

Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group
August 25, 2011
Washington Ecology HQ, Spokane, WA
Summary and Action Items

Attendees:

Agnes Lut, OR DEQ	James Thomas, Yakama Nation
Adriane Borgias, Fusion Env. and Energy	Jane Creech, WA Ecology
Anthony Paulson, USGS	Jim Bellatty, WA Ecology
Barry Burnell, IDEQ	Jim Zokan, EPA
Bart Mihailovich, Spokane Riverkeeper	Joanne LaBaw, EPA Region 10
Brendan Dowling, WA Ecology	Joshua Grice, WA Ecology
Brett VandenHeuvel, Columbia Riverkeeper	Keith Kutchins, UCUT
Brian Crossley, Spokane Tribe	Ken Merrill, Kalispel Tribe
Chase Davis, UCUT	Kevin Scribner, Salmon Safe
Clyde Lay, USBR	Lyndal Johnson, NOAA Science Center
Don Steffeck, USFWS	Mary Lou Soscia, EPA Region 10
Gary Passmore, Colville Tribes	Mike Cox, EPA Region 10
Gina Hoff, USBR	Mike Hibbler, WA Ecology
Grant Pfeifer, WA Ecology	Patty Bailey, Colville Tribes
Heather Ray, USRT	Robert Grove, USGS
Helen Bottcher, EPA	Shaunesy Walden, EPA Region 10
	Tom Laurie, WA Ecology

Welcome/Introductions/Updates – Grant Pfeifer, WA Ecology Regional Manager, opened up the meeting and welcomed meeting participants to the Washington Ecology Spokane Regional Office.

General Background on Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group and Columbia River Toxics Reduction Action Plan Overview – Mary Lou Soscia, EPA Region 10, provided an overview of the Working Group and Action Plan

Update on Columbia River Legislation – Glenn Vanselow, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, and Brett Brett VandenHeuvel, Columbia Riverkeeper, provided an update on the legislation. There are plans right now to reintroduce the Columbia River Restoration Act in the Fall of 2011. There was a discussion on how the Upper Columbia can be more involved in the legislation. The Working Group committed to help set up a conference call to discuss Upper Columbia River involvement acknowledging that EPA's ability to assist is limited and EPA cannot get engaged in any work efforts once the legislation has been introduced.

Report Out from Executive Meeting – Agnes Lut, OR DEQ, and Keith Kutchins, Upper Columbia River United Tribes discussed the August 24th Columbia River Executive Meeting held in Spokane, WA, August 24th. They both concurred that the

meeting showed that there was increasing focus on the upper part of the Columbia River Basin, and that coordinated with the ecosystem based conversations the Columbia River Tribes are engaged in Columbia River Treaty meetings. The recent Judge Redden decision put a greater specificity on habitat actions which coordinates with toxics actions in the Basin. The Executives agreed to hold a follow up meeting in one year and include the Bureau of Reclamation, Bonneville Power Administration and the Corps of Engineers. It is proposed that next year's meeting be held in Boise or Spokane.

Salmon Safe – Columbia River Basin Work Efforts – Kevin Scribner, Salmon Safe, gave a presentation on Salmon Safe, a 3rd party certification for farmers, parks, and corporate and school campuses. Salmon Safe just received a grant from EPA to increase their work efforts in the Columbia River Basin.

Update on Upper Columbia River Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study – Helen Bottcher, EPA Region 10, provided an update on the Upper Columbia River Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study, which is expected to be completed in 2018. This spring, sampling was completed at 26 beaches between the International border and the Grand Coulee dam and we are eagerly awaiting the final results. In the meantime, analysis of the fish tissue and surface water data collected in 2009 and 2010 continues. The WA Dept of Health is working on an updated fish tissue advisory for the Upper Columbia and it should be available this fall. Next on the horizon are two significant sampling programs – the first to assess the toxicity of contaminated sediments and the second to assess the impacts of metals from smelter stack emissions on upland habitats. EPA is continuing to involve project partners, including the U.S. Department of Interior, the Colville Tribes, the Spokane Tribe, and the WA Dept of Ecology in the site investigation process.

Clean-up and habitat restoration at the Silver Crescent mine and mill site near Kellogg, ID – Jeff Johnson, BLM, provided an overview of a successful restoration effort that occurred at the Silver Crescent mine in Idaho.

Update on EPA Proposed PCB TSCA Rulemaking – Mary Lou Soscia provided an update of the EPA Proposed PCB TSCA Rulemaking.

Update on Columbia River Basin Monitoring Work Efforts – Report Out From June Meeting – Mike Cox reported out on the June 14th and 15th meeting which provide peer input into a "Lines of Evidence" water quality monitoring prioritization process for toxics for the Columbia River Basin. The funding for the project came from an award from EPA's GEOSS/AMI program. The purpose of the peer input workshop was to receive feedback on the Columbia River Basin "Lines of Evidence" monitoring prioritization process with the goal of improving the tool with input from others who have experience in large scale monitoring and in prioritizing limited monitoring resources. Scientists attended from the pulp and paper industry, Delaware Bay, Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound, Portland State University, and tribal, state and federal government to provide guidance and input into the monitoring prioritization process. The

meeting was a success and much of the input will be used as the monitoring framework is further developed.

Lower Okanogan May 2011 WA DOH Fish Advisory for DDT and PCBs – Brainstorm Toxics Reduction Actions – Liz Carr, WA Dept of Health, presented information on the May 2011 WA DOH Fish Advisory for DDT and PCBs. Josh Grice, WA Ecology, presented information on a possible WA Ecology action plan for reducing the DDT and PCBs. The Working Group committed to further discussions on this important work effort.

Action items/Next steps/Next meeting – Next meeting was proposed to be held in December 2011, in Yakima, WA. A final date and location will be determined by the Working Group.