

**Columbia River Toxics Reduction Working Group
Summary of June 10, 2008 Meeting
Hosted by Columbia Riverkeeper, Hood River, OR**

Participants

Helen Rueda, USEPA	Ashley Kaiser, URS
Greg Fuhrer, USGS	Alec Maule, USGS
Jennifer Morace, USGS	Dave McBride, WADOH
Jay Davis, USFWS	Mike Karnosh, Grand Ronde
John Piccininni, BPA	Kevin Masterson, ODEQ
Robert Anderson, NOAA	Lorraine Edmond, USEPA
Agnes Lut, ODEQ	Brent Foster, Columbia Riverkeeper
Mary Lou Soscia, USEPA	Liz Carr, WADOH
Mike Cox, EPA	James Thomas, Yakama Nation
Rachel Pecore, Columbia Riverkeeper	Joanne LaBaw, EPA
Aron Bordic, EI	Elena Nilsen, USGS
Laura Buelow, USEPA	Gary Turney, USGS
John Gear, ORDOE	Andrew Kolosseus, WADOE
Catherine Corbett, LCREP	Jeffery Ullman, WSU
Tracie Nadeau, EPA	Steve Juul, USACE
Larry Gadbois, EPA	Bob Schwarz, ODEQ
Mark Dasso, USACE	Greg Morris, Columbia Riverkeeper
Anne Schwartz, DN	Carolyn Boaz, Columbia Riverkeeper
Sandy Halstead, EPA	Terry Anthony, PSU
Kathryn Higley, OSU	Steve Stampfli, Hood River Watershed Council
Kate Merrick, Wasco Cnty Watershed Council	Gene LeBoeuf, Vanderbilt University
Callie Ridolfi, Yakama Nation	

Introductions and Welcome

Brent Foster from Columbia Riverkeeper welcomed everyone to the meeting and Mike Cox reviewed the action items from the last meeting. Thank you Brent and Rachael for hosting.

Updates

Alec Maule mentioned the 8th International Congress on the Biology of Fish that will be held in Portland July 27 - August 1. The link to the meeting homepage is: <http://fishbiologycongress8.usgs.gov/index.htm> and the link to the schedule and abstracts is: <http://www-heb.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/congress/2008/paperlist2008.htm>. There is a one-day registration available for folks who might want to attend just the Environmental Tox session on Thursday July 31.

Lorraine Edmond mentioned that the EMAP report on the Lower Columbia is available. Go to the EPA Columbia web site (<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/columbia>). Click on Lower River in the Columbia River Information box on the right. Scroll down to Region 10 Coastal Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program and click on the link at the bottom of that section.

John Piccininni introduced Jeffery Ullman of WSU, who is leading a BPA funded project using the “reactive block” concept to remediate Columbia River sediments; the first phase of the project involves PAH contamination.

Presentations (Will be available on the EPA Columbia River Website)

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/ecocomm.nsf/Columbia/Columbia>

Volunteer Toxics Monitoring Program for Columbia Riverkeeper, "River Nose", and Surface Microlayer study

Carolyn Boaz provided an overview of the Columbia Riverkeeper work throughout the Columbia River. Rachael Pecore discussed issues related to "River Nose" and the work that has been done to characterize the problem. Work will continue this summer with sampling being conducted by EPA's mobile lab. Greg Morris described his work on issues related to surface microlayer and his development of a device to sample the microlayer. The microlayer is the uppermost 1-1000th μm layer of surface water. It varies with wind speed/wave conditions/ temperature/ pH and biological and chemical constituents and concentrates hydrophobic compounds. For more information on the Columbia Riverkeeper work go to: <http://www.columbiariverkeeper.org/>

Bradford Island Cleanup

Mark Dasso from USACE described the sediment removal work that had been done at Bradford Island to cleanup PCBs. He described the project goals, the stakeholder involvement, the history of the contamination, the actual sediment removal process, water quality monitoring, and provided an update of the remedial investigation. The record of decision is projected for 2010. For more information go to: <https://www.nwp.usace.army.mil/issues/bradford/home.asp>

Hanford: Update on In-water Risk Assessment

Laura Buelow from EPA provided an overview of the remedial investigation work Plan for Hanford site releases to the Columbia River. She described previous studies and then described initial plans for a new study to collect additional data to further characterize potential contamination of the Columbia from Hanford. Field work will begin this summer with a data evaluation/risk assessment by early 2009. The advisory board is still evaluating the contaminants that will be assessed. Entities wishing to expand on this sampling work to test for chemicals that are not in the Hanford study should contact Laura. For more information go to: www.washingtonclosure.com/Projects/EndState/risk_library.html

Current Use Pesticide Reduction Efforts in the Columbia Basin

Sandy Halstead from EPA presented several projects throughout the Columbia Basin on reducing current use of pesticides including: 1) the Hispanic Orchardist IPM Program in the Columbia Corridor; 2) Columbia Valley Wine Appellations in the Yakima Valley area; 3) fruit production in the Hood River area; and 4) a project in the Willamette Valley to transition away from the use of several pesticides.

State of the River Report for Toxics

Tracie Nadeau, Helen Rueda, and Mike Cox provided an overview of the working draft of the State of the River Report for Toxics. There was a general discussion about the Report and the process for review. Comments are due back to EPA by July 31 with a final report scheduled to be completed by the end of 2008.

Next Steps

- Next meeting will be in late September or early October at a site to be determined.
- Comments are due on the working draft State of the River Report on July 31.
- EPA will put the summary of the meeting and presentations on the EPA website.