idea

11:26:57 From Jeremy Schmidt to Everyone:

Thanks Rob. Ecology is thoroughly confident in the work that shows groundwater from Kaiser as a source of PCB to the river. We are working toward cleanup at that site as expeditiously as possible.

11:32:28 From Rob Lindsay - Spokane County to Everyone:

Thank you, Jeremy. I appreciate the response and recognize the challenge for TCP to work within and modify Administratively managed sites. I appreciate these environmental matters take time.

11:48:58 From Ben Floyd to Everyone:

One other thought - I don't think it is too soon to start planning who will be on the advisory group, what you hope to accomplish with the group/input to receive and when the group would be organized and begin its work

11:55:03 From Team Robbert to Everyone:

Thanks for your comment Jeff

11:56:03 From Annie to Everyone:

Thanks, Ben. I agree!

11:56:42 From Annie to Everyone:

...and thank you to everyone for the comments and questions! Please don't hesitate to reach out directly with comments, questions or concerns.

11:57:51 From Annie to Everyone:

Thank you Lisa!

11:58:27 From Team Robbert to Everyone:

Thank you

