Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

Members of the community, stewards of the river
Who We Are
History of Spokane River Protection
The Current Issue

• The Spokane River fails to meet water quality standards for toxics, including PCBs
  – Federal
  – State
  – Tribal
Our Vision

We will work collaboratively to characterize the sources of toxics in the Spokane River and identify and implement appropriate actions needed to make measurable progress towards meeting applicable water quality standards for the State of Washington, State of Idaho, and The Spokane Tribe of Indians.
What Are PCBs?

Structure of Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Molecule
Where PCBs are Found Today
How Do PCBs Enter the River?
How Do PCBs Enter the River?

Reference: Ecology Spokane River PCB Source Assessment, April 2011
What Are PCB Limits?

WA EPA

0.00000017 ppm
0.000000064 ppm
0.0000000034 ppm
What is allowed in products?
Health & Environmental Impacts of PCBs
Health & Environmental Impacts of PCBs

Welcome to The Spokane River
Let’s Protect, Preserve and Enjoy It

Fish Consumption Advisory
- Dine-in House Boaters in Dine-in Zones
  - No fish for hand, foot, or line
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Decline of 50% Over 20 Years

PCBs History from Sediment Record
Lower Lake Spokane

Total PCBs in Age Dated Sediment Core (2003)
- Steep declines from 1960s through mid-1980s
- Approximately 50% decline in 20 years (1980-2000)

Source: Dept. of Ecology
Task Force Approach
Task Force Goals

• Bring the Spokane River into compliance with water quality standards

• Better understand how PCBs enter and move through river

• Identify data obtained and needed to address data gaps
Task Force Accomplishments (to-date)

- Formation of Task Force
- Technical evaluation in progress
- Drafting 5-year work plan
- Community education underway
Looking Ahead

2012: Task Force

2013-2015: Technical analysis, source ID, collaboration with cities and businesses

2016: Refine and revise cleanup plan and actions

On-going PCB reductions of known sources: catch basin cleaning, street sweeping, treatment facility upgrades, community education, etc.
Why should you care?
What Can I Do?

- Properly dispose household waste.
- Be careful what you put down the drain.
- Only rain down the storm drain.
- Get involved!
Summary
Questions?

Toxics Task Force

www.srrttf.org