

EcoRA Work Group Conference Call - Dec. 7, 2000, 9:00 - 9:50 AM

Participants:

Bill Beckley, Ridolfi Engineers
Lloyd Brewer, City of Spokane
Tom Dahl, Dahl Environmental
Steven Hughes, URS Greiner
Harry Ohlendorf, CH2M Hill
Brad Sample, CH2M Hill
Don Heinle, CH2M Hill
Brad Frazier, USFWS
John Roland, Ecology
Randy Connolly, Spokane Tribe
Jeff Fromm, IDEQ
Anne Dailey, EPA

EcoRA Schedule Update:

- Comments submitted on the Draft EcoRA are currently being evaluated.
- The plan is to discuss comment resolution on upcoming EcoRA Work Group conference calls or on separately scheduled conference calls as appropriate.
- The comments and brief description of comment resolution will be entered into an Access database.
- EPA anticipates sharing the outputs from the database with commenters in late January/early February. A two week period will be provided for parties to review the database outputs and provide feedback to EPA.
- Baring unexpected delays, we are anticipating having the Final EcoRA ready for distribution in late April.

DEcoRA Comment Issues:

1) Lead bioavailability

- in response to comments, we will be revisiting Pb bioavailability studies and readjusting Pb bioavailability in studies that used Pb acetate
- will reevaluate inclusion of studies using Pb acetate - which is roughly twice as bioavailable as the Pb present in the basin (Pb acetate is readily available and easy to use so is often used in tests but is not the form of Pb present in the CDA basin)
- some studies with mammals which examine Pb adsorption (Pb carbonate or Pb oxide) will be added to the evaluation
- also will consider including studies using metallic Pb

2) CSM 3 combination

- commenters suggested evaluating CSM 3 at the unit level instead of the individual segment level. Basis for CSM 3 segmentation related to hydrology or geomorphology, rather than ecological considerations. The differences in risks may be more a function of particular data set sizes than actual differences in metal concentrations or eco-

related concerns. URS/CH is planning to incorporate this comment and combine the CSM 3 segment data to evaluate CSM 3 on a unit-level.

3) UPRR samples

- UPRR ROW samples were included in the TDM database and there is now some question whether all of the UPRR samples should have been included since there has been a UPRR settlement and cleanup activities are proceeding on the rails-to-trails project

- UPRR ROW samples were collected on RR fill and on non-fill ROW areas by MFG in 1996-97:

- a) on the RR mainline and siding centerline,

- b) ½ way from the centerline to the northern edge of the ROW (or functional edge of the ROW where there is a steep bank or water)

- c) ½ way from the centerline to the southern edge of the ROW (or functional edge of the ROW where there is a steep bank or water)

==>Conclusion: All of the UPRR ROW samples should be included in the eco risk evaluation EXCEPT for the samples collected in the RR mainline or siding centerlines.

Rationale:

- the UPRR settlement addresses contamination in the RR track area via removals or barrier installation

- Contamination in the non-track areas of the ROW IS being addressed by the UPRR settlement in certain areas (e.g., residential areas, siding areas, wetlands tie dumps)

- The EE/CA and settlement contemplate that non-track areas MAY be further addressed in the Basin RI/FS or other response actions

- The UPRR settlement addresses human exposure and is expected to reduce potential ecological exposures, although additional actions may be necessary to ensure protection of the human health and the environment.

4) Statistics

- given the very large sample sizes DEcoRA opted to use the 90th %ile of observed values

- in revisions to the EcoRA will use 95%ile UCL concentrations

- since this is a baseline RA and not a screening level risk assessment, this is an appropriate approach

- this is likely to change numeric results, but will not likely change the overall results significantly because the metals concentrations are so high

Proposal for Soil and Sediment Studies:

A plan for soil and sediment bioavailability studies has been developed via consensus reached by a number of Coeur d'Alene Basin stakeholders over that last several months. Participants in the discussions included representatives from IDEQ, USFWS, WA Dept. of Ecology, CDA Tribe, Spokane Tribe, Ridolfi Engineers, EPA and their contractors, USGS, and others. In addition, representatives of In-Place Inactivation and Natural Ecological Restoration Technologies (IINERT) Soil-Metals Action Team, an

industry/academic/government group, provided some technical input and review of proposals. Numerous other parties received e-mails providing them with information on the deliberations regarding soil amendments and inviting their participation in the discussions.

The limited objectives of the studies are to identify treatment reagent(s) which will make less bioavailable to waterfowl and identify reagents which will reduce metal leachability. While there may be a variety of questions regarding soil amendments, these studies are intended to focus on the bioavailability and leachability issues. The general plan for the studies and rationale for the decisions is presented in the proposal which will be attached to these notes. The studies will use the reagent liquid phosphoric acid with lime or limestone and chloride salt. The reagent will be applied to Harrison Slough sediment in a controlled lab setting. Reagent will also be applied to field test sites at Black Rock Slough and Orling Slough.

Next Teleconference:

- Next EcoRA call will be on December 21, 2000 at 9 AM PST
- Call-in number is 206-553-4557; no pass code required
- topics of discussion will include:
 - update on the UPRR ROW samples
 - status of the EcoRA
 - discussion of comments received
 - other topics as appropriate