

EcoRA Work Group Conference Call - March 1, 2001, 9:00 - 10:15 AM

Participants:

Tom Dahl, Dahl Environmental
Steve Hughes, URS
Harry Ohlendorf, CH2M Hill
Brad Sample, CH2M Hill
Brad Frazier, USFWS
Brenda Osterhaug, CH2M Hill
Randy Connelly, Spokane Tribe
Merril Coomes, Coomes Assoc.
Lisa Saban, CH2M Hill
Stan Peterson, URS
Anne Dailey, EPA

Update EcoRA Response:

- Development of the response to comment database is moving forward
- EPA anticipates emailing commenters a draft of the responses to their comments on March 5th and will be sending the trustee/regulatory parties (feedback will be due a week after distribution)

Update PNW SETAC Papers:

- PNW SETAC meeting to be held in Coeur d'Alene, ID during April 19-21
- An abstract will be submitted regarding the waterfowl feeding study

Waterfowl Feedings Studies:

- The Consensus Plan and DQO process documentation for soil and sediment waterfowl feeding studies has been completed and distributed to the soil amendment work group.
- It is expected that field work and sample collection will start the week of March 12th.

Background Revisions:

- During the DecoRA review period, EPA received comments regarding the approach used to establish background concentration values
- In response to the background comments, EPA and its contractors are revising the background concentrations
- Don Heinle had been working on these revisions; when Don passed away others

picked up the effort to establish more representative ranges of background concentrations for the basin.

- Revised approach:

- CSM 1 & 2 (Upper Basin) - use the range of values presented in Gott/Cathrall and present a range of percentile concentrations (e.g., 25th, 50th, 75th & 90th iles)

- CSM 3 - use the URS/USGS sediment cored data collected in lower basin (most of lower basin is a depositional area). The ranges of measured values for the metals of concern will be presented.

- CSM 4 - background values for CSM 3 will be used to estimate background in the CDA Lake sediments. There are very limited data available to provide a lake-specific background value and given the nature of the system it makes sense to use the CSM 3 values for the lake.

- CSM 5 - Spokane River - Will be using the Ecology soils data set supplemented with the Horowitz/USGS core data collected in the Spokane River and Lake CDA

- There was substantial discussion regarding the background value estimations during the call which is not recounted here.

- The general conclusion of the conversation was that the above approach makes sense (and is a better approach than initially used). It will be very important to clearly state the assumptions and present the range of background values.

Next Teleconference:

- The next teleconference will be at **9 AM PST on Thursday, March 22, 2001 (not March 15)** due to a conflict with many of the call participants.

- The call-in number will be (206) 553-4602.